



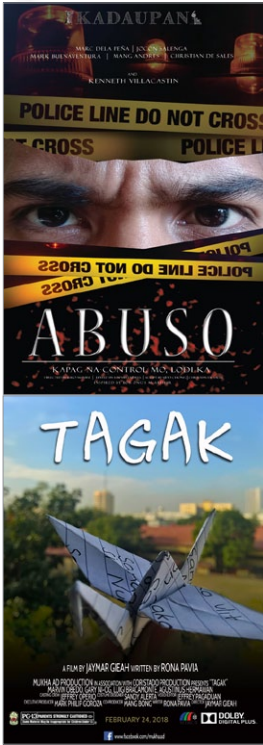
PHILDOM

FEBRUARY
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

Preach Through Films



MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- 3 Br. Pompeyo de Mesa, OP
- 5 Br. Virgilio Ojoy, OP
- 9 Br. Marc Adrian de la Peña, OP
- 15 Br. Raymundo Bayaras, OP
- 17 Br. Patricio Hiwatig, OP
Br. Charles Moises Barrientos, OP
- 25 Br. Bejay Namuag, OP
- 26 Br. Joshua Sernadilla, OP
- 28 Br. Jerry Manlangit, OP
Br. Greg Gregory, OP
- 29 Br. Hilario Sicat Jr., OP
- 30 Br. Joaquin Valdes, OP

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- ☛ Youth Jam
- ☛ 'Pagtalima' is DSMC Awards' Best Picture
- ☛ Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary: A National Cultural Treasure of the Philippines

Prior Provincial's March Calendar

- 1-2 - Univerity of Santo Tomas (UST) Theology Week , Manila
- 3 - Dominican Laity Recollection, Cainta
- 4 - RMI Sisters' Eucharistic Celebration, Quezon City
- 5 - 410th Provincial Council Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
- 6-7 - National Clergy Discernment Group, Maryhill School of Theology, Quezon City (QC)
- 8 - Meeting with Justice Harriet Demetriou, Café Inggo , QC
- Meeting with Ramil Balaga, Bahay Dominiko
- Meeting with Evelyn Takahashi, Quezon City
- Bahay Dominiko Word-Among-Us and House Chapter, QC
- 10 - Forum for Charter Change – JPCC & Center for Community Development, Colegio De San Juan de Letran, Manila
- Dominican Laity Provincial Council Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
- 11 - Visit of Rommel Adaro and Family, Bahay Dominiko
- 12 - UST Academic Senate Meeting
- 13 - Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting, UST
- 14 - Organizational Assessment Meeting
- 17 - First Profession, Cainta Nuns
- 19 - 8th Anniversary RICA, Eucharistic Celebration, Taytay, Rizal
- 21 - Baccalaureate Mass, St. James Academy, Malabon City
- 22 - *Planificatio* Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
- BOT Meeting, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Manila
- 24 - 25th Anniversary of Presbyterate, Fr. Tiongco, Fr. Sibug, and Fr. Gregory
- 25 - Apr 1 - Retreat, Sacred Heart Brothers, Davao City

- ☛ Dominicans Attend 26th CLSP Annual Convention
- ☛ Theology Week 2018
- ☛ Lay Dominicans of Region V Convene for Lenten Recollection
- ☛ Adonai 2018
- ☛ Angelicum School Iloilo Development Project
- ☛ ASILINK: Pagrara Sa Aton Istorya
- ☛ Young Leaders Undivided for Christ
- ☛ Pag-ulikid: Coming Home to Angelicum
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- ☛ FEATURES
- ☉ The Living Reminder
- ☛ Four-Year Apostolic Plan
- ☛ ARTS

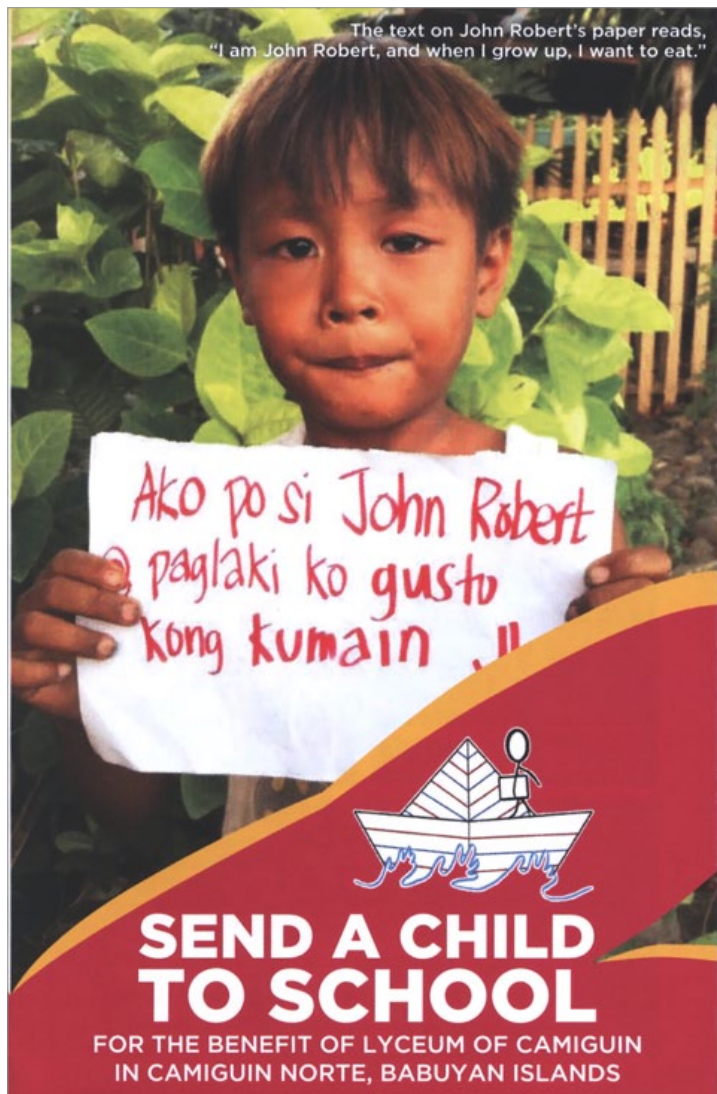
CONTINUING FORMATION PROGRAM FOR
THE YOUNG DOMINICANS IN THE MINISTRY
MAY 19-23, 2018

BIENNIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 19-21, 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)



WHERE DO I SUBMIT?

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Account Name: **Dominican Province of the Philippines, Inc.**
Account No.: **0213-4120-19**

You may also deposit your cash through the bank.

Send us a photo of this accomplished form and a proof of deposit to: sendachildtoschoolph@yahoo.com

Send A Child To School

c/o Office of the Promoter of the Missions
Dominican Province of the Philippines
8 Blak na Bato, Sta. Mesa Heights, 1114 Quezon City,
Philippines

ITINERANCY

(as a Priority of the Province)

Br. Honorato C. Castigador, OP, is assigned to the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Manaoag, Pangasinan) on March 8, 2018. He will be working in the mission station in Camiguin (Babuyan Islands, Cagayan Province) and will serve as the Parish Priest of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish and the Director of Lyceum of Camiguin.

