



# PHILDOM

MARCH  
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

## Siete Palabras



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### APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

- 6 Br. Ramiro de Belen, OP
- Br. Mervin Lomague, OP
- 8 Br. Romualdo Cabanatan Jr., OP
- 10 Br. Michael John Pinuela, OP
- 16 Br. Lamberto Pasion, OP
- 17 Br. Jayalath Balagallage, OP
- Br. Rocky Niño Manire, OP
- 20 Br. Jose Maria Tinoko, OP
- Br. Alexander Constatine Seño, OP
- 21 Br. Christopher Jeffrey Aytona, OP
- 28 Br. Lukas Sabdaningrat, OP
- 29 Br. Reynor Munsayac, OP

**BIENNIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 19-21, 2018**

### Prior Provincial's April Calendar

- 1 - Retreat Brothers of Sacred Heart, Davao City
- 2 - 411<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council Meeting, Bahay Dominiko
- 2-6 - Retreat - Daughters of Saint Dominic, Angat, Bulacan
- 3 - Bahay Dominiko House Chapter
- 7 - Installation to Acolytate, Sto. Domingo Church, QC
  - Blessing of Rosary Trail, Caleruega
- 8 - Lay Dominican Fraternities National Conference, UST Manila
  - Alab Veritas-Caritas Concert, UST Manila
- 9 - Novena Mass, Manaoag
- 10-16 - Retreat - Dominican Sisters of Pompeii, New Manila, QC
- 11 - Board of Trustees Meeting of UST
- 16-21 - Bahay Dominiko Communal Outing in Davao City and Gen. Santos City
- 20 - Ground Breaking of UST Gen. Santos City
- 22 - Filii Sancti Dominici Annual Gathering, Sto. Domingo Parish
- 23 - RMI Sisters' Holy Spirit Mass, QC
- 24 - Novena Mass, San Jose Mangagawa Parish, Tondo, Manila
- 25 - Visit to the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Manila
- 26 - Board of Trustees Meeting of the Institute of Preaching, QC
- 27 - Wedding Mass, Manaoag

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

- ➔ 5-8 Apr - *Surabaya, Indonesia* - Br. Boyd Sulpico, OP - To fulfill the demands of the visitation charges on the economics of our ministry in Surabaya.
- ➔ 7-13 Apr - *Manila* - Br. Joseto Bernadas Jr., OP - To comply with the Indonesian visa restriction and to attend the meeting of the Provincial Formation Council.
- ➔ 7-15 Apr - *United Kingdom and France* - Br. Senen Ecleo, OP - To join the students and some members of the faculty of Financial Management Department of UST College of Commerce and Business Administration who will be having their international exposure trip in the aforementioned countries.
- ➔ 11-14 Apr - *S. Korea* - Br. Rodel Aligan, OP, and Br. Herminio Dagohoy, OP - To join the UST delegates in the signing of the formal

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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)

### MISSIONARIES-TO-BE UNDERGO CAMIGUIN EXPOSURE

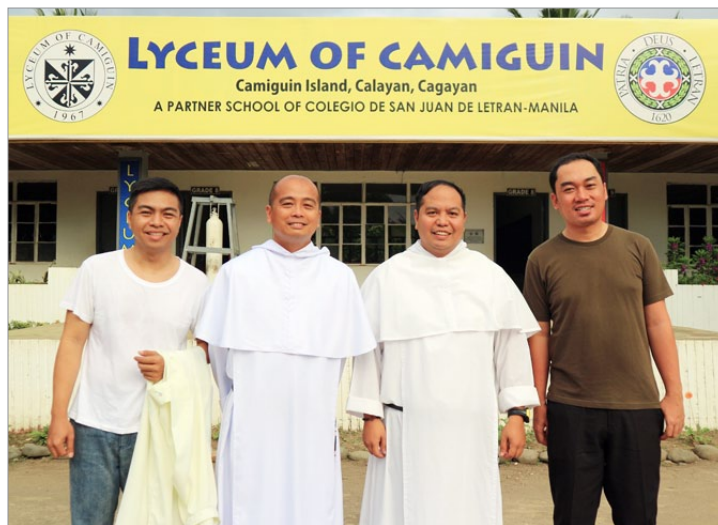
By Br. Rommel P. Olivar, OP

June, the time of departure for mission assignments to the Babuyanesis, is fast approaching. Understandably, the three of us, Frs. Rommel Olivar, OP, Felix de los Reyes, Jr., OP, and Art Vincent Pangan, OP, whose turn is to serve as missionaries, have been looking forward to seeing the place. And so last March 10-17, Fr. Joemar Sibug, OP, the Promoter for the Missions of the DPPI, brought us there for a foretaste of missionary life.

