



PHILDOM

JANUARY
2018

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

A MISSIONARY OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES + SPIRIT OF ITINERANCY + DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION + QUALITY FORMATION

Studium Day



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- 1 Br. Efren Rivera, OP
Br. Aloysius Luis Kung, OP
- 2 Br. Jose Antonio Aureada, OP
- 5 Br. Paul Lovell Javier, OP
- 7 Br. Carlo Rey Canto, OP
Br. Leonito Mateo, OP
- 16 Br. Rafael Quejada, OP
- 17 Br. Joseto Bernadas Jr., OP
- 22 Br. George Moreno, OP
- 28 Br. Christopher Garinganao, OP

FORTHCOMING EVENTS February 2018

- 3- PST Youth Jam
- 9- TradTalk, Dominican Studentate
- 11- DSMC Kapihan
- 23- Joyful Friars @ Laudare
- 20-21- UST ALPA Homecoming
- 26-28- UST Theology Week

Prior Provincial's February Calendar

- 3 - Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Golden Anniversary of the Dominican Province of the Philippines
- 4 - Meeting with the Sacred Heart Brothers at Bahay Dominiko
- 5 - 409th Provincial Council Meeting
- 6 - Bahay Dominiko SWOT framework meeting for Planificatio
- 7 - Meeting with the community of Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino at Bahay Dominiko
- 7-9 - Retreat at the University of Santo Tomas
- 10 - Mass at the DSI-Philippines General Assembly at the Dominican College, San Juan City
- 13 - Board of Trustees Meeting, University of Santo Tomas (UST) Board of Trustees Meeting, UST Angelicum College
- 15 - Conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degree upon Jolibee Founder Tony Tan Caktiong at UST
- 17 - Formal Unveiling of Marker of the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag
- 19 - Recollection - Order of St. Augustine, Cebu
- 20-21 - UST ALPA Homecoming
- 23 - Board of Trustees Meeting, Letran Calamba
- 26-28 - UST Theology Week

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**CONTINUING FORMATION PROGRAM FOR
THE YOUNG DOMINICANS IN THE MINISTRY
MAY 19-23, 2018**

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

A MISSIONARY OPTION TO THE PERIPHERIES

(as a Priority of the Province)

FINAL VOWS OF LAY DOMINICANS AT NAGODA, SRI LANKA

By Sr. D. D. Mary Rita OP (Laity)

On the 9th December 2017, two Lay Dominican Sisters of St. Martin de Porres Chapter, Nagoda, Kandana, Sri Lanka namely Sr. Nirmala Hettiarachchi, OP, and Sr. Constance Rodrigo, OP, made their Final Vows as Lay Dominican Sisters amidst a gathering of both Religious and Laity of the Dominican fraternity.



The event was held at the residence of Sr. Sheila Silva, OP, with the Final Vows administered during the concelebration of Holy Mass by Rev. Fr. Jayalath Balagalla, OP, the Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Jaime Alamillo, OP, the Superior of St. Dominic's House, Rev. Fr. Manoj Rasanjana, OP, and Rev. Fr. Juan Ponce, OP. Sr. Sheila Silva, OP, the President of Martin de Porres Chapter, Sr. D. D. Mary Rita, OP, the Secretary to the Chapter, Sr. Chandani Peiris, OP, the Treasurer of the Chapter, Sr. Irene Lewis, OP, in charge of formation and other Sisters of the Chapter were also present in the celebration.

The event was followed by lunch and discussion, capped by group pictorials.



ITINERANCY (as a Priority of the Province)

ASSIGNMENTS

- Br. Christopher P. Garinganao, OP, is assigned to the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, Manila on February 15, 2018.
- Br. Carlo Rey C. Canto, OP, is assigned to the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary, Manaoag on February 15, 2018.

DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION

(as a Priority of the Province)

FEATURED BATCH



In the course of their Dominican formation, these six brothers shared something in common together.

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



First Name: **ARTURO**
Middle Name: **POÑO**
Surname: **PESTIN**
Nickname: "Fr. Turing"
Birthday: 28 Sep 1955
Entrance to the Novitiate:
18 May 1975
Simple Profession: 12 May 1976
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1979
Ordination: 30 Apr 1983

DPP ID No.: 197601

Current Assignment: **Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (since Jan 2013)**

Previous Assignments: Worked in the USA (Dec 2009-Dec 2012); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (May 2008-Dec

2009); Worked in the USA (1999-2008); Sto. Domingo Convent (Jun 1994-1999); House of St. Albert (May 1993-Jun 1994); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Mar 1989-Apr 1993); House of St. Albert (Jun 1988-Mar 1989); House of St. Antoninus, Maco, Davao (Apr 1987-Jun 1988); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1986-Apr 1987); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (May 1984-Apr 1986); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1976-May 1984).



First Name: **RAMON CLARO**
Middle Name: **GORRICETA**
Surname: **MENDEZ**
Nickname: "Fr. Mon"
Birthday: 13 Nov 1955
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 16 Mar 1975
Simple Profession: 12 May 1976
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1980
Ordination: 30 Apr 1983

DPP ID No.: 197602

Current Assignment: **House of the Most Holy Rosary (since Aug 2015)**

Previous Assignments: St. Antoninus House (Jul 2011-Aug 2015); Bahay Dominiko (May 2011-Jul 2011); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (May 1999-May 2011); House of St. Albert (Jun 1992-May 1999); Graduate Studies in the USA (1988-1992); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 1984-1988); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1976-Jun 1984)



First Name: **ERNESTO**
Middle Name: **MANALILI**
Surname: **ARCEO**
Nickname: "Fr. Ernie"
Birthday: 23 Jul 1956
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 16 Mar 1975
Simple Profession: 12 May 1976
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1979
Ordination: 30 Apr 1983

DPP ID No.: 197603

Current Assignment: **Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (since Jun 2010)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of St. Albert the Great (Sep 2007-Jun 2010); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Oct 2004-Sep 2007); Bahay Dominiko (Dec 2000-Oct 2004); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jul 1995-Nov 2000); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Jul 1992-Jul 1995); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 1984-Jul 1992); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1976-Jun 1984)

First Name: **EUGENIO**
Middle Name: **LANZAROTE**
Surname: **CABILLON**
Nickname: "Fr. Eugene"



Birthday: 23 Jul 1956
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 12 May 1975
Simple Profession: 12 May 1976
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1980
Ordination: 30 Apr 1983
DPP ID No.: 197604
Current Assignment: **Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (since May 2008)**

Previous Assignments: Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Apr 2008-May 2008); Convent of St. Albert the Great (May 2003-Apr 2008) Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jul 1996-May 2003); House of St. Albert (May 1988-Jul 1996); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1987-May 1988); House of St. Albert (Apr 1985-Apr 1987); House of St. Antoninus, Maco, Davao del Norte (May 1984-Apr 1985); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1976-May 1984)



First Name: **EDGARDO**
Middle Name: **DELGADO**
Surname: **ALaurin**
Nickname: "Fr. Ed"
Birthday: 22 Nov 1956
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 18 Mar 1975
Simple Profession: 12 May 1976
Solemn Profession: 12 May 1980
Ordination: 4 May 1985

DPP ID No.: 197605

Current Assignment: **Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (since Jan 2005)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (Mar 2003 - Dec 2004); Convent of St. John Lateran (May 1995-Feb 2003); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (May 1991-May 1995); Convent of St. John Lateran (Nov 1986-May 1991); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1976-Nov 1986)



First Name: **BIENVENIDO JR.**
Middle Name: **SEDAVIA**
Surname: **TRINILLA**
Nickname: "Fr. Bien"
Birthday: 20 Dec 1953
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 7 May 1973
Simple Profession: 9 Oct 1976
Solemn Profession: 9 Oct 1979
Ordination: 30 Apr 1983

DPP ID No.: 197606

Current Assignment: **Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (since Oct 2009)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of St. Albert the Great (Aug 2009-Oct 2009); Sto. Domingo Convent (Aug 2006-Aug 2009); Convent of St. Albert the Great (Apr 2001-Aug 2009)

2006); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Dec 1999-Apr 2001); Convent of St. John Lateran (Jun 1998-Nov 1999); Sto. Domingo Convent (Jan 1989-Jun 1998); House of St. Antoninus, Maco, Davao del Norte (Apr 1985-Jan 1989), House of St. Albert (May 1984-Apr 1985); Sto. Domingo Convent (Oct 1976-May 1984)

QUALITY FORMATION (as a Priority of the Province)

“CORISTADO IN CORPORE SANO”

By Br. Siddharta Chiong, OP

In starting the new year healthy, the Coristas had their wellness day on January 27, with the theme: “Coristado in Corpore Sano.” The Infirmarians invited Dr. Joy Rustia, MD and the UST Department of Nutrition and Dietetics to offer consultations for the brothers.



The program started early with their vital signs taken after the conventual Mass at the St. Martin Charity Clinic. At 8 am, the Studentate was bustling with brothers lining up for their body mass index and fat analysis. UST sent eight dieticians to offer individual nutrition assessment and diet guides for the brothers. Dr. Rustia, MD also put up her *clinic* at the PST room for brothers with medical concerns. Subway sandwiches were served to boost up the brothers for the next activity. At 11 am, Prof. Kevin



Carpio, MSc, RND gave a thought provoking talk about the dangers of unhealthy eating. After the talk, the brothers eagerly raised questions ranging from daily concerns to the most intimate issues. Surely, the Coristas could not let the volunteers go without a token of Our Lady of La Naval to bring home to their families. It was a morning activity that inspired the brothers to start the year bright, by informing them of the steps *ad corpora sana*.