DEEPER FRATERNAL INTEGRATION

(as a Priority of the Province)

FEATURED BATCH



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

Entrance to the Novitiate: 14 April 1975

Simple Profession: 15 April 1975

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



First Name: **JUAN**
Middle Name: **VALENCIA**
Surname: **PONCE**
Nickname: "Fr. Johnny"
Birthday: 1 Jun 1952
Entrance to the Novitiate:
15 Apr 1974
Solemn Profession: 15 Apr 1979
Ordination: 3 Apr 1982
DPP ID No.: 197501

Current Assignment: **St. Dominic's House (since Aug 2017)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of St. John Lateran (Sep 2007 - Jul 2017); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 2000 - Sep 2007); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (May 1997 - Jun 2000); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (May 1990 - May 1997); House of St. Albert the Great (May 1989 - May 1990); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1975 - May 1989)



First Name: **ROMULO**
Middle Name: **QUILALA**
Surname: **ANGELES**
Nickname: "Fray Romy"
Birthday: 11 Oct 1952
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 14 Apr 1974
Solemn Profession: 15 Apr 1980
 (Cooperator Brother)
DPP ID No.: 197502

Current Assignment: **Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (since Jun 2017)**

Previous Assignments: Convent of St. John Lateran (May 1998 - Jun 2017); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Jun 1992 - May 1998); Convento S. Sabina, Rome (1988-1992); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (Apr 1987 - 1988); House of St. Albert the Great (May 1984 - Apr 1987); Convent of St. John Lateran (May 1979 - May 1984); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (Mar 1978 - May 1979); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Apr 1977 - Mar 1978); Convent of St. John Lateran (Apr 1976 - Apr 1977); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (Apr 1975 - Apr 1976)



First Name: **ALFREDO JR.**
Middle Name: **AQUINO**
Surname: **FERNANDEZ**
Nickname: "Fr. Alfred"
Birthday: 19 Sep 1955
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 30 Mar 1974
Solemn Profession: 15 Apr 1980
Ordination: 30 Apr 1983
DPP ID No.: 197503

Current Assignment: **St. Antoninus House (since Oct 2014)**

Previous Assignments: House of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs (Aug 2012 - Oct 2014); May 2009 - Aug 2012); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (Jan 2005 - May 2009); convent of St. John Lateran Apr 2004 - Dec 2004); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (May 1999 - Mar 2004); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Jun 1994 - May 1999); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (May 1990 - Jun 1994); House of St. Albert the Great (Mar 1989 - May 1990); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1986 - Mar 1989); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Apr 1985 - May 1986); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (Jan 1985 - Apr 1985); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1975 - Jan 1985)



First Names: **VIRGILIO ADERIANO**
Middle Name: **ABAD**
Surname: **OJOY**
Nickname: "Fr. Ogie"
Birthday: 5 Mar 1957
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 14 Apr 1974
Simple Profession: 15 Apr 1975
Solemn Profession: 15 Apr 1980

Ordination: 29 Jun 1984

DPP ID No.: 197505

Current Assignment: **Convent of St. John Lateran (since Jul 2017)**

Previous Assignments: Sto. Domingo Convent (May 2001 - July 2017); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (May 1995 - May 2001); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (June 1990 - May 1995); Study in Louvain, Belgium (Jul 1985 - May 1990); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jan 1985 - Jul 1985); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (Sep 1983 - Jan 1985); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1975 - Sep 1983)



First Name: **EDWIN**
Middle Name: **AUJERO**
Surname: **LAO**
Nickname: "Fr. Edwin"
Birthday: 9 Jun 1956
Entrance to the Novitiate:
 14 Apr 1974
Solemn Profession: 15 Dec 1982
Ordination: 30 Aug 1985
DPP ID No.: 197506

Current Assignment: **Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (since May 2011)**

Previous Assignments: Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 2008 - May 2011); Convent of St. John Lateran (Apr 1987 - Apr 2008); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 1975 - Apr 1987)

PRIESTS ARE GENERALLY HAPPY MEN, DOMINICANS WERE TOLD

By Br. Mervin G. Lomague, OP

SANTO DOMINGO CONVENT, QUEZON CITY – Fr. Peter Lechner, s.P, fifth Servant General of the Congregation of the Servants of the Paraclete, gave a conference to the brothers on the Spirituality of the Priesthood and shared his insights on why priests generally fare better compared with their lay counterparts in terms of coping up with the pressures of work. This makes them a particularly happy group who mostly find themselves satisfied, nourished or fulfilled despite the overwhelming work in their ministry.

He said this despite several cases shown by the media concerning priests in crisis, particularly those who were involved in sexual scandals in the United States. Fr.



Lechner lamented on the misconception often shown by the media about priests in the US. "Priests are accused of being lonely, dispirited and sexually deprived," he said. He pointed out however that several independent studies conducted recently regarding the general disposition of priests reveal otherwise. Drawing from their findings, he learned that priests are "slightly better than their lay counterparts" because of several factors that contribute to the positive disposition of priests, i.e. their relationship to God, their commitment to celibacy, religious obedience, and spiritual practices. "A strong source of priestly joy is the dynamic spiritual relationship priests have with God," he added.

However, it does not mean that priests do not need specialized coping environment particularly when confronted by personal issues. Fr. Lechner, who is himself a licensed clinical psychologist, said that majority of those who are suffering from addictions or unaddressed childhood issues seek professional help and are willing to undergo mental health programs. Based on his experience in the ministry of rehabilitation of broken priests and religious in the Philippines and abroad, fraternal charity remains a necessary component for the recovery of wounded members of the community. "Listening to them is a form of charity," Fr. Lechner said. "By listening, we facilitate the start of their recovery."

Fr. Lechner's conference, which was held last February 8 in the chapter room of Santo Domingo convent, served as the community's pre-Lenten Recollection.

QUALITY FORMATION (as a Priority of the Province)

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By Br. Paulo S. Sillonar, OP

Brothers Ariel Adolfo, OP, and Sandy Alerta, OP, who are licensed teachers, shared their insights to the Dominican Studentate Community on the topic, "Classroom Management and Assessment in the 21st Century" last February 9, 2018 at the Dominican Studentate Community Area.

Br. Alerta shared about Classroom Management. He highlighted that the 21st century learners are born

in a highly technological world which molds them as beings with multiple intelligences, exceedingly dynamic and capable of doing multiple tasks. He backed this up with a latest psychological study which labeled them not as millennials but as iGens. He then emphasized that one sign that a teacher has a good management style is a positive climate of trust and cooperation inside the classroom which leads to a favorable learning environment.

Br. Adolfo shared about Classroom Assessment. He highlighted the 21st Century Pedagogy wherein the teacher should always make a pre-assessment of his iGener students to reveal their differences in readiness, learning profiles and interests. The teacher should not assume that all his students are fully matured and therefore a one type of assessment tool can reveal the aptitude and abilities of the students. A proper assessment tool must be utilized.

The lecture was attended by the Dominican brothers of Santo Domingo Convent together with Fr. Ramon Salibay, OP, Master of Students, with his two assistant formators, Fr. Marcelino Saria, OP, and Fr. Rodulf Steven Seño, OP.

Questions coming from the brothers and fathers were raised after the lecture. It was concluded that indeed, managing and assessing the the 21st Century learners and in the context of the Church, the 21st Century Christians, are challenges that the Church will encounter and deal with.

The insights delivered in this month's TRADTALK were from Mrs. Gloria Luna-Cruz who served as the speaker in a seminar sponsored by the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for licensed professional teachers held at Phoenix Development Center in Quezon City.

YOUTH JAM: PROMOTING RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS IN THE YEAR OF THE CLERGY AND CONSECRATED PERSONS

By Br. Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, OP

Last February 3, 2018, the Convent of Santo Domingo, Quezon City in partnership with the Diocese of Cubao held a campaign for religious vocations through music and preaching called the Youth Jam at the UST-Angelicum Gymnasium. The hosts of the event were Br. Jerone Geronimo, O.P. and Br. Glen Mar Gamboa, OP, who welcomed the audience by asking them relevant questions about their participation. Br. Melencio Garcia, OP, the Provincial Promoter of Dominican Vocations, also gave his warm message of appreciation for the presence and involvement of the young people of the diocese.

The Youth Jam began with the animation songs led by the Joyful Friars. The preacher for the said event was Br. Mervin Lomague, OP. In his comic preaching, he mentioned that many of us today tend to overlook what is going on around us and that we lose focus because of numerous distractions. Because of this, we also forget

to reflect that we are being called by God for a mission. He also reiterated that whatever we focus on grows. In connection to that, a person must focus not on the negative but on the positive aspects of his life so that one may see himself grow positively. With resounding laughter, the audience were all ears to Br. Lomague, OP, as he shared his background story as a missionary in Porac, Pampanga. It was through his scary experience that he realized that one becomes afraid of something because it is unknown. As an invitation to the youth, he told them that religious men and women are also imperfect human beings who came to a realization that they have a calling to the evangelical counsels to serve God and the Church. Towards the end, he gave a tribute to his mother who has helped him grow in faith in becoming a Dominican friar as he offered a song entitled *Awit ng Isang Alagad*. A reflection song entitled "Still" was sung Br. Rocky Niño Manire, OP, accompanied by Br. Rambang Ngawan, OP, as the organist.

After the preaching, the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Br. Felix delos Reyes Jr., OP. In his homily, Br. delos Reyes, OP, asked the young men and women if they had watched one of the new Valentine videos by a top-grossing fast food chain entitled "Signs". He said that sometimes we do not need to look for signs in order to be certain of our true love because he is no other than God Himself. He also connected this with Psalm 24 which says, "*Lord teach me your statutes.*" On the second half of the Youth Jam, the *Lumina Pandit* was led by Br. Hilario Sicat Jr., OP, together with the religious brothers and sisters while the band sang "Tell the World of His Love". The Joyful Friars, while playing religious songs, also led the crowd to actively sing the secular music. Participants shared cheerful smiles and bid farewell with one another, filled with hopeful desires to heed God's call.

'PAGTALIMA' IS DSMC AWARDS' BEST PICTURE

By Br. Francis M. Borre, OP

Pagtugon sa Tawag's (PST) *Pagtalima* bagged the 6th DSMC Awards Best Picture.

The win of *Pagtalima* came not a surprise as it gathered several other awards throughout the awarding night held at the San Pio V building last February 24, 2018.

The other awards amassed by the film directed by Br. Melvin Lomague, OP, who also won the Best Director award were Best Supporting Actor, Best Cinematography, Best Original Music, Best Editing, and Best Production Design. The film depicts the life of Br. Gregorio Hontomin, OP.

Following *Pagtalima* is Mukha Ad's *Tagak* which won the Second Best Picture and Best Story. KAPATID's *Sana* won the third Best Picture and KADAUPAN's *Abuso* claimed the Fourth Best Picture, Best Poster and Best Actor played by Br. Kenneth Villacastin, OP.



This year's competition was judged by Br. Marcelino Saria, OP, Br. Louie Coronel, OP, and Br. Felix delos Reyes Jr., OP.



GENERAL NEWS

"MINOR BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY: A NATIONAL CULTURAL TREASURE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

By Br. Roberto Reyes, OP

On February 17, 2018, at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag, the commemorative marker



was unveiled declaring the shrine as a National Cultural Treasure of the Philippines. This momentous event was held at the Basilica patio, where a sizeable number of people witnessed Bishop Socrates Villegas, O.P., D.D., Rev Fr. Anthony Eudela, O.P., Honorable Kim Mikael Amador (Municipal Mayor), Ms. Carmencita Mariano (National Museum Officer) and a few other officers from the shrine, the local government and the National Museum unveil the historical marker. This was preceded by the signing of the Certificate of Acceptance, which committed the National Museum and the Minor Basilica into a collaborative partnership in preserving the beauty and richness of the Basilica and all its “treasures”.



All this, however, transpired only after a meditation on the holy Rosary at 3:00 p.m., where the Rosario Cantada – Malolos Cenacle Choir sang and the celebration of the Eucharist at 4:00 in the afternoon, in which Bishop Socrates Villegas, OP, DD presided and preached. Concelebrating at Mass were most of the Dominican priests from the Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary and Bahay Dominiko, including the Prior Provincial himself, Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, as well as other bishops and priests from the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan. In his homily, Bishop Soc challenged everyone, calling especially on the local government

officials, to keep the Minor Basilica and its surroundings conducive to prayer and reflection as a way of honoring Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaog and in deference to pilgrims who come responding to her call.



Before the Final Blessing, a few speeches were read. Ms. Carmencita Mariano of the National Museum read the Resolution declaring the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary as a National Cultural Treasure of the Philippines. Director Jeremy Barns, Director IV of the National Museum of the Philippines, delivered a short message. Fr. Anthony A. Eudela, OP, Rector of the Minor Basilica and Prior of the Convent gave a grateful Acceptance Speech.

At the unveiling ceremony, Mayor Kim Amador said a few words and Fr. Anthony Eudela, OP, Prior of the Convent and Rector of the shrine, on behalf of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, thanked the National Museum of the Philippines for officially recognizing the Minor Basilica as a National Cultural Treasure.

The evening was capped with dinner served at the patio and the convent garden. During dinner, invited groups and individuals serenaded the guests. Notably, Ima Castro, a theater artist who has performed in Broadway productions like “Miss Saigon”, sang a few numbers and engaged some members of the audience, including Fr. Carlo Rey Canto, OP to sing and Br. Octavianus “Ophin” Geor, a novice, to dance along with her. Overall, it was a pleasant and wholesome evening.



DOMINICANS ATTEND 26TH CLSP ANNUAL CONVENTION IN DAVAO CITY

By Br. Arden Xerxes D. Dacuma, OP

As the Davao City tourism ad would say, “Life is here,” but for canon law practitioners, “CLSP is in Davao City.”

On February 26 to March 1, 2018, some brethren of the province, and several canon lawyers from the different arch/dioceses and religious institutes in the Philippines and abroad convened for the 26th Annual Convention of the Canon Law Society of the Philippines (CLSP), held in Marco Polo Hotel and Ateneo de Davao University (ADDU), Davao City. The theme for this year’s convention is “The Clergy and the Consecrated Persons towards the New Evangelization.”



The Inaugural Mass of the annual convention was held on February 26 in San Pedro Cathedral, which was presided by Archbishop Romulo Valles, DD, of the Archdiocese of Davao and the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. During the Holy Mass, Fr. Paul Ocfemia, JCD, of the Diocese of Legaspi, turned over the CLSP Emblem to Fr. Junar Dela Victoria, JCD, from the Archdiocese of Davao. The said ceremony symbolically transferred the hosting right from the Diocese of Legaspi to the Archdiocese of Davao for this year. In his capacity as President of CLSP, Fr. Dela Victoria officially opened the 26th Annual Convention.