GENERAL NEWS

DOMINICANS CELEBRATE STUDIUM DAY

<http://pagtugonsatawag.org/news-updates/dominicans-celebrate-studium-day/>

SANTO DOMINGO, QUEZON CITY—Student-brothers, professors, and staff of the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies (PDCIS) and Institute of Preaching (IP) gathered in a special way for the celebration in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas during the Studium Day last January 29, 2018.



Fr. Quirico T. Pedregosa Jr., OP, Vicar Provincial, presided over the Mass in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas. Concelebrating with him are Dominican professors, former moderators of PDCIS as well as guest priests from other convents. The Mass was attended by lay professors, student-brothers, pre-novices and staff of PDCIS-IP.

The celebration kicked off with the delivery of *lectio* (thesis oral presentation) by the graduating philosophy students of PDCIS. Eight brothers namely, Br. Jeffrey Operio,



Fr. Pedregosa and the concelebrating priests during the Holy Mass (From the left: Fr. Winston Cabading, OP, Fr. Roy Rodriguez, OP, Fr. Richard Ang, OP, Fr. Rodel Cansancio, Fr. Norman Quilaquil, OP, Fr. Quirico Pedregosa, OP, Fr. Jannel Abogado, OP, Fr. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP, Fr. Florentino Bolo, OP, Fr. Hermel Pama, OP, Fr. Art Vincent Pangan, OP)

OP, Br. Vince Stanley Iñigo, OP, Br. Joseph Conrad Salenga, OP, Br. Christian Paul Desales, OP, Br. Luigi Bracamonte, Br. Marvin Obedo, OP, Br. Mark Buenaventura, OP, and Br. Joshua Sernadilla, OP, successfully delivered their thesis presentation on various topics and philosophical disciplines before their panel of readers. The said *lectio* was attended as well by professors, fellow student-brothers and pre-novices.

Passion for Truth

During the Studium Day, a solemn Mass was presided over by Fr. Quirico T. Pedregosa, OP, Vicar Provincial, in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas. During Fr. Pedregosa's homily, he said that St. Thomas is very close to the Dominicans because he is their model in their life of study and in their pursuit of Truth. According to Fr. Pedregosa, the pursuit of truth remains very relevant to this day in the midst of all doubts and suspicions in relation to it. "Some people believed that the human intellect or human mind has no capacity to know the truth. There is doubt on the objectivity of truth and also a suspicion of a universal truth." Despite this modern-day skepticism, Fr. Pedregosa challenged the student-brothers to remain passionate for the search of truth: "It is still important for us Dominicans to be passionate about the truth. If nobody cares, or no one is passionate about the truth, then who else will? Our vocation actually is to pursue a life of study and life of passion for Truth."

Love of Christ as Motivation for Study

Quoting St. Thomas' parting words on his deathbed, "For love of you [God] I studied, kept vigil, labored, preached and taught," Fr. Pedregosa said that the brothers should persevere in their life of study for the love of Christ just like St. Thomas. "He who loves, seeks to know—he seeks to know the one he loves. He seeks to know what

the one he loves love. I think, the only energy that would sustain us in our life of study is our love life with God." Fr. Pedregosa said that when Dominicans study for their love of God, they cannot but integrate in their lives other dimension of their religious life namely, prayer and apostolate. "If you love God and you seek to know [Him], you cannot but study. If you love the Lord, you cannot but participate in His love for others. Your love for Jesus becomes pastoral love. Our espousal love with the Lord becomes pastoral charity."

Philosophical Formation to be Moved to UST

During the Word of Thanks, Fr. Jannel N. Abogado, OP, Moderator of PDCIS and Regent of Studies, clarified that while the philosophical formation of the student-brothers will be transferred to the Ecclesiastical Faculties of UST, the Center at Santo Domingo Convent will continue its operation. Similarly, Fr. Pedregosa made this remark at the beginning of the Mass when he said that only the program on AB Philosophy will be closing but not the other program of the center, like that of the Institute of Preaching.

Following the Mass, the Studium Day culminated with a simple tribute for the previous moderators of PDCIS who oversaw the philosophical studies of the student-brothers in the last 42 years.

STUDIUM DAY 2018

By Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP

January 29, 2018, Monday – the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies (PDCIS) celebrated its annual Studium Day in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas. The event started with the *Lectio* and Thesis Presentations of the Fourth Year Students for the Bachelor of Arts Major in Philosophy. In the list are the following student-brothers (with the names of their advisers) and the titles of the theses presented:

- ☞ Br. Luigi Christian R. Bracamonte, OP: *Enjoyment as Transcendence in the Light of Emmanuel Levinas' Philosophy of Escape* (Adviser: Dr. Alma Espartinez)
- ☞ Br. Mark S. Buenaventura, OP: *A Phenomenological Analysis of Drug Addiction Using Jean-Paul Sartre's*



Concept of Bad Faith and Freedom (Adviser: Br. Christopher Garinganao, OP)

- ⇒ Br. Christian Paul H. Desales, OP: *The Interactive World: Assessing Quality of Relations Through Forms of Social Communications in the light of Emmanuel Levinas' Notion of the "Face of the Other"* (Adviser: Dr. Joel Sagut)
- ⇒ Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP: *A Historico-Hermeneutical Reading of Secularity in the Philippines in the Light of Charles Taylor's Concept of Secularity* (Adviser: Br. Hermel Pama, O.P.)
- ⇒ Br. Marvin R. Obedo, O.P.: *Judith Butler's Performativity: Gender and Body* (Adviser: Br. Delfo Canceran, OP)
- ⇒ Br. Jeffrey S. Operio, OP: *The Primacy of Love in Man's Ethical Life in Thomas Aquinas' Ethical System and Joseph Fletcher's Situation Ethics* (Adviser: Br. Virgilio Ojoy, OP)
- ⇒ Br. Joseph Conrad V. Salenga, OP: *Chastity in the Conjugal Love as a Means of Self-Fulfilment in the Philosophy of Karol Wojtyła* (Adviser: Br. Felix delos Reyes Jr., OP)
- ⇒ Br. Joshua Sernadilla, OP: *Gadamer's Theory of Fusion of Horizons as a Paradigm for Understanding Dominican Obedience* (Br. Rommel Olivar, OP)
- ⇒ Br. Gary Ni-og, OP, with his thesis entitled: *The Correlation Between Understanding the Thomistic Virtue of Perseverance and Karol Wojtyła's Concept of Self-Determination in the Seminary Formation*; and
- ⇒ Br. Kenneth Villacastin, OP, with his thesis entitled: *A Philosophical Analysis of the Filipino Notion of Malasakit in the light of Karol Wojtyła's Concept of Participation* are scheduled for another date of presentations.



The presentations were held in rooms 301 and 302 of the San Pio V Building in Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City. Members of the panels were: Br. Jerry R. Manlangit, OP (Chairperson), Br. Delfo Canceran, OP (Member) and Br. Christopher Garinganao, OP (Member); Br. Maximo Gatela, OP (Chairperson), Br. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP (Member) and Br. Art Vincent Pangan, OP (Member). Alumni of the

PDCIS and the Dominican postulants were present to witness the said occasion. Afterwards, the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by the Vicar of the Province, Br. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, was held at the Aula San Pio V. In his homily Br. Pedregosa, OP, clarified that the PDCIS remains an institution but its studies of philosophy are to be transferred to the University of Santo Tomas Ecclesiastical Faculties (Faculty of Philosophy). He also reminded the Dominican family that friars must imitate St. Thomas Aquinas who for the love of God studied, kept vigil, labored, preached and taught: that it is important as Dominicans to care for the objective Truth because they are entrusted to preach about it. He reiterated that this is the real secret of St. Thomas' life of study. The saint did not simply preach but he preached for the sake of charity. His heart was flamed with the love for God, loving whom he seeks to know, seeking to know what he loves and sharing the knowledge about the one he loves.

Before the final blessing was given, the PDCIS gave honor to the Moderators (and Acting Moderators) of Studies who became the pillars of the institution. They are:

Br. George Moreno, OP
Br. Jose Antonio Aureada, OP
+ Br. Regino Cortes, O.P.
Br. Albert C. Bagood
Br. Maximo Gatela, OP
Br. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP
Br. Pablo Tiong, OP
Br. Arthur Dingel, OP
Br. Richard Ang, OP
Br. Virgilio Ojoy, OP
Br. Stephen Redillas, OP
Br. Winston Cabading, OP
Br. Hermel Pama, OP
Br. Romualdo Cabanatan Jr., OP
Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP
Br. Jannel Abogado, OP

Br. Jannel Abogado, the current Moderator of Studies, in his speech thanked the current personnel of the PDCIS namely Mr. Rey Cinco (Secretary), Ms. Dez Noelle Macasaet (Librarian), Mr. Ferr de la Cruz (Driver), Mr. Bernard Bernal (Maintenance Officer), Ms. Ma. Rosiel Ordenes (a former librarian), the priest professors and Dr. Cecilia Chan, OP, who represented the lay professors, and many others who built the foundations of the school of philosophy for more than forty years. A sumptuous meal was served at the St. Martin's Hall of Sto. Domingo Parish where everyone also shared his blessings and stories.

CANON LAW WEEK 2018

By Br. Glen Mar T. Gamboa, OP

The UST-Canon Law Society spearheaded the annual celebration of Canon Law Week last January 24-26, 2018, with the theme: "Clergy and Religious in Renewed Servant

Leadership.” The theme was in line with the declaration of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines for the year 2018 as dedicated to the clergy and consecrated persons.



The event was opened through a solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Romulo Rodriguez, OP, JCD. In his homily, Fr. Roy emphasized the value of listening in studying in order to discern and respond to the canonico-pastoral needs of the faithful. Moreover, he also highlighted the significance of friendship, camaraderie, and sharing of resources among the students to facilitate and effectively respond with the demands of their ministry as future canon lawyers.

Part of the activity was the ratification of the first Constitution of the UST-Canon Law Society. The society already existed for decades and yet it has no formal set of principles and laws that would govern the society for the attainment of its goals. This constitution was approved by all Canon Law students present during the conference.

Another highlight of the event was the St. Raymond of Peñafort Conference held at the Martyrs’ Hall, with Rev. Fr. Cielito Almazan, OFM, the Minister Provincial of the OFM Province of San Pedro Bautista and the Co-Chairperson of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) as the guest speaker. In his talk, he did not only elaborate and give new perspective about the theme but he also challenged the students to be truly servants-leaders in their respective parishes and communities.

After the conference, the students proceeded to Baguio City for fraternal gathering and for spiritual enrichment in a form of recollection and pilgrimage.

ARCHBISHOP BECOMES FIRST NOVICE OF NEWLY ERECTED CHAPTER OF PRIESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

<http://www.op.org/en/content/archbishop-becomes-first-novice-newly-erected-chapter-priests-philippines>

On 23 January 2018, His Excellency Most Rev. Jose Palma, DD, of the Archdiocese of Cebu, joined the Dominican Family. This was through a rite of admission



<http://www.op.org/en/content/archbishop-becomes-first-novice-newly-erected-chapter-priests-philippines>

in the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic, with the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, as presider. The rite was held within the celebration of vespers at the chapel of the Archbishop’s Palace in Cebu City.

Members of the Dominican Family welcomed the Archbishop, foremost of whom was his fellow bishop in the Archdiocese, Most. Rev. Antonio Rañola, DD, himself a member of the Dominican Priestly Fraternities. The Prior Provincial was joined by other friars: fr. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, Socius of the Provincial; fr. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP, General Promoter of the Priestly Fraternities; fr. Louie Coronel, OP; and fr. Dominik Jurczak, OP, a visiting friar from Poland. Also present were priests from other fraternities in the Province, secular priest-formators of the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary, Dominican sisters working in the region, as well as friends and some students of Dominican institutions.



Photo from the Facebook post of Dominik Jurczak

The Chapter of St. Vincent Ferrer is one of the nine newly established local fraternities of priests in the Province of the Philippines, all of which were erected on 23 September 2017, at the Convent of Santo Domingo in Quezon City, on the occasion of the visit of the Master of the Order, fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP. The chapter’s current prior is Fr. Simplicio Pugasan Jr. of the Archdiocese of Cebu, and it has currently around 20 members.



Photo from the Facebook post of RJ Noble

In his thanksgiving speech, Abp. Palma affirmed his affinity with the Dominicans under whose institutions he obtained his higher education. He completed his Licentiate degree in Theology at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, and his Doctorate degree in Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. He served as president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines from 2011 to 2013.

SIEMPRE ARRIBA! SIEMPRE ONELETRAN!

Last 12-13 January 2018, Dominican and lay officials of Letran Manila, Letran Calamba, Letran Manaoag and Letran Bataan gathered for the ONELETRAN General Assembly at Green Canyon Eco-Art Resort at Bamban, Tarlac.

The General Assembly, with the theme, "Continuing Integration," had three objectives, namely:

1. to review the status of initiatives, efforts and gains pertinent to the ONELETRAN agendum;
2. to formulate an integrated statement on the MISSION-VISION-OBJECTIVE of the ONELETRAN system;
3. To operationalize Act 150 (Provincial Chapter 2016)



Rev. Fr. Clarence C. Marquez, OP, Rector and President of Letran Manila and Letran Bataan, Chairperson of the Council of Rectors and convenor of the ONELETRAN Group, opened the assembly with a theological reflection on "New Testament KOINONIA: Lessons for ONELETRAN."



Then, Assoc. Prof. Cristina M. Castro-Cabral, PhD, Vice-President for Academic Affairs of Letran Manila and Letran Bataan, presented her ongoing research on "A Grounded Theory on the ONELETRAN System," highlighting a chronology of events and documents pertinent to the educational apostolate of the Province and the beginnings of our aspirations for "integration." Likewise, she presented the initial steps taken and the challenges encountered in terms of human resources, financial resources and organizational structure, especially by the Research, Religious Education and Community Extension Services Clusters.

Rev. Fr. Arthur B. Dingel, OP, Rector and President of Letran Calamba, presided over the review and revision of the Mission-Vision-Objectives of the ONELETRAN System.

On Saturday morning, the assembly divided into 5 clusters:

1. School Leadership (Dominican Fathers and Sisters),
2. School Leadership (Laity),
3. Research,
4. Religious Education,



5. and Community Extension Service, in order to come up with their cluster result areas, performance indicators, target outcomes.

These clusters are expected to further the efforts of the general assembly with strategies, projects and activities, which shall be announced in the coming months.

As stated in the revised Vision Statement,

“By 2023, we shall have a ONELETRAN System characterized by a more engaged and sustained collaboration in academic programs and services and other areas of institutional endeavors.”

CANONICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF LAY DOMINICAN CHAPTERS IN INDONESIA HELD

By Dr. Belen L. Tangco, OP

Three Lay Dominican Fraternities (Chapters) in Indonesia were canonically established by separate decrees issued by Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines (DPP). The DPP has two juridically erected Houses in Indonesia : Rumah Santo Dominikus (2006) in Pontianak, and Rumah Santo Tomas Aquino (2013) in Surabaya.



The respective Bishops and Parish Priests gladly endorsed to the Prior Provincial the Canonical Establishment of the Lay Dominican Chapters in Pontianak, Surabaya, and Yogyakarta. Bishops: Mgr. Agustinus Agus of Pontianak, Mgr. Vincentius Sutikno Wisaksono of Surabaya, and Mgr. Dr. Robertus Rubiyatmoko of Semarang/Yogyakarta. Parish Priests: Rp. Gregorius Sabinus, CP, of Pontianak, Rev. Fr. Adrian Adirejo, OP, of Redemptor Mundi, Surabaya, and Rev. Dom. Aldofus Suratmo Atmomartaya of Yogyakarta.

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, Provincial Promoter of Dominican Laity, DPP, presided over the Canonical Establishment in Pontianak on January 15, 2018 (Monday); Surabaya on January 16, 2018 (Tuesday); and Yogyakarta on January 17, 2018 (Wednesday). Dr. Belen L. Tangco, OP, President, Dominican Laity Provincial Council,



DPP, and Asia-Pacific Coordinator on the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities, read the Decrees before the Assemblies of Lay Dominicans in each place of establishment.

The official decrees were handed by Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Pietro V. Arsciwals, OP, to the President of each Lay Dominican Chapter: Mr. Fransiskus Edy, OP, of the St. Dominican de Guzman Lay Dominican Chapter of Pontianak; Mr. Wellem Hemfry Elim Kusuma, OP, of the St. Thomas Aquinas Lay Dominican Chapter of Surabaya; and, Mr. Robertus Belarminus Adi Ismawan, OP, of the St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Chapter of Yogyakarta.

Rev. Fr. Andreas Kurniawan, OP, Priest-Coordinator of Lay Dominicans, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration in the Rumah Santo Dominikus Chapel, Pontianak, with Rev. Fr. Edmund Nantes, OP, Rector, Seminary and Vicar of the Prior Provincial for Indonesia, as Homilist. Rev. Fr. Johannes Robini Mariantio, OP, and Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP, concelebrated. Sr. Benedita Nogueira, OP, Religious Assistant, and community, facilitated accommodation and fellowship.

In Surabaya, Rev. Fr. Joseto Bernadas Jr., OP, Ecclesiastical Assistant (Spiritual Director) and Promoter of Lay Dominicans in Surabaya, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. Concelebrants were Rev. Fr. Filemon de la Cruz Jr., OP, Superior of the Dominican Community, and Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP. Rev. Fr. Adrian Adiredjo, OP, Parish Priest of Redemptor Mundi Parish, delivered the homily.





In Yogyakarta, Rev. Fr. Andreas Kurniawan, OP, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and delivered the homily. The Parish Priest in Yogyakarta Rev. Dom. Aldofus Suratmo Atmomartaya and Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Arsciwals concelebrated.