The opening conferences, which were participated not only by the delegates of the annual convention but also by different guests composed of religious sisters, seminarians and lay persons, began in the second day held



in ADDU. The Keynote Speech was delivered by Bishop Jacinto Jose, DD, of the Diocese of Urdaneta and the Chair of the Commission on Canon Law of CBCP. In his speech, Bishop Jose gave an overview of the topics, speakers and activities during the convention. He mentioned that the theme of the convention, which was adapted from the theme of the “Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons” here in the Philippines, hopes to bring about integral renewal among the clergy and consecrated persons in the Philippine Church.

There were two resource speakers during the opening conferences. The first was Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, OMI, DD, of the Archdiocese of Cotabato. He focused on the “Philippine Church and the Challenges of the Theme: Clergy and the Consecrated Persons towards the New Evangelization.” The second was Fr. Elias Ayuban, CMF, JCD, from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). He focused on the “Relations between Bishops and Consecrated Persons in the Light of *Mutuae Relationes*.”



The conferences on the second day were held in Marco Polo Hotel. There were two conferences and a workshop during this day. The first speaker was Fr. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP, JCD. He focused on the topic “Mutual Collaboration between Secular and Religious in a Particular Church: The Case of the Third Order.”

In the afternoon, Bishop Nerio Odchimar, DD, JCD, of the Diocese of Tandag facilitated a workshop on a “Case of *Processus Brevior* in the Cagayan De Oro Tribunal.” Afterwards, the last conference was given by Fr. Ayuban, with the topic “CICLSAL Praxis and Procedures of the Holy See with regard to Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.”

In the evening, the Archdiocese of Davao sponsored the dinner, which also served as the closing ceremony of the annual convention, in Mergrande Ocean Resort. A simple fellowship activity followed that capped the memorable 26th CLSP Annual Convention.

THEOLOGY WEEK 2018

By Br. Sandy C. Alerta, OP

Last February 26 - March 2, 2018, the week-long lecture series "Church in Communion: Theology & Expressions," was held at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, OP, building at the University of Sto. Tomas (UST), Manila. This is the fourth Leonardo Legaspi, OP Lecture Series sponsored by the Faculty of Sacred Theology, Center for Religious Studies and Ethics and Institute of Religion of UST. The event was spearheaded by Br. Jannel N. Abogado, OP and Br. Rodel E. Aligan, OP.

CHURCH IN COMMUNION: THEOLOGY & Expressions
THEOLOGY WEEK 2018
FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 2, 2018
4TH LEONARDO LEGASPI, OP LECTURE SERIES ST. THOMAS AQUINAS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND ETHICS FORUM 2018
4th Floor, Bl. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, OP Bldg., University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

KEYNOTE LECTURE BY
MOST REV. CHARLES MAUNG CARDINAL BO, S.D.B., D.D.
Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar

PLENARY LECTURES

REV. FR. GERARD FRANCISCO P. TIMONER, III, O.P.
International Theological Commission (Philippines)

PROF. MA. MARICEL IBITA
Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

REV. FR. JAMES CHANNAN, O.P.
Executive Director, Peace Center, Lahore, Pakistan

MOST REV. JOSEPH CHUSAK SIRISUT, D.D.
Bishop, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

REV. MSGR. SABINO VENGCO
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

MOST REV. AGUSTINUS AGUS, D.D.
Archbishop of Pontianak, Indonesia

REV. FR. EDMOND EH KIM CHEW, OP
St. Joseph University, Macau

PROF. FEDERICO MACARANAS
Asia Institute of Management, Philippines

REV. FR. RODEL E. ALIGAN, O.P.
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

REV. FR. JOSÉ ANTONIO E. AUREADA, O.P.
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

REV. FR. JOHN JUNYANG PARK
International Theological Commission (South Korea)

MOST REV. TEODORO C. BACANI, D.D.
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

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☎ 0917-722-1378 📧 theweek2018@ust.edu.ph / ustcrse@yahoo.com.ph

In his opening remarks, Br. Napoleon Sipalay, Jr., OP, Vice-Chancellor of UST, welcomed the participants composed of priests, sisters, students, and lay persons from UST and other institutions. He pointed out that, "In the Church, there is no stranger." Immediately after the opening remarks was the keynote lecture of Most Rev. Charles Maung Cardinal Bo, SDB, DD, Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar.

The following served as plenary speakers in the said lecture series:

For the first day, Br. Gerard Francisco P. Timoner, III, OP of the International Theological Commission (Philippines) spoke on "To Be of One Heart and Mind, On the Way to God: Communion, Reconciliation, Synodality." In the afternoon, Prof. Dr. Ma. Maricel Ibita of the Ateneo de Manila University delivered the second plenary lecture.



Photo from the Facebook post of UST Theological Society

She spoke on "Sharing God's Word and Sharing God's World: Luke 15, Hating-Kapatid, Communion and the Challenges of Today's World."

On the second day, Br. Edmund Eh Kim Chew, OP, delivered the third plenary lecture on "Virtue Theory and Ecological Spirituality: The Serpent as a Symbol of Wisdom in the Gospel of Matthew." He was followed by Most Rev. Joseph Chusak Sirisut, DD, Bishop of Nakhon Ratchasima, who delivered the fourth plenary lecture entitled "The Praxis of Communion in Thailand through Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism." Rev. Msgr. Sabino Vengco delivered the fifth plenary lecture. He lectured on "Living Communion as the Task and Fulfillment of the Parish."

During the third day of the symposium, Most Rev. Agustinus Agus, DD, Archbishop of Pontianak, Indonesia delivered the sixth plenary lecture entitled "From Kampong to Market and Ascending to the Altar." After which, Br. James Channan, OP, Executive Director of the Peace Center, Lahore, Pakistan delivered the seventh plenary lecture entitled "Church in Communion and Pakistan: Theology and Expressions." Then in the afternoon, Prof. Dr. Federico Macaranas, Ph. D., delivered the eighth plenary lecture entitled "Religion, Markets and Governments: The ASEAN Connections."

On the fourth day, Rev. Fr. Jose Antonio E. Aureada, OP, presented the ninth plenary lecture entitled "ASEAN Unity-Cum-Diversity: A Trinitarian Rereading." He was followed by Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, OP, Dean of the UST Faculty of Sacred Theology, who delivered the tenth plenary lecture on "Amoris Laetitia: Communion and Communion in the Church." That afternoon, Rev. Fr. John Junyang Park of the International Theological Commission (South Korea) delivered the eleventh plenary lecture on "Understanding of Communion and Its Expressions in the Context of the Korean Church."

Most Rev. Teodoro C. Bacani, DD, Bishop Emeritus of Novaliches and Professor of the UST Faculty of Sacred Theology, was the last speaker during the fifth day of the symposium. He delivered the twelfth and last plenary talk

on "The Priest as Minister of Communion: God's Plan of Universal Communion."

From day one to day four of the symposium, parallel sessions were offered in the afternoon at the Aula Magna, Aula Minor and Martyrs' Hall of the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties.

In his closing remarks, UST Rector Magnificus, Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, OP underscored that, "when we see each other as companions, we become friends. And because we are friends, we can dialogue...in the wide spectrum of expressions of understanding, of living, of talking about God, of being a church."

For Audio-Visual presentations of the plenary lectures, please click on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UST1611official>.