Mr. Theophilus Atmadi, OP, National Coordinator of Lay Dominicans in Indonesia, and Mr. Stephanus Suriaputra, OP, President, St. Catherine of Siena Lay Dominican Chapter (can. est. 2017) provided warm support in guiding Fr. Arsciwals and Dr. Tangco through the places of Canonical Establishment, including their visits to Lay Dominicans of Cirebon and Jakarta. The Dominican Sisters of Indonesia shared accommodation and assistance in the celebration: Mother General Anna Marie Dwiyanti, OP, Sr. M. Elisabeth Sukamdo, OP, Sr. M. Krisanti, OP, in Yogyakarta; Sr. M. Hermine, OP, in Surabaya; Sr. M. Gabriela, OP, and Sr. Albertine, OP, in Cirebon.

The Lay Dominicans in Cirebon look forward to the Canonical Establishment of their Lay Dominican group even as they have started the preparations of documentary requirements.

REGIONAL PROMOTER VISITS THE LAY DOMINICAN CHAPTER IN CEBU

By Nicanor "Nick" Gentapa, OP

Rev. Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP – Lay Dominican Religious Promoter – Visayas Region visited the Lay Dominican Chapter of the Rosarian Society of the Holy



Spirit of Tanibag, Pinamungajan, Cebu on January 4, 2018. The visit was highlighted by a celebration of Holy Sacrifice of the Mass held at the Holy Rosary Family Farm School Chapel at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Two candidates to the novitiate were installed during the Mass which was followed by a simple agape. After some conversations with the Chapter members, Fr. Paul, OP, Bro. Nick, OP, the Chapter President and some Chapter members proceeded to Carcar to pay homage to the newly exhumed Body of the late Archbishop Teofilo Camomot. In the same day, Fr. Paul, OP, celebrated the Mass at 4 PM held at the Daughters of St. Theresa Sisters compound in Valladolid in memory of Bishop Camomot after their short visit to the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine's College, Carcar City.

The Rosarian Society of the Holy Spirit (ROSHSPI) Chapter was organized by the couple Nicanor "Nick" and Zenaida Gentapa both Lay Dominican professed members in 2001 in Barangay Tanibag, Pinamungajan, Cebu. The following year, His Eminence, the late Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, DD, the then Archbishop of Cebu recognized it as a Catholic Lay Association in the Archdiocese. The three goals of the Society are: to care for the abandoned children and aged folks; second, to give pastoral care to the poor farmers and their families and for their rural development and to exercise interreligious dialogue.



In 2006, ROSHSPI applied for affiliation to the Dominican Laity and subsequently was canonically erected as a Chapter in 2009. The Erection decree was read by Dra. Belen Tangco, OP during the Mass held at the Holy Rosary Family Farm School officiated by Rev. Fr. Honorato Castigador, OP, on March 7, 2009.

On June 13, 2008, the Rosarian Society of the Holy Spirit opened the Holy Rosary Family Farm School. This is a secondary school with unique alternating system of education: a one week school period for students to learn the academic lessons at school and one week home period where students help their parents in farm work and other household chores. This model is patterned after the Europe's Agrarias Escuelas Familiares.

Another feature of the ROSHSPI Society is the creation of their Oblate Counterpart called Dominican ROSHSPI Oblate Brothers that started in 2011. The Brothers live in common, profess private vows of the evangelical counsels

and follow the Rule of the Lay Dominicans. They serve in the ministries and share the charism initiated by the Couple Founder. There are at the moment around 20 active members of the Group present in three dioceses of the country: Tanibag, Pinamungajan and Cebu City (Archdiocese of Cebu); Veruela, Agusan del Sur (Diocese of Butuan) and Roxas, Cotabato (Diocese of Kidapawan). Very soon the Dominican ROSHSPI Oblate Brothers will extend their apostolate particularly in their involvement in the Interreligious Dialogue Promotion to the Prelature of Marawi.

(About the news contributor: Bro. Nicanor "Nick" Gentapa, OP is the Brother President of the Rosarian Society of the Holy Spirit (ROSHSPI) Chapter. He is currently the Director/Principal of the Holy Rosary Family Farm School, Tanibag, Pinamungajan, Cebu. He is also connected to the University of San Jose - Recoletos, Balamban, Cebu Campus as the Coordinator of both the Religious Education Department and Campus Ministry Office.)

FR. LA JA, OP, PREACHES AT THANKSGIVING MASS

By Br. Rommel P. Olivar, OP

The second Burmese Dominican priest of the Philippine province, Fr. Stephen Mari La Ja, OP, preached at a Thanksgiving Mass in his hometown of Myitkyina, Myanmar, last January 20, 2018 at ten in the morning. The Mass was presided over by Msgr. Francis Daw Tang, Bishop of the Diocese of Myitkyina, at St. Columban's Cathedral. As a sign of special honour, the Bishop himself served as the main celebrant, with Fr. La Ja and about forty diocesan and Dominican priests concelebrating. The Mass was in Kachin, the language and the ethnic group to whom Fr. La Ja belongs. It was attended by more than five hundred Catholics, most of them wearing the colourful traditional Kachin attire.



In his homily which was also delivered in Kachin, Fr. La Ja chronicled his 25-year journey to the priesthood. He credits his perseverance to the Blessed Mother and the encouragement and inspiration of many people, both Burmese and Filipino.

The beauty of the indigenous culture, as well as the devotion of the people, was on display during the Mass. There was no choir, but the cathedral was filled with joyful and melodious voices because everyone, including



men and children, was singing so enthusiastically. The gifts for the Eucharist were offered by young men and women dancing the traditional *manau* dance, a dance of honour and thanksgiving, complete with swords and grain offerings.

After the Mass, there was a short program in which the people gave Fr. La Ja a ceremonial silver sword, symbolic of his new stature as a leader of his people, sworn now with the duty to protect and help the people placed under his care. The Dominican Fathers were also given baskets of fruits, cooked food, and ceremonial items, as a sign of honour and thanksgiving for their help to Fr. La Ja. In his response, Fr. Romulo Rodriguez, OP, the Secretary of the Province, speaking in behalf of the Prior Provincial and the Filipino Dominicans and the whole Order, said that "Fr. La Ja was not born in the sacristy." His vocation came from God but it was nourished by his family and by the community who gave him both roots and wings.



The reception was held at the cathedral grounds where the guests were treated to a sumptuous Kachin lunch with songs and dances by Burmese artists.



The Dominican Province of the Philippines was represented by Frs. Romulo Rodriguez, Ramon Salibay, Greg Gregory, George Phe Mang, Rudolf Steven Seño; Frs. Jaime Alamillo and Manoj Rasanjana Angodage Don (from Sri Lanka); and by Fr. La Ja's batchmates, Frs. Rommel Olivar, Christopher Garinganao, and Carlo Rey Canto.

“JOYFUL FRIARS” VISITS TARLAC!

By Br. Joseph Gabriel S. Lopez, OP



Last January 13, 2018, the preaching band of the Dominican Studentate otherwise known as the *Joyful Friars*, visited the Sto. Nino Academy in Bamban, Tarlac which is being run by the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Peace. They held a vocation promotion event entitled “Dominican Vocation Club BIG DAY,” subtitled “I am a preacher among the youth.” In attendance were the students from different schools, most specially from the Diocese of Tarlac. Initially, the event was filled with different cultural presentations coming from the representatives of some of the schools that were present. In the main event, the Joyful Friars took center stage armed with their selected praise and worship songs, a plethora of dance moves. Br. Mervin Lomague mixed them all up with his humorous yet meaningful and expressive words as he challenged everyone not to be afraid in answering the call of God within them. It was such a delight for the Joyful Friars to be messengers of God’s love touching the lives of the youth today!



OP CHRISTMAS GATHERING AT ST. RAYMOND CONVENT

By Br. Roman (Don) L. Santos, OP

It has already become a practice for the Dominican Friars in the Bicol Region to invite the neighboring Dominican Sisters in a Christmas Gathering before the end of the Season. This celebration usually falls on a date nearest the 7th of January, the Feast of St. Raymond de Peñafort, the Patron of the Convent.

For this year, 2018, the Dominican Friars have hosted the same joyful event at the “Sirungan” of the Convent of St. Raymond de Peñafort last January 7, Sunday.

To bless the occasion, the Dominican Friars and Sisters joined together and started the day with the solemn offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in honor of the Solemnity of the Lord’s Epiphany with Rev. Fr. Felix C. Legaspi III, OP, Prior of the Convent as the main celebrant and Rev. Fr. Ernesto M. Arceo, OP, as the homilist. The other members of the community concelebrated in the Mass as well, namely: Fr. Joseph R. Raquid, OP; Fr. Edwin A. Lao, OP; and Fr. Roman L. Santos, OP.

A guest Bicolano friar, Fr. Wenifredo (Jojie) V. Padilla III, OP, who was on vacation from study abroad at Fribourg, Switzerland, visited the convent, concelebrated in the Mass and joined the gathering.



The Eucharistic Celebration was followed by a hearty lunch and sharing of pleasant gifts for everyone. However, it turned out that the highlight of the program in which the brothers and sisters were filled with much fun and laughter were the friendship games. On one occasion, there was a test of wit and memory when participants were divided into groups and were asked to enumerate a list of terms under a particular category such as “Names of Dominican Filipino Friars who were already Senior Citizens yet still active in the ministry” or “Names of Saints of the Order” and the like. On another game, there was so much excitement when the OP Sisters were asked to battle it out, defend and increase their seed money in a one-against-all game of “Jack en Poy.”