A TIME OF PROFOUND GRACE: LAY DOMINICANS OF REGION V CONVENE FOR LENTEN RECOLLECTION

By Jonas P. Mediavilla, OP

The Lenten season is a time for spiritual preparation prior to Easter, as advent for Christmas. It is the time for self-reflection, re-evaluation, repentance and reconciliation which aims to deepen and strengthen our fidelity and relationship with the Lord. As part of the observance of the season, lay Dominicans from Region V gathered at the gymnasium of Angelicum School of Iloilo on February 17, 2018, to hold their annual Lenten recollection. The activity was attended by 159 participants representing the 12 chapters in the provinces of Iloilo, Antique, and Capiz. Sr. Lerma Serdone, RMI, served as the retreat facilitator whose talk focused on grace. She highlighted that the season of Lent is a time of profound grace and everyone is invited to let that grace sink in, take root and be renewed. The event also served as venue where participants shared on how they have experienced the love of God in their lives. The event was then followed by the holy sacrifice of the Mass, with Rev. Fr. Ramon Claro G. Mendez, OP, as the main celebrant. Within the Eucharistic celebration, Rev. Fr. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP, Regional Promoter,



accepted in a rite of admission, three postulants namely Sis. Thelma Cristobal (Lapaz), Sis. Carmen Buizon (Dao) and Sis. Nelida Silvestre (Dao). Sis. Germelinda Botanero, OP of Balasan Chapter made her simple profession thereafter. As a challenge, Fr. Mendez urged the members to strengthen the bond of community and be effective bearers of light. The activity ended by a lunch shared by the group. It was indeed a grace-filled activity!



ADONAI 2018: PRAISE, BLESS, PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

By Melissa R. Mesias

The University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi (UST-Legazpi) Dome was filled with the clashing sounds of cymbals and voices of admiration and delight as 362 students from the Dominican School of Pilar, Dominican School of Camalig, Siena College - Tigaon, St. Benedict's Academy - Guinobatan, and UST-Legazpi forged a deeper relationship with God in Adonai 2018.



Photo from the Facebook post of the Domincian Network Group

Adonai, a Hebrew word which means God or His character as the Lord, was organized by the Dominican Network (DomNet). It is a national project implemented on different clusters, and UST-Legazpi hosted the vigil for Bicol Cluster on February 15-16, 2018.

With the theme "I am a Preacher among the Youth", Fr. Roman Santos, OP, in his homily, preached the paradox of leadership. He said that to become good leaders, they must first learn how to become good servants. Next, the participants were enlightened with the inspirational talk of Dr. Walter Randolph C. Jalgalado. He shared his words



Photo from the Facebook post of the Dominican Network Group

of wisdom on how the students could become preachers by sharing the good news to other youth.

After an overnight journey of strengthening their faith, the students went home with not just an established sense of Dominican identity but with a deeper connection with *Adonai* Himself.

ANGELICUM SCHOOL ILOILO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

By Miss Brenda Mae Doloroc, YS3 Moderator

Lizares Manison is one of the Iloilo City's most elegant and beautiful mansions reflecting a mix of American-Spanish architectural styles that was built by Don Emilio Lizares and designed by Andres Luna in 1937 and it was sold to the Dominicans in 1962. Then in 1978, it became the home of Angelicum School Iloilo (ASIL), a Catholic school being run by the Dominican Province of the Philippines, that was founded by Fr. Rogelio B. Alarcon, OP. In December 2015, the National Museum of the Philippines declared the Lizares-Gamboa Mansion (Lizares Mansion) as an *Important Cultural Property* and as such, the Lizares Mansion deserves protection and preservation. In effect, a meeting was held for a project proposal for the heritage development project last February 3, 2018 at the Lizares Mansion Dining Hall.



Fr. Ramon Claro Mendez, OP, the School Director of ASIL, welcomed the guest and gave an overview about the Lizares Mansion. He shared his personal experiences as he quipped that "this place (the Lizares Masion) is not merely



for taking pictures but a *sanctuary of wisdom*." Architect Renato S. Basa, 47th National President of the Philippine Institute of Architects (PIA), gave his proposed plan for development and explained the meaning of the designs and discussed the works of Andres Luna that involve the Lizares Mansion. Arch. Renato Basa also said that the mansion must be restored, renovated, and preserved. After the talk, there was a video presentation prepared by the PIA about the Lizares Mansion and their proposal for the said mansion as explained by Arch. James Miranda. He also presented the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) including the purpose, responsibilities of ASIL and PIA, and the general provisions for documentation and restoration. It was concluded by the signing MOU spearheaded by the School Director, Fr. Ramon Claro Mendez, OP; School Principal, Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP; PIA National President, Arch. Renato Basa; Project Director, Arch. Jose Rene Militante; National VP for Administration, Arch. Joel Vevero-Rico; National VP for Professional Practice, Arch. Maundelito Florendo; PIA National Secretary, Arch. James Miranda; Section President-PIA Iloilo, Arch. John Carlo Tiampong; Section VP for Administration-PIA Iloilo, Mr. Junar L. Pena; Section VP for Professional Practice-PIA Iloilo, Arch. Jose Rene Militante; Section IPP-PIA Iloilo, Arch. Dary Humpay; Alumni Affairs, Mr. Joseph Allen D. Espano; School Registrar, Mr. Salvador Sepino; General Services, Mr. Ronito Aguana; Finance Consultant, Ms. Macy April Blancaflor; Volunteer Senior Facilitator, Ms. Marilyn Alemon; President Parents Association, Dr. Hermina Gonzales; and, Student Council President, Jodean Irvie Lapastora.



ASILINK PAGRARA SA ATON ISTORYA

By Sarah Jean Balomadres

Angelicum School Iloilo is celebrating its 40th year anniversary and *ASILINK - pagrara sang aton istorya* is launched on February 28, 2018 in its pursuit to strengthen its unique presence and system of education. Dr. Mary Barby Badayos-Jover, PhD, served as the resource speaker, with the theme “Advocacy and My Angelicum Experience.”



She is an alumna of this institution and presently the Director for Gender and Development program at the University of the Philippines-Visayas. The famous line in the Angelicum Hymn “we seek for truth, we stand for right, we live for justice, we grow in love,” was still vivid in her memories. It made her think that her Angelicum experience is very much related to her profession. Her advocacy for gender equality encourages everyone to be gender sensitive and in order to achieve this, we need to unlearn. In life, it is important to pause and take a long hard look at what you have done in the past and until now. Doing this can put things in perspective and you would be surprised how much doing this can help.

YOUNG LEADERS UNDIVIDED FOR CHRIST

By: Dazen Lariza

A total of 55 Youth for Christ leaders from all over the Province of Iloilo gathered at Angelicum School Iloilo last February 24-25, 2018 for the annual Leaders’ Assembly. Five talks on becoming a Christ-centered leader in the community as well as a worship workshop were given to



equip the youth leaders on how to lead their members well. The talks included topics on being made perfect by the Lord through His anointing and upholding the seven identities of a Youth for Christ.

Fr. Paul Reagan Talavera, OP, also gave a talk on rekindling the gift within us and fulfilling the mission that God has called us to do. The theme “Rekindle the Gift, Fulfill the Ministry” was patterned from the theme of the Couples for Christ.



PAG-ULIKID: COMING HOME TO ANGELICUM

By Joseph Allen D. España

January 27, 2018 might well be remembered by many Ilonggos as the day of the Kasadyahan Festival, but for the 85 Angelicum Alumni, it was a day of *Pag-Ulikid*, a day of coming home to their Alma Mater. Fr. Ramon Claro G. Mendez, OP, Angelicum School Director, and Fr. Paul Reagan O. Talavera, OP, School Principal, were very gracious to open the massive doors of the grandiose Lizares Mansion to welcome home the school’s former students.