A total of 39 participants joined the event. The communities of sisters who attended were:

1. Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena (Libmanan, 3; Tigaon, 3; Naga, 1; Oas, 2; Pilar 1)
2. Dominican Sisters of Blessed Imelda (Calabanga, 7)
3. Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother (Guinobatan, 7)
4. Congregacion de Religiosas Misioneras de Santo Domingo (Camalig, 4)
5. Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines (UST-Legazpi, 3)
6. Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Trinity (UST- Legazpi Hospital, 1)

TAWAG NG TIMBANGAN

By Maritess Jarquio

Who would have thought that losing could mean winning? That when you give up, in fact you gain more?

Well, at Sto. Domingo's "*Tawag ng Timbangan*", the above statements hold true!



When you lose your excess weight, you can win ₱30,000! When you give up those fatty and unhealthy foods, you gain wellness! Not only you win ₱30,000, you also win wellness, which is most important. And ultimately, you help the parish by signing-up the "*Tawag ng Timbangan*" or popularly known as "TnT".

The concept is very simple.

TnT is a fun and friendly competition designed to encourage parishioners and non-parishioners alike to lose weight, while establishing healthy eating and fitness habits. TnT is a health awareness and fund-raising campaign, a special project of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) under Public Affairs for Fund-raising. It inspires and encourages the participants to perform healthy activities driven towards a fitter and healthier person. The fund that will be generated will be utilized for the various projects and programs of the Sto. Domingo Parish Ministries to continue serving its mission.

The sources of fund from TnT will be as follows:



TnT Challengers' handprint symbolizing their "pledge of commitment to wellness".

1. Registration fee of ₱300.00 per participant
2. TnT T-shirt cotton priced at ₱285.00 each (optional)
3. TnT T-shirt dri-fit priced at ₱195.00 each (optional)
4. TnT millennial mug priced at ₱95.00 each (optional)

The mechanics of this contest is fair and simple. The contender, (they call "TnT Challenger") wins NOT based on the number of pounds or kgs lost but based on the percentage of his or her own weight! Here's how!

Winners will be determined based on percentage of weight lost from starting body weight.

Example Calculation:

1. Beginning weight – ending weight = pounds lost
2. (pounds lost/beginning weight) X 100 = percentage weight lost

In the event of a tie, the contestant who has lost the most pounds will be the winner.

The registration/weigh-in period runs from November to January 14. The final weigh-in will be on March 17, 2018. Participants, who must be at least 18 years old, are encouraged to lose weight in a healthy and fair manner. Please, no diet pills, laxatives, colonics, or diuretics unless prescribed for a medical condition.

Participants cannot have weight loss surgery before and in the duration of the contest. No participant shall use any artificial or inappropriate means of weight loss or alteration in body composition in order to win the TnT Challenge including but not limited to liposuction, weight loss surgery or other similar procedures.

The TnT Committee administers an interactive chat group wherein the TnT Challengers are given



constant reminders, tips and updates. In-house licensed nutritionists and physicians (volunteers) are also present for advice!

TnT also sells “hugot” shirts and “millennial” mugs which are fun to own! These hugot shirts and mugs are original creations and designs by TnT itself!

Ultimately, the TnT Project aims to support Sto. Domingo Parish in its effort to be a consistent pillar in the community and active catalyst of change in making Catholic faith more dynamic through holistic approach geared towards total spiritual transformation.

With the active support of its Parish Priest, Fr. Mhandy S. Malijan, OP, the TnT project hopes that by instilling in the minds and hearts of the TnT Challengers the value and worth of the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, this first step to physical wellness will eventually lead to spiritual wellness!

Ikaw, tinawag ka na ba?

Tumugon sa Tawag!

Tawag ng Timbangan, The Sto. Domingo Challenge.

Who will be the 1st ever TnT Champ?

February in DPP History

(Culled from the Archives of the Province)

- ☞ **1976 February 24** – The Santo Domingo Church was formally declared as a Parish.
- ☞ **1985 February 20** – The Aletheia Missionary and Charitable Foundation, Inc. was organized to produce a TV show entitled *Pamana Family Show*.
- ☞ **1986 February 26** – The Dominican brethren, together with the image of Our Lady of *La Naval*, participated in the EDSA Revolution.
- ☞ **1995 February 17** – The Province re-established its presence in Mindanao in the Diocese of Marbel at General Santos City through the request of the Siena Sisters *to send preachers to Mindanao, specifically to the Cotabato area, to minister to the spiritual needs of the people of God, especially the youth, by giving retreats, recollections, and similar activities*. Br. Enrico Gonzales, OP, and Br. Ramon Salibay, OP, were assigned to this mission area.

The missions in Mindanao began on June 1, 1975, with the acceptance of a parish in Mati, Davao Oriental, and installation of Fr. Amador Ambat, OP, as parish priest, and the canonical erection of St. Antoninus House on March 1, 1978 in Maco, Davao del Norte, in the then Prelature of Tagum.

With the development of sufficient manpower of the diocesan clergy, the officials of the Province decided to turn over the parochial administration to the Diocese. Thus, on April 11, 1993, Br. Rafael

Lusuegro, OP, turned over the Parish in Maco to the Diocese of Tagum.

- ☞ **1998 February 19-20** – *Inggo 1587* had its first concert at the University of Santo Tomas Museum.

PC Notes...

Notes from the 408th Provincial Council Meeting
on 8 January 2018

- ☞ *Deliberation on the Leave of Absence*

The Provincial Council approved the six months leave of absence of Br. Cyr Stephen Magbanua, OP, and the leave of absence until the expiration of the vows of Br. Jaypee Añonuevo, OP.
- ☞ *Appointment for one year of the Promoter for Social Communication due to the request for one year leave of absence by reason of studies by the incumbent Promoter*

Br. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, was appointed as the substitute Promoter of Evangelization through Social Communication for a year inasmuch as Br. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, OP, was approved for his request for a leave of absence for one year to earn his licentiate degree. Attached herewith are the conditions directed to Br. Aytona:

 - a. That Br. Aytona be relieved from his administrative post in UST
 - b. That Br. Aytona should take a leave immediately from DOMNET
 - c. That Br. Aytona should be closely monitored by the Regent of Studies
 - d. That Br. Aytona should come out with a specific timetable for his studies to earn the Licentiate degree within a year
- ☞ *Board resolution to surrender the policies of Sun Life Financial for brethren who left the Order*

That the insurance policies of the brothers who left the Order be surrendered to Sun Life Insurance in order to claim the cash surrender values of the insurance policies so that a certain amount be invested to sustain the retirement fund portfolio of the Province and that the remaining balance be used to partially settle the current arrears of the Province to the UST Hospital
- ☞ *Proposal for the Golden Anniversary of DPP:*
 1. That priors/superiors be notified of the themes (overall and annual) and the committees for the Golden Anniversary of the Province.
 2. That the Provincial communicate to the brethren for suggestions to be submitted to the Office of the Secretariat not later than 31 January 2018 for:
 - a. Biblical text appropriate for the theme of every preparatory year (2018, 2019, 2020)

b. Activities/programs in relation to the four pillar components for the said themes of 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

1. Study
2. Prayer
3. Community/fraternal life
4. Service/outreach

☞ Reports in relation to the 4-year Apostolic Plan (Stat 40, II)

a. Dominican Family: by Br. Hermel Pama, OP

With the current number of structures in the Province that allow more opportunities for collaboration among the members of the Dominican Family, it now rests on the Promoter to concentrate on the organization of the annual Dominican Family gathering.

b. Priestly Fraternity: by Br. Florentino Bolo Jr, OP
Updates were presented:

1. There will be 3 rites of vestition: 11 candidates in Pampanga, 3 candidates in Cebu and 6 candidates in Sto. Domingo Church.
2. Archbishop Jose Palma is scheduled for vestition on 23 January 2018 in Cebu City.
3. Between June until October 2018, Bishop Ruperto Santos from the Diocese of Balanga is scheduled for vestition.

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

February 3 + Br. Catalino Elloso, OP
16 + Br. Francisco Tũaño, OP

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

TRIVIA QUESTIONS TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE PROVINCIALATE

(Editor's note: We are running a series of introduction of our personnel at the Provincialate for the brethren to know them.)



First Name: **FAVIANO JR.**
Nickname: "Jun"
Middle Name: **VALLEGA**
Surname: **CANDELARIO**
Birthday: 5 Apr 1966
Civil Status: Single
Hometown: Pamplona, Negros Oriental
Date of Employment in the Provincialate: Jan 2017
Current Position: Cook

*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**

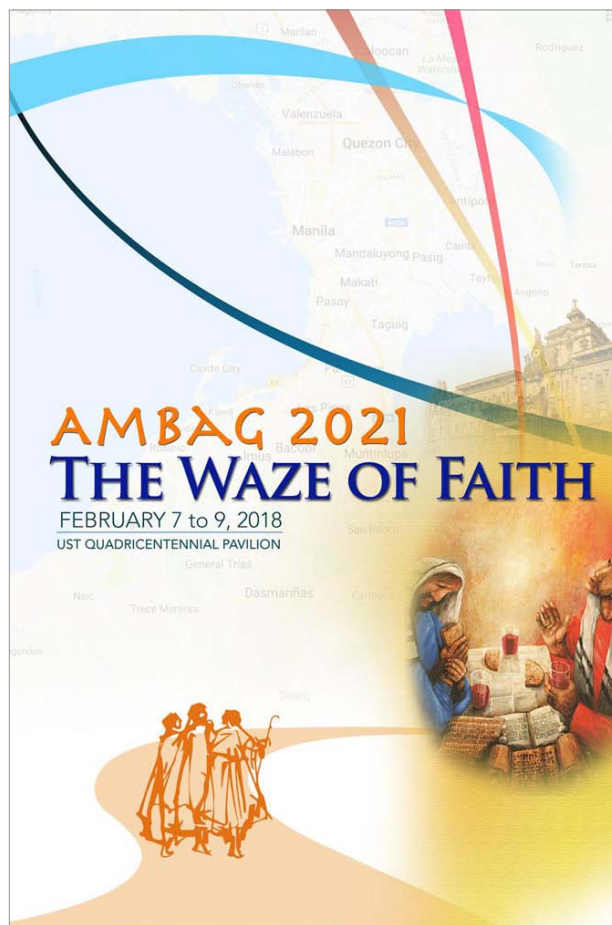
**Fax to: 732-4652 or
e-mail to: opphil@phils.op.org**

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.

Meeting of the Dominican Major Superiors for Asia Pacific

Jan 29-Feb 1, 2018, Macau





Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Golden Anniversary of the Dominican Province of the Philippines
 3 February 2018, Bahay Dominiko, Quezon City



STUDY: A LOST LEISURE

By Br. Eugene Dominic V. Aboy, OP



Br. Eugene Dominic
V. Aboy, OP

For most people, it has become unimaginable to equate study with leisure, since study is often seen as a tedious exercise which requires spine twisting discipline and hair diminishing focus. No one does his thesis while smiling. But for the ancient Greeks, the word *schola* originally meant not “school”, but leisure.

Today, these two concepts have become almost contradictory.

I, for one, have only lately learned to appreciate study. Thanks to the Order! Even as an aspirant, our formators would try to drill in us this essential pillar of the Dominican life. They would insist that the “luxury” of having helpers to aid us in doing chores is for the sake of having more time to study. Of course, study remains a difficult task, but a task which I have somehow managed to take pleasure in.

I know that I will be eating these words come the second semester, when my back starts aching and my hair starts falling again. But there is an undeniable delight that comes in every moment of discovery, accompanied by that sense of awe at the vastness of what is yet to be unfolded. It sounds almost like an ecstatic prayer, but isn’t study a prayer to truth, wherein one is caught up and is lost (or rather found) in the presence of Truth? Josef Pieper writes: “Philosophical education, if it is to unfold, must have room for leisure; leisure, in turn, draws its lifeblood from the cultic.”¹

¹ Josef Pieper, *For the Love of Wisdom: Essays on the Nature of Philosophy* (San Francisco, 2006), p. 25.

I am reminded on how I would cringe at the words of Fr. Enrico when he said that “in studying, you must learn to nail your balls to the chair.” The idea of study being so unpleasant struck me so, that quoting it in one of our classes, I forgot to include the line “...to the chair,” causing an awkward statement. But however painstaking it may be, there is no other way to enjoy study other than finding time for it. Thomas Aquinas assures us, “the cell, if you stay in it, becomes sweet.”

During my novitiate, I would imagine the Studentate as a place where, like Steve in *Blue’s Clues*, I could “sit down on my thinking chair and think, think, think.” It has in fact become a place where I am able to sit down and think, but not so much on my philosophical studies as on the looming tasks that are yet to be done. There are indeed busy times in the coristado, so much so that we can sometimes change our name into “working-student brothers.” But there remain those moments made more precious (perhaps by its scarcity) when one can just sit down and get bathed in the light. The mind is cleared from other thoughts and things begin to appear in order, enabling one to approach the world with a new-found peace.

The leisure of study is not a means to get enchanted amidst the troubles of the world. Our apostolates and other occupations disillusion us from the idea that we study in order to find pleasure. Anyway, we do not study merely to enjoy but in order to be sent, most specially to save souls. But before we can bring people to the truth, we must first see truth as something desirable, sought for its own sake, and thus must be taken as an end in itself. Study can be enjoyed, just as we enjoy food. One nourishes the body; the other, the soul. We must rediscover the leisure in study which is now getting lost, not because study is seen as an obstacle to leisure, but because other forms of “leisure” have become obstacles to it.

ARE WE TEACHERS OR BOXERS? (MANAGING 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM)

By Br. Jerone R. Geronimo, OP

It was 8 o'clock in the morning, the first class of the day. The students were sitting and chatting about what they watched in TV last night. Then the teacher came. He led the opening prayer. Everyone prayed. The teacher greeted the class. The students responded. After checking the attendance, the teacher started the lecture. After 10 minutes, there was a total silence throughout the earth. Some began to see flying cows (day-dreaming). Some were truly dreaming, because they were already knocked-out. Who was this person who came to class? Was he a teacher or a boxer?



Br. Jerone R. Geronimo, OP

There are so many factors to consider why the students usually have this kind of experiences during the class. Just like in any kind of communication process between the speaker and the listener, learning in the classroom is also a two way process: the teacher and the learner. The focus of this article is on the teacher factor! The way the teacher manages the classroom

and delivers his instructions has also a great impact on the learner's personal development. And sometimes, the impact has a long term effect.

Last January 14-16, 2018, Br. Sandy C. Allerta, OP, and I attended a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for licensed professional teachers held at Phoenix Development Center, Quezon City. The theme was all about "Managing the 21st Century Classroom" sponsored by the Phoenix Educational Foundation, Inc. The speaker was Mrs. Gloria Luna-Cruz, a former principal of St. Therese School of Quezon City and currently, a consultant of Phoenix Publications. She divided the seminar into several sessions in order to address properly the various concerns of the 21st century classroom.

A. What is good classroom management?

Good classroom management is one of the most important foundations of good instruction! A sign that a teacher has a good management style is a positive climate of trust and cooperation inside the room. The teacher should really exert effort for this. It's the only way in order to deliver his lesson well and to avoid developing inappropriate behaviors among his students.

B. Nature of 21st Century Learner

Mrs. Cruz asserted that as teachers, we should really know the nature and ways of our audience – the 21st century learners. They are not millennials. According to the latest psychological studies, they belong to the "iGeners." They are extremely different from our generation. They are born in a highly technological world. They are multiple intelligent beings who are also exceedingly dynamic, capable of doing multiple tasks. They are searchers not only of facts, but of meaning as well.

C. The 21st Century Pedagogy

According to Howard Gardner, "the biggest mistake of past centuries in teaching was to treat all children as if they were variants of the same individual and thus to feel justified, they were taught with the same subjects at the same time."

Before anything else, the teacher should not assume that all of his students, regardless of age, are fully matured being capable of withstanding his traditional style of talking straight for 2-hours; rather, the teacher should always make a pre-assessment of his iGeners students to reveal their differences in readiness, learning profiles, and interests. Hence, knowing your student's profile is already winning half of the battle.

Since our audience are iGeners, they deserve an appropriate learning approach which will help them meet their needs, interests, and learning styles for significantly higher achievements. The iGeners' attention span lasts only for 15-30mins. Thus, it is better to get rid of the "teacher-centered or the boxer approach" in order for them not to fall asleep, or get bored, or to misbehave.

Instead, the teacher should be investing his time on learning how to do the student-centered approach. For





every lesson, the teacher needs to talk for a while, but he also has to let the students do their part. The teacher should provide creative and meaningful *tasks/activities/seatworks/projects* which will express and maximize the learners' field of interests. Learning is enhanced when these differences are acknowledged and addressed.

According to the latest study made by National Training Laboratories in Maine, USA, giving lectures, some readings, audio-visual aids and some sort of demonstration produce only 30% knowledge retention rates. What the iGeners need is a kind of Participatory Teaching Methods. If one wants them to remember 50% of his lesson, they should have group discussion. If one wants 75% retention, then they should practice what they learn by doing their performance tasks. If one wants them to have 90% retention, they should be allowed to teach their classmates.

D. Correcting some of our misconceptions

Classroom management is all about creating an *environment of safety and connectedness* that build student self-management. Here are some of the misconceptions which one should dismiss and the alternatives which one should employ:

- Instead of 'teachers must retain all the power in the room', why not '*establish win-win authority.*'
- Instead of 'classroom rules ensure good behavior,' why not '*set boundaries with positive outcomes.*'
- Instead of 'I shouldn't motivate my students,' why not '*use positive motivators to build commitment and cooperation*'
- Instead of 'conditional praises only for outstanding students,' why not '*recognize and give feedback to advance and struggling students, without labelling them.*'

E. Teacher's Talk

The teacher's choice of words and tone of voice, whenever he gives an assignment, a suggestion, a comment, have a huge impact to his students. Mrs. Cruz mentioned some phrases that help kids gain confidence and learn responsibly:

Next Time	your mistake is over, it's time to move on.	'Next time, you can wake up early so that you won't be late, ok?'
Check yourself	you see them as capable and responsible	'It seems noisy. Please <i>check yourself</i> if you are using your inner voice.'
Please make a different choice	you inform them of their misbehavior and respectfully ask that they choose a different response	'Ruben, chatting your classmate during the exam is not helping you. <i>Please make another choice.</i> '
Help me solve my problem	you avoid blame and defensiveness, you encourage them to be a part of the solutions	I want you to <i>help me solve my problems</i> . When the class is noisy, some of your classmates find it hard to understand the lesson.
I'm really surprised	a way to communicate positive expectations	You prefer to absent rather than to submit your project? <i>I'm really surprised.</i>
Check it out inside	can help a student to look within and reflect on his/her actions	Why did you choose to behave that way? <i>Check it out inside.</i>

F. Managing Inappropriate Behavior and Problem Behavior

Inappropriate behaviors include lack of involvement, prolonged inattention, work avoidance and obvious violation of simple classroom rules and procedures. Here are some ways to prevent and to manage these behaviors:

- Always make an eye contact or move closer to the students.
- Reminders must be repeated clearly and in a constructive way.
- Talk to the students in an emphatic way (spirit of dialogue)
- Discuss all the possible solutions.