The one-day affair, which was conceptualized to jumpstart the preparations for Angelicum School’s 40th Year in June 2018-June 2019, could be summed up as follows:

- Thanksgiving Mass
- Talk by Fr. Mendez about Pag-Ulikid and the Angelicum Roadmap
- Tour of the Mansion (which included a peek into the bedrooms and library, and a walk through the mansion’s many doors and up the sprawling staircase to reach the tower ... up there, the view is really amazing!)
- Shared Lunch
- Ballgames
- Acoustic Entertainment
- Election of ASIL Alumni Officers

In between, we shared laughter, stories, life lessons, and just about anything under the sun ... or rather, the stars, as the affair ended up close to midnight.

March in DPP History

(Culled from the Archives of the Province)

- ☞ **1936 March 19** – The very first Filipino, Gregorio Hontomin, a native of Batanes, was admitted to the Dominican Order. He stayed in the Order as a Cooperator-brother for 44 years. He died on 6 July 1982.
- ☞ **1969 March 20** – 34 Filipino Dominican priests held the first Filipino Dominican Conference at the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary that formed an Executive Committee paving the way for the eventual establishment of the Dominican Province of the Philippines on 8 December 1971.
- ☞ **1976 March 31** – The maiden issue of PHILDOM, the official newsletter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines was released after the First Provincial Chapter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines was held from 25 December 1975 until 22 January 1976 (Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort, Legazpi City).
- ☞ **1990 March 25** – The building of the Dominican Novitiate of the Annunciation within the compound of the Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary in Manaoag, Pangasinan was inaugurated.
- ☞ **1994 March 1** – The House of St. Albert in Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba, Laguna was elevated to a Convent with Br. Patricio Apa, OP, as the first Prior.

NOVITIATE

A NOVITIATE WITH NO PARTICULAR PLACE TO BE

By Br. Hilario V. Sicat Jr., OP

On March 1, 1978, Fr. Vincent de Couesnongle authorized the transfer of the Novitiate from the then Convent of the Most Holy Rosary in Jaro, Iloilo to the Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary in Manaoag, Pangasinan. The Novitiate was moved to Manaoag due to the impending plan to use the Lizares Mansion as the venue for a new formal school of the Province: the Angelicum School-Iloilo (In its incipient years, the cash-strapped Province established entities, e.g., parishes and schools, that would facilitate cash inflow for the support of its apostolates and for the expenses for the formation of the brothers.) In Manaoag, the novices occupied the third floor of the fathers' residence.

The Novitiate remained in Manaoag until May 1982. But because the provisional quarters of the novices at the third floor of the Fathers' residence could no longer accommodate the growing number of novices, and at the same time, due to the increasing number of assigned

priests in the convent, it was transferred anew to the Convent of Santo Domingo in Quezon City.

Incidentally, with the transfer of the Pre-Novitiate from the Studentate Building in the Convent of Santo Domingo to Letran College in Calamba in June 1981, ample space in the Studentate Building was made available for the novices. The novices occupied only half of the third floor of the Studentate Building, separating them from the Student-brothers who were in the second floor, and in the other half of the third floor.

In the course of time, due to limited space and the increasing number of brothers, over-crowding was once again experienced in the Studentate. Thus, the Provincial Chapter of 1988 commissioned the Provincial to establish a separate formation house for the novices.

The task of looking for a place and constructing a new edifice for the novices fell on the shoulders of the then Master of Novices, Br. Edmund Nantes, OP. Many places were considered for the location of the Novitiate, such as the Dominican Hill in Baguio, Marikina, Antipolo, Binangonan, Angat, Tagaytay, and Davao. With the stroke of Providence, and the intercession of the Lady of the Rosary, the Novitiate found its place on an idle lot in the vicinity of the Church. On September 8, 1989, the cornerstone of the Novitiate was laid. And on March 25, 1990, on the Solemnity from which its name was derived, the Dominican Novitiate of Annunciation was inaugurated. This ended a long search for a place where the brothers might spend a year or so in solitude and prayer. It turned out the Lady wanted her sons to be initiated in the Dominican way of life, under her maternal protection.

PC Notes...



Some Notes from the 409th Provincial Council Meeting
on 5 February 2018

- ☞ *Reports in relation to the 4 year Apostolic Plan (Stat 40, II)*
Dominican Laity by Br. Arsciwals, OP
It was suggested that:
 - a. the labels of the groupings be changed from Region to Cluster
 - b. that the statistics be identified in relation to the membership
 - c. that the modules be updated and compiled.
Dominican Youth by Br. Malijan, OPIt was suggested that:
 - a. the activities be not merely an inward but also an outward orientation, doing services to the parish and the like.
 - b. the youth membership be not restricted to Luzon but to other parts of the country, General Santos City, etc.

c. The officers of the Dominican Youth Movements in the Philippines be organized and that its president be the official representative to the Dominican Family Group of the Philippines (cf ACG 2010 Rome; ACP 2008 Legazpi 182).

✎ *Update on the Application of the Route 5 as Proposed by the Commission (IP Director, Provincial, Dean of UST Theology) for the Implementation of Act 249 in relation to the Coordination with the UST Graduate School*

It was resolved that the Committee present a step by step procedure/checklist with corresponding timetable of their plan of actions for the implementation of Act 249.

✎ *Issue on the Assignment of Young Priests with Mentors to Mission Territories (per resolution of the PC 408th, 8 Jan 2018)*

It was resolved that the Provincial, Promoter of Continuing Formation, the Regent of Studies (comprising the core group) and others whom they wish to invite, come up with an organizational assessment of the state (personnel, office, etc) of the Province.

✎ *The Biennial Council is scheduled on 19-21 October 2018.*

✎ *Mass Cards for All Occasions*

In its desire to gather funds for the mission, the Asia Mission Frontiers Foundation, Inc (AMFFI) introduced the Mass cards for the Living (birthdays, anniversaries, etc).

It was resolved that the Mass intentions of the Mass cards for the living be celebrated in the mission stations of the Province.

All proceeds shall be proportionately distributed to the mission stations as part of the ordinary subsidy and for their special projects. The Convent of St. Raymond of Penafort will also be asked to celebrate the said Masses.

✎ *Update on the PDCIS*

With the recognition of existing 2 programs (AB Philosophy and the Masters in Institute of Preaching) offered by PDCIS, it will only be the AB Program that will be closed and transferred to UST. For that reason, PDCIS is still in operation. If by chance, the Institute of Preaching will be affiliated to UST, it takes 2 to 3 years for the closure of PDCIS.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of:

† **FR. BENJAMIN L. SAN JUAN, OP**, who passed away peacefully in the grace of Our Lord on March 2, 2018.

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 March.

March 12 + Br. Antonio Posadas, OP
13 + Br. Gaudencio Mondragon, 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: **KENNETH**
Nickname: "Kenneth"
Middle Name: **YUSON**
Surname: **LEGASPI**
Birthday: 8 Feb 1990
Civil Status: Single
Hometown: Nueva Ecija
Date of Employment in the Provincialate: 15 Jun 2017
Current Position: Office Staff for AEAPSI

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@phil.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.