Problem behaviors are the repeatedly inappropriate behaviors of students. On the part of the student, it could be due to his family/peers relationship/background. On the part of the teacher, it might be due to his poor teaching/management style and failure to address the inappropriate behaviors before. Mrs. Cruz suggested some general guidelines for handling misbehavior:

- Get to know your students from the beginning of the school year. Listen to their stories, experiences, profiles, needs, interests, strengths and weaknesses.
- It would lead to a positive and healthy relationship with the students. One can prevent more problems if one has this kind of atmosphere in the classroom.
- Show respect for student's dignity and foster self-esteem.
- Attack the problem, not the student.
- Develop a non-hostile response to misbehavior. (Control your anger)

Personal Reflection:

At the end of the seminar, I have several realizations. First, I have to accept the fact that I committed a lot of shortcomings in the past. I was a high school teacher before I entered the Order of Preachers. I taught for three years in a Catholic school. I remembered so many experiences I had while I was still immersed in the classroom. And I realized how imperfect I was during those years. I regret for some compulsive decisions that I made when it came to managing the classroom and handling student's misbehaviors. How I wish I heard all these insights before! I could have made my classroom "their second home." I thank the Lord and all the person who prepared for this seminar. Truly, it is a humbling experience. It makes me feel more of a learner, rather than a teacher.

Secondly, I realized how powerful the influence of a teacher is. As a teacher, I am a decisive factor in the classroom. My strategies, approaches and management styles create a kind of ambiance which could either make or break a student's life.

Thirdly, all these principles and insights in managing the 21st century classroom can be adopted in order to have well-managed retreat and recollections sessions, especially today that we have the same audience – the iGeners. As preachers, we should also learn to update our styles, activities, approaches, and strategies in order to make our preaching meaningful to the lives of the students.

Lastly, I should always bear in mind that Jesus, during His time on earth, is also a rabbi. He is "The Teacher!" However, Jesus' way of teaching is not a kind of a boxer. Why did people remember His teachings? Because Jesus knows His flock. He knows their needs and He searched for innovative ways and strategies to attend to their needs. And whenever He corrects somebody, He attacks the sins and shortcomings, not the person. Jesus, gives all His best as a teacher! He gave His life, that is why He was able to touch their lives. Doing such things, He makes teaching profession not just noble, but a holy vocation. So brothers, we should teach like Jesus! And be prepared to witness miracles in the lives of these people!

Evangelization through education is one of our priorities in the Dominican Province of the Philippines. In line with this thrust, the Teacher Certificate Program (TCP) was introduced several years ago, as an integral part of the intellectual formation of the student-brothers.

It is an invitation for all of us to be like Jesus – The Teacher. Learning the new ways of managing the 21st Century classroom is a must in order for us to provide the iGeners, a shepherd's care. They are the 21st century Lord's flock. We should teach these iGeners willingly and generously, just as God would have wanted us to do. We should not be acting as lords over them.

Finally, as friars, we are expected not only to become good philosophers, good theologians and good preachers, we are also expected to be good teachers, good educators, and not heavy-weight boxers!

AWARDS ARE NOT REWARDS

By Br. Rolando V. Dela Rosa, OP

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<https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/01/27/awards-are-not-rewards/>



Br. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP

Mocha Uson could have easily defended herself against those who trolled, spammed, and flamed her after she received an award from the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) She should have simply said that what she received was an award, not a REWARD.

A reward is given to compensate a good deed done by the recipient, as when a passenger rewards a taxi driver for returning her money that she had unintentionally left in the cab.

An award is freely bestowed at the sole initiative and prerogative of the giver who unilaterally sets the standards or criteria for the award.

Many people protested the giving of an award to Mocha because they thought it is wrong to reward someone who, in their estimation, had accomplished nothing remarkably good as a public servant. Also, since an award is a symbol of honor, they find it "disgusting" to award Mocha who, they are convinced, has nothing honorable in her.

But St. Thomas Aquinas writes: "Honor est in honorante." The source and origin of honor is the person who bestows it, not the person who receives it. Since honor lies in the one honoring, not in the one honored, by accepting an award the recipient simply recognizes the honor inherent in the one who confers it. The best that the recipient can do, as a way of thanking the donor, is to make oneself deserving of the award. If not, the recipient actually dishonors the one who granted it.

As St. Thomas further writes: "Only a good person is deserving of honor, and yet it is possible even for the wicked to be honored. Therefore, it is important that one

aspires, not for honor, but to live a life deserving of honor.” Or, as Fr. Francis Martin adds: “Excellence is in the one honored — if the honor is deserved.”

Usually, controversies mark the selection of awardees because some judges act like Olympian gods who confer honor on those who do not deserve it, while they ignore those who presume to know better.

In the first, they boost the self-esteem of a person to encourage him or her to aspire for excellence. This seems to be the reason cited by the USTAAI for giving the award to Mocha.

In the second, they unwittingly instill anger in those who think that the award was a mistake. This was what happened to many of those who vehemently protested against the award to Mocha, loudly proclaiming their love for UST as their only reason for doing so. If one reads their impassioned statements and comments, however, they seem motivated more by their rabid hatred of Mocha than by their love for UST.

For indeed, how many of these “lovers of UST” raised their voices when UST was openly vilified and maligned after it figured in earlier controversies? Many media outfits are founded, administered, or staffed by UST alumni, but many Thomasian journalists and writers are silent about the university’s many achievements in many areas, while they immediately print or broadcast adverse news that damage its reputation. Many of those who claim to be die-hard Thomasian alumni have practically disavowed their connection with it, not even visiting or participating in alumni reunions or university affairs.

Many of us live and die without receiving any awards of recognition. If you think those hyped-up award ceremonies summarize the meaning of honor, listen to an awardee’s cynical remark: “If you live long enough, you get accused of things you never did, and honored for virtues you never had.” Would it not be better if people asked why no one has honored you, than why one has?

✿ Four-Year Apostolic Plan ✿

(Third part of a series in publishing the Apostolic Plan of the Province)

Commission on Justice, Peace and Care of Creation

NO.	Provision/Output	Specific Objective/s	Strategies	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				Person/s Responsible
				2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	
168	We ordain that the JPCC Provincial Office at Bahay Dominiko should have a program, a working budget and a desk for finance generation. When this provincial office is strengthened, the Promoter of JPCC should put up regional centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To generate funds for Justice and Peace To establish JPCC centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fund raising activities Sponsorship for JPCC activities Identify regional centers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Pedro Salgado Fund for Justice, Peace and Care for Creation (JPCC) Sponsorship for Justice, Peace and Care for Creation (JPCC) activities Establish Justice, Peace and Care for Creation (JPCC) center in Luzon 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the JPCC Fund by 50% At least one fund raising activity Establish JPCC Center in Mindanao 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the JPCC Fund by 50% At least one fund raising activities Establish JPCC Center in Visayas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the JPCC Fund by 50% At least two fund raising activities Establish JPCC Center in Northern Luzon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JPCC Promoter Local JPCC Promoter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luzon Visayas Mindanao N. Luzon
169	We ordain that the office of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation should organize exposure programs for priests, in coordination with the Promoter for Continuing Formation, and student-brothers, in coordination with the Director of Pastoral Formation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To organize exposure programs for priests and student-brothers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify places / areas / organizations for exposure 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure program for student-brothers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure program for priests 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure program for student-brothers and priests 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure program for student-brothers and priests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JPCC Promoter
171	We ordain that the <i>Justitia</i> journal be revived to include Mission activities. The publication shall articulate our corporate social responsibility coming from these contexts, and since they are communal, all the initiatives in our Dominican institutions should be included.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To publish <i>Justitia</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and write Dominican Family members who can contribute to <i>Justitia</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> One publication of <i>Justitia</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> One publication of <i>Justitia</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> One publication of <i>Justitia</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> One publication of <i>Justitia</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JPCC Editor JPCC Promoter Promoter of the Missions
172	We recommend that the Promoter of JPCC establish a formal partnership with the UST Justice Concepcion Legal Aid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To sign MOA with UST Justice Concepcion Legal Aid and others of the same nature 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with Justice Concepcion Legal Aid and others of the same nature 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Signing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with UST Justice Concepcion Legal Aid 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Clinic in Luzon 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Clinic in Mindanao 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Clinic in Mindanao 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JPCC Promoter
174	We recommend that the Commission on JPCC promote among the brothers the care for migrants, Overseas Filipino Workers and their families (cf. ACG 2010 Rome 173-175).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a conference for the care of migrants, OFW and their families. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with Organizations concerned with OFWS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Colloquium for OFW's 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Colloquium for OFW's 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Colloquium for OFW's 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Colloquium for OFW's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission on JPCC