Visit of the Most Rev. Agustinus Agus, DD Archbishop of Pontianak, Indonesia



Archbishop Agustinus Agus, DD, from the Archdiocese of Pontianak, Indonesia (together with some members of the Dominican community and a guest from Pontianak) and the members of the Provincial Council during the 410th Provincial Council Meeting dated 5 February 2018.



UST ALPA Homecoming 21-23 February 2018



The Silver Jubilarians, UST STB Batch 1992, with the UST Rector during the ALPA Homecoming held last 21-23 February 2018.



The arrival of Br. Raul I. Obsioma, OP, on March 1, 2018 augmented the number of brothers assigned in the mission in Sri Lanka.





Fr. Benjamin L. San Juan, OP, was born in Manila on December 4, 1920. He is the second child of the five siblings from parents, Benito San Juan and Beatriz Labao of Taguig. He took up his education from elementary to college at the Ateneo de Manila University wherein he graduated with the Bachelor of Arts degree. He took up a course in civil laws at the Philippine Law School in Pasay City and graduated with the Bachelor of Laws degree in 1950. He took up his Licentiate degree in Sacred Theology and a Bachelor degree in Canon Law at the University of Santo Tomas.



Br. Benjamin L. San Juan, OP

Fr. San Juan spent his novitiate formation in Hong Kong in 1956 and had his first profession to the Order on July 29, 1957. He was ordained

into priesthood by the Most Rev. Pedro Bantigue, DD, on April 21, 1963 at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

He served as Prior of the Convent of the Most Holy Rosary in Iloilo City from 1972 to 1975; Prior of Santo Domingo Convent and at the same time Parish Priest of Sto. Domingo Parish in Quezon City from 1980 to 1983; and Superior of the House of Most Holy Rosary in Iloilo City from 1994 to 1997. He had also worked as missionary at St. Abraham in Iran in the Middle East from 1977 to 1978.

Fr. Benjamin San Juan, OP, passed away peacefully in the grace of Our Lord on March 2, 2018 at the age of 97 at the Convent of St. Albert the Great in Calamba City.

LOLO BEN PASSING TO THE ETERNAL LIFE

By Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP



Br. Valentinus Bayuhadi Ruseno, OP

Fr. Benjamin San Juan, OP, or fondly called by the brothers as Lolo Ben, passed away last Friday, March 2, 2018 at the age of 97. He died peacefully on his bed at the Convent of St. Albert the Great, Calamba City, where he was assigned. His remains were brought to Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City for the viewing.

Three days after his passing, the funeral Mass was held for him at the main altar of Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City, at 3:00 PM. The Mass was presided by Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr, OP, Prior Provincial, and was well attended by the brothers who gave their last respect to the loving Dominican. Prior to Mass, Fr. Efren Rivera, OP, a contemporary of Lolo Ben in the Province, gave his testimony and he narrated a brief vocation story of Lolo Ben.

Meanwhile, Fr. Stephen Redillas, OP, served as the homilist in the Mass. He shared his fondest memories living together with Lolo Ben as brothers. Fr. Rivera and Fr. Redillas may have

different stories to tell, but both, and everyone else, will merge in one unifying theme of Lolo Ben's life: the eternal life. For Lolo Ben, it is the only thing that truly matters, and he would tirelessly preach it whether from the pulpit or at the dining room, whether in the church or on the road, whether in the moment of joy or in the times of difficulty. Fr. Redillas rightly called him as the modern-day Qoheleth, *"Vanity of vanities! Only one thing remains, the eternal life."*

Lolo Ben made his final rest on earth as he was interned at the Santuario de Santo Domingo, Quezon City.





LARAWAN: A PORTRAIT OF A FILIPINO DOMINICAN RELIGIOUS AS A ‘LOLO’

Homily of Br. Stephen R. Redillas, OP, during the Funeral Mass

for Br. Benjamin L. San Juan, OP

March 5, 2018, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City



Br. Stephen R. Redillas, OP

As in most of us, I called Fr. Benjamin San Juan, OP, Lolo Ben and he called me ‘Pakner’ which later on became ‘Pahamakner.’ The progression, he said, was due to my proclivity to get him in trouble. Well, Lolo Ben... let me play that role one last time.

Years ago, in one of the funerals of his contemporaries, Lolo Ben complained. He said, *‘nakalimutan na ata akong kunin ng Panginoon.’* He then started enumerating his deceased friends, particularly those younger, but died ahead of him. I did not know then how to handle the moment except to offer an impertinent response. I told him, *‘Pakner, matagal pa po kayo... masamang damo po tayo’.* Well, Lolo just smiled and tolerated my irreverence. So, you see, he had been longing to return to the Father for quite a long time. Pakner, you finally got your wish. But, I believe that what you thought to be a long-delayed homecoming was actually beneficial to the young Dominicans you lived with in the community. Your longevity allowed us to see in you the possibility of how to grow old gracefully as a Dominican religious.

We all have stories about how Lolo Ben can be passionate about things – surprisingly then when he was 80 years old, he still loved to tinker with new gadgets and experiment with various technologies. Case in point, I am sure that the brothers who lived with him at St. Raymond



the Penafort Convent will never forget the famous (or infamous) Alcogas experiment. Lolo knew that his Alcogas had been critiqued as impractical by many. I believed that the criticisms never affected him as he always beamed proudly whenever he explained the technology, its benefit to the coconut farmers, and its long ranging impact on the environment. I’m sure you are happy that renewable energy is steadily gaining ground ‘pakner’.

At St. Alberts, he taught us how to cook *masarap na sardinas na tawilis*, long before gourmet sardines became a trend. Lolo Ben, we still cook and serve homemade sardines in Caleruega.

But his grandest, unfulfilled project was a book to chronicle the continuation of salvation history in the contemporary world. While he approached us to collaborate with him to write the book, the project never gained traction. We were not interested for no one among us seemed to grasp the importance of what he was trying to accomplish. Nonetheless, Lolo never took it against us. Perhaps, he understood that we were still too engrossed with mundane preoccupations. Now Lolo, do you think you still need to finish that book?

Lolo Ben was very proud of his dual ancestry as a religious. He would always tell us proudly that both the Jesuits and the Dominicans formed him, yet he was drawn to live the rigorous life of the latter (his words not mine). Nevertheless, he was a proud Atenista always raring to give it One Good Fight! I now understand how he developed his peculiar wit. It was Fr. Apa who shared this story to us on how Lolo Ben prevented him from further bullying Fray Oscar. *‘Hoy Oscar, an dami daming nagugutom kaya ubusin mo yang pagkain mo’ sabi ni Fr. Apa.* Lolo Ben asked Fr. Apa, *‘Bakit Pat, kapag ba inubos ni Oscar ang pagkain niya, mabubusog ang mga nagugutom?’* The way Lolo Ben engaged us in banter and argument was his way of saying that he is a ‘fair go’. He rarely complained, in fact, he got even. One time, I and now Atty. Banzali purposely played loud music in our rooms until midnight, my room adjacent to Lolo Ben’s and Anton’s room just right across. The music was so loud that we were expecting a sermon the next day. But there was none, only a request that I accompany him to acquire his own sound system. I told Anton, *gaganti ata.*

Lolo Ben was generous and played favorites. You should hear Fr. Mars, Fr. Jiggs, and Fr. Lovell complain that



while they were the ones who helped Lolo choose the best tablets, the top of the line cell phones, and the newest luggage that Lolo bought, they were resigned to the fact that these will only end up with his favorite son. These things always end up given as a gift to Fr. Val Magboo. *Bakit kaya paborito niya si Val? Pag pasko swerte namin pag si Lolo Ben ang nakabunot sa amin. Hindi ba, Fr.*

Ferdie? I still remember Fr. Ferdie's face when he opened his gift from Lolo Ben. At first, there was no excitement. It was merely a book. But he beamed *nung may nahulog na makapal na envelope*.