COMMISSION ON MISSIONS FOUR-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

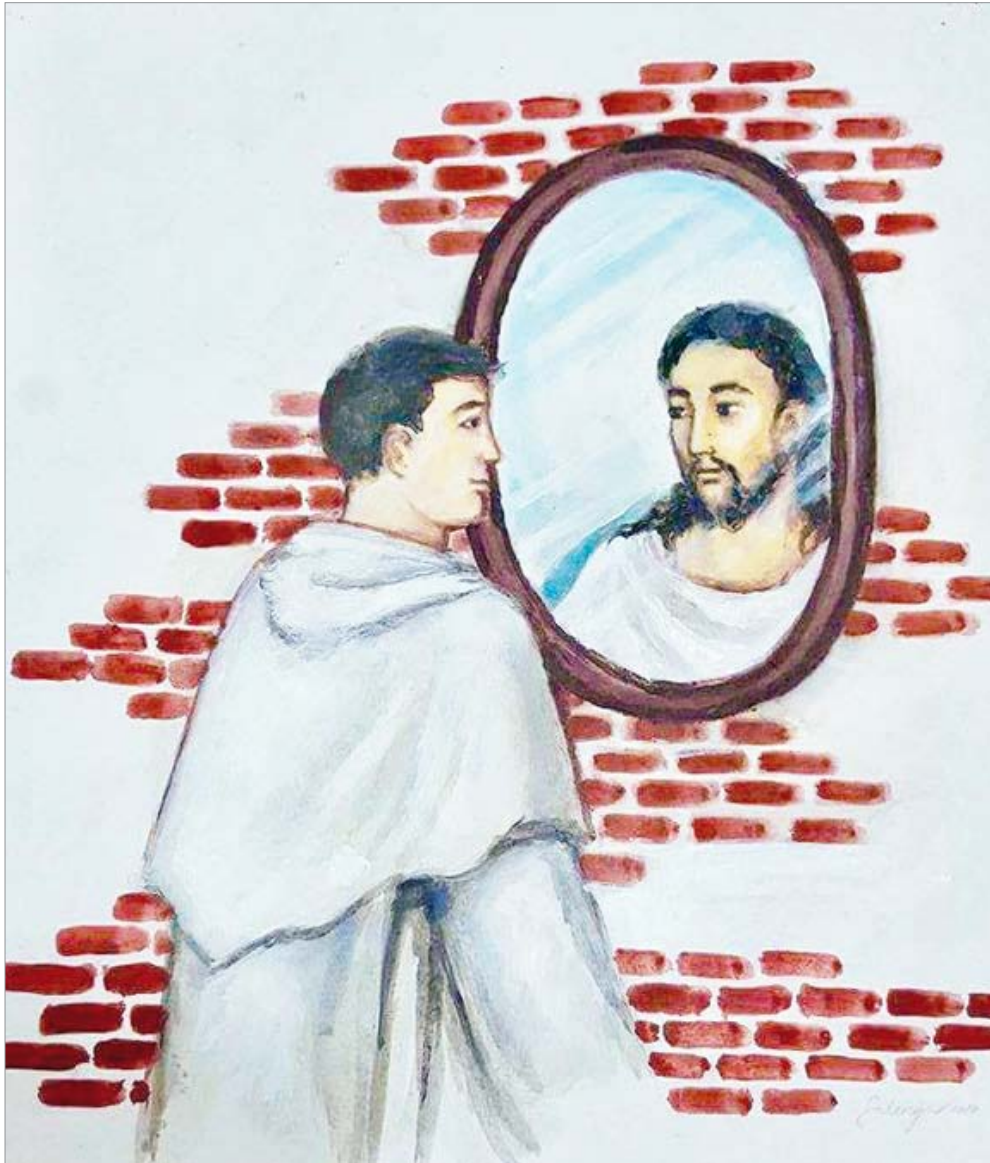
PERTINENT ACTS OF 2016 PROVINCIAL CHAPTER	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME
<p>145 We recommend that the Promoter of Evangelization through Social Communication together with the Promoter of the Missions enrich the programming of the radio station "Spirit of Calayan."</p>	<p>1. To keep the radio station ON THE AIR.</p> <p>2. To maintain the radio station equipment and provide personnel.</p> <p>3. To formulate a relevant programming.</p>	<p>1. Look for personnel from Calayan and train them in Manila (for on call services for the maintenance of the Radio Station).</p> <p>2. Contact technician from mainland to maintain/repair the radio station equipment (as another option).</p> <p>3.a. Consult and tie up with DPP schools and institutions with radio programs (Letran Manila, Letran Abucay, Letran Calamba, Manaoag Convent).</p> <p>3.b. Consult with popular radio practitioners.</p>	<p>Promoter of Evangelization through Social Communication</p> <p>Promoter of the Missions</p>	July to December 2017
<p>171 We ordain that the <i>Justitia</i> journal be revived to include Mission activities. The publication shall articulate our corporate social responsibility coming from these contexts, and since they are communal, all the initiatives in our Dominican institutions should be included.</p>	<p>1. To involve all DPP schools to come up with research based Community Development Programs.</p>	<p>1. Ask the Extension Offices of DPP schools, through the Council of Rectors, to come up with research based Community Development Programs.</p>	<p>Editor of Justitia = Promoter of JPCC or his delegate</p> <p>Associate Editor of Justitia = Promoter of the Missions or his delegate</p>	July-August 2017
<p>184 We ordain that there shall be a full-time Promoter of the Missions whose main tasks are:</p> <p>(1) to visit all the missionaries in their mission areas in order to know and help answer their needs;</p>	<p>1.a. To visit the mission areas .</p>	<p>1. Visit the mission areas at least once a year.</p>	<p>Promoter of the Missions</p>	2016-2020
<p>(2) to initiate programs that will generate funds to sustain the missions;</p> <p>(3) to create and implement the program of preparation for the brethren next in line to be sent to the missions;</p>	<p>2. a. To institutionalize Send A Child To School educational sponsorship program.</p> <p>2.b. To develop merchandizing products.</p> <p>2.c. To organize a support group for Dominican Missions Philippines.</p> <p>2.d. To establish a fund for the projects of Dominican Missions Philippines.</p> <p>3.a. To organize periodic conferences with the newly ordained brethren during their 1st year of ordination.</p>	<p>2. Implement a marketing and promotions campaign through leaflets, posters, brochures, calendars and social media.</p> <p>3. Develop a website for the Missions that is capable of accepting online donations.</p>		<p>2017</p> <p>2016-2020</p>



Four-Year Apostolic Plan



PERTINENT ACTS OF 2016 PROVINCIAL CHAPTER	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME
(4) to study the possibility of reinventing existing missions and to prepare for future missions.	4. a. To recommend to the DPP schools, thru their Research departments, to come up with studies on our missions.	4. Put up a Dominican Missions Development Office (headed by the Promoter of Missions). 5. Meet the newly ordained brethren at least every 3 months. 6. Come up with modules or inputs in preparation for the missions. 7. Conduct researches.		July-August 2017
185 We ordain that brothers nominated as parish priests in our mission stations be appointed for a term of three years in accord with our statutes (Statute 110). To these mission parishes we shall send brothers on the second year after ordination for a mission exposure program, for at least one year and not more than two years.	1. To recommend to the Prior Provincial brothers to be nominated as parish priests.	1. Commission on Missions makes recommendations.	Prior Provincial Promoter of the Missions	2016-2020
187 We commission the Provincial Council of Formation together with the Promoter of Missions to identify existing programs, or draft new ones to prepare the brothers for mission assignments of the DPP, both local and overseas.	1. To coordinate with The Council of Formation in identifying the existing programs. 2. To coordinate with The Council of Formation in drafting new programs.	1. Review the existing programs and formulate new ones for overseas missions.	Provincial Council of Formation Promoter of the Missions	July – August 2017
188 We commission the Promoter of the Missions and the Promoter for Continuing Formation to formulate and implement a program for immediate and long-term preparation of brothers to be assigned to the missions, taking into account whatever preparations they have already received during their initial formation.	1. To formulate and implement immediate and long term programs to prepare the brethren for missions.	1. Conduct activities (e.g. seminars, workshops and conferences) that will help prepare future missionaries; such as culture, history and languages of the various mission areas.	Promoter of the Missions Promoter of Continuing Formation	At least every 3 months a year (2016-2020)
190 We commission the Promoter of the Missions, in coordination with the Commission on Theological Reflection, to produce ethnographic studies of our missions in Calayan and Camiguin and publish these in the <i>Justitia</i> journal.	1. To produce ethnographic studies of Calayan and Camiguin mission stations.	1. Conduct seminar-workshops on Ethnography to the brethren who are assigned and will be assigned to Calayan and Camiguin mission stations.	Promoter of the Missions Commission on Theological Reflection	Once a Year (Month of August)



Until Christ Is Formed In You

Acrylic on board, 2016
Br. Joseph Conrad V. Salenga, OP
Second Year Student Brother