I will be remiss in my duty today if I will not remember the one love that preoccupied Lolo Ben's life – Eternal Life. I was wondering though, how this unquenchable passion for discourse about eternal life began. Here is my theory.

I was so used to seeing Lolo Ben seemingly unaffected by whatever was happening in the community and in the Province. Akala ko he was indifferent. But this was not true. What pained Lolo Ben the most was when almost all members of his community left the priesthood, one after another, and he was left wondering if there was something wrong with him. *'Binibiro mo pakner, lahat sila lumabas that I thought there was something wrong with me because I stayed'*. How did he manage to hang on to his vocation? He did not say it, but perhaps, that was when his reflection became more focused on the only thing that matters – eternal life. Eternal life consumed him even in a very temporal state. Truth be told, I was not always appreciative of this seeming reductionism.

One lunch time, while the rest of the community was so engaged about the challenges of the ongoing collective bargaining agreement, out of nowhere Lolo started his eternal life discourse. I was so tempted to tell him that 'Lolo the social world is messy and cannot be immediately reduced to eternal life'. Of course, I did not tell him that, I know I was only courting unending debate similar to Fr. Hermel's ordeal. Weeks before he silently returned to the Father, I learned from Fr. Art Pangan that he hounded his



doctors with a good those of eternal life. True to form... until the end, from discourse of eternal life to life truly eternal. This time, no more debates, no more arguments – *siguro Lolo, nakanganga ka ngayon* with your beatific vision.

Lastly, for so many years, Lolo Ben had been the constant at St. Albert's Convent. While the institution and the community went through challenging moments, Lolo Ben's constant refrain of eternal life incessantly reminded the members of the community of the only thing that matters in life. For this reason, we can say, that Lolo Ben's passion for eternal life is the Ecclesiastes of our time. Vanity of vanities unless it points us to Eternal life.

So, I thank God, we thank God for prolonging the life of Lolo Ben. Rest well 'pakner'. If we are to make a movie out of Lolo Ben's life, I already have a title to suggest. 'Larawan: a portrait of a Filipino Dominican religious as a Lolo'.

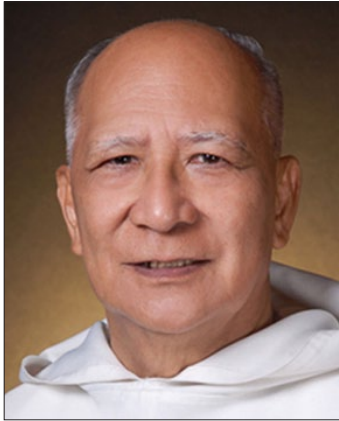
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.





REST IN PEACE FR. BENJAMIN L. SAN JUAN, OP

By Br. Efren O. Rivera, OP



Br. Efren O. Rivera, OP

Fray Ben, as we called him in Rosaryhill, Hong Kong, was one of the pioneers of the Philippine Dominican Province. With him gone, we now have only six Filipino friars who received the habit at Rosaryhill,¹ whereas we were more than 26 in 1971.² He was a Novice at Rosaryhill in 1956, two years after me, but I took the Dominican habit at 17 years old, he at 34. He was already a lawyer

and a journalist, and before coming to Rosaryhill he was a Latin Language teacher at the Ateneo de Manila, where he finished his High School.

The Jesuits were his early teachers. In the course of time, he came to know the Dominicans because, already a lawyer and journalist, he went to church at the Santisimo Rosario Parish church (UST) where he also joined the Legion of Mary. It was then that the desire to become a Dominican was awakened in him. *

At Rosaryhill we availed ourselves of his expertise as a journalist and asked him to coach us, *Coristas* (Student Brothers), in publishing *The Dominican*. Though this was a small quarterly publication it had a wide circulation because we sent it to Dominican Houses of Studies and all interested Dominican Nuns, Brothers and Sisters all over

¹ By order of profession: Fr. Lamberto Pasion, Fr. Rafael Quejada, Fr. Efren Rivera, Fr. Pompeyo de Mesa, Fr. Rogelio Alarcon, Fr. Reynaldo Adalid.

² I have counted 26 because these were the ones who persevered; we were more than 26 if one includes those who left later.



the world. Through it, for example, we made friends with our Dominican brothers in Poland when they were still under the Communists, and with Sr. Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P., a widely read author of books and articles in the U.S.A. It was not just a newsletter, because it also featured our first attempts at writing historical, philosophical, moral, theological and spiritual articles.

In 1970, when the Filipino Dominicans were on the verge of becoming a separate Dominican Province, Fr. San Juan was Novice Master at Sto. Domingo, Quezon City. It was then that he started to hammer on John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." This indeed is the teaching that would become his legacy to his brethren.

* MAY A NUMBER OF OUR PARISHIONERS FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE

THE LIVING REMINDER

By Rev. Hilario V. Sicat Jr., OP



Rev. Hilario V. Sicat Jr., OP

Henri Nouwen presents in his book “The Living Reminder” a vital source of a minister and his ministry’s vitality. This source is the dynamism between spirituality and ministry. Ministry is defined as the service in the name of the Lord. Spirituality is attention to the life of the spirit in us. These two aspects of a minister’s life go hand in hand. There is no dichotomy

between ministry and spirituality. They form a single being. That is the minister! Thus, praying is as essential as preaching and doing apostolate. One cannot claim that he is a preacher at one moment, and one moment a pray-er alone. One prays as he preaches, and he preaches as he prays. These two cannot be separated.

Both ministry and spirituality stand proximately on the minister himself. They are palpable to us through the personhood of the minister. Thus a minister brings the gospel to the forefront, through himself, as he preaches and prays. He incarnates in himself the Good News. He becomes a fifth gospel. Faith, hope, love, etc. are understood not in the abstract but through the concrete life-events of the minister. The love of God is recognized through the minister’s love for his flock. As Paul VI said “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if

he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 41)” The affectivity of one’s ministry relies a lot on the status of a minister’s spirituality. One affectively preaches from his own experience; from his encounter with God. One cannot preach about love without experiencing and be living love; else, the minister will be preaching with no conviction. Otherwise, his way of life, his life itself, his spirituality, matters in his ministry. A minister cannot live a double life.

Nouwen describes the minister as a healing reminder, sustaining reminder, and a guiding reminder. The task of healing, sustaining and guiding others in his ministry prospers if the minister himself is healed, sustained, and guided (or even if he is merely in the process), for one cannot impart that which he does not have, or never experiences. It is essential, therefore, that he is healed from his wounds; he is sustained by God and the richness of his encounters, and he is guided by the lessons he learned in his life. We are not aspiring for a perfect minister here on earth. After all, as the cliché goes, we are but wounded healers. And if I may add, we have sustained sustainers and guided guides. We are on the road to perfection, but that road begins in our admission of our very own imperfections. Our open declaration of our brokenness and fragility sets us towards wholeness and holiness.

The first step is the admission (for one’s need of healing, sustenance, and guidance). Through acceptance, one comes a long way towards becoming God’s living reminder.



Blood and Water

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

Blood and Water

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

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