The exposure began on March 10, Saturday evening, with a 12-hour bus ride from Manila, ending on Sunday morning with a short rest at Lyceum of Aparri. There, Dadang, an environmentalist-friend of Fr. Joemar, joined us. In the afternoon, we left for an overnight stay at Punta Sta. Ana, at the beautiful resort owned by Dr. Raul Ting, another environmentalist, who gave us a situationer of the politics of Cagayan Valley and how it has impacted on the environment. We returned to Aparri on Monday morning and stayed overnight at the St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary located within the campus of the Lyceum of Aparri.



Fr. Joemar planned on leaving for Camiguin on Sunday, but the waves and the weather did not cooperate, so it was only on an overcast Tuesday morning that we were able to take the boat to the island. On the boat with us were the cast of ABS-CBN's *Born to be Wild* who were off for a two-week shoot of the whales in Camiguin. The huge waves that had brought fear to many visitors thankfully did not materialize as the winds were not that strong, but a damaged propeller extended the travel time from the ordinary three hours to six hours. And so it was late in the afternoon when we arrived at the newly-renovated and



very beautiful convent of the parish. That evening, Fr. John Stephen Besa, OP, the Director of Lyceum of Camiguin and *de facto* Parish Priest of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, treated us to a delicious dinner of rock lobsters.

Morning of Wednesday, we gave a recollection to the graduating Grade 12 students of the Lyceum. The head teacher also gave us a tour of the school. Founded in 1967 by Dominican missionaries, the school has been improving its facilities; new buildings have been constructed with the help of Letran-Intramuros and the DPPI. Enrolment has been constant at about 200 for both junior and senior high school levels, purposely held there to maintain quality. Fr. Besa confided however that retaining teachers remains a problem. The high salaries being offered by the public schools make it difficult to retain experienced and qualified instructors.



In the afternoon, we celebrated Mass with the faculty and the students, with Fr. Arvin as the main celebrant, and then we went for a walk along the island, marvelling at its beaches and its genial inhabitants. After another delicious dinner, Fr. JS gave an informative overview of the island's economics, politics, religious situation, and the challenges facing those who will be assigned there. In particular, there is a need for another friar to take care of the parish.



All in all, he said, it's a peaceful life with many avenues for a dedicated missionary to use his God-given talents.

Thursday, we were supposed to go to Calayan, but the uncertain weather made the trip dangerous, so Fr. Joemar instead gave us a tour of Camiguin's interesting sites: the hot spring at Mararag Point (boiling water seeps from underground, right at the seashore), Pinon Islet (with the marvellous view of the Babuyan Channel), and Pamuctan Island. The evening was also memorable as Fr. Joemar had an advanced celebration of his silver anniversary of priestly ordination with a sumptuous dinner of *lechon* (roasted right there on the convent grounds) attended by Camigueno friends and the cast of *Born to be Wild*.

Friday was our last day at Camiguin. We left the island early morning. Mercifully, the weather held for the three-hour boat ride from Camiguin to Sta. Ana. From there, we travelled by van to Aparri for lunch and proceeded back to Manila via Florida bus. It was early morning of Saturday when we arrived at Bahay Dominiko, exhausted but excited for the return to Camiguin and Calayan for a longer stint, this time as full-fledged missionaries.

## MISSION PROMOTER RELAUNCHES "SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL"

Fr. Jose Martin L. Sibug, OP, Promoter of the Missions, recently re-launched the educational sponsorship program "Send A Child To School". It is one of the programs of the Commission on Missions that promotes poverty alleviation through education. It supports the education of the youth in remote Babuyan Islands through a sponsorship program for students. It also helps in the construction of school buildings like classrooms and libraries, and provides students with tools for their education.

Last March 21, 2018, Fr. Sibug held a meeting with the heads of the Extension Services of some of the schools under the Dominican Province of the Philippines and members of the Dominican Family. The meeting was attended by: Mr. Leo Bernadas, Head of the Center for Community Development of Colegio de San Juan de Letran



Manila who was accompanied by two of his staff; Mr. Mark Anthony Abenir from the University of Santo Tomas who is the Director of UST Simbahayan, the extension services arm of the University; Ms. Delia Alcantara from the Extension Services Office of UST-Angelicum; Dr. Belen Tangco, OP, President of the Provincial Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities in the Philippines; and Anju Castigador, President of Fili Sancti Dominici.

Fr. Sibug explained to the group the mechanics and details of "Send A Child To School". As an educational sponsorship program, its aim is to look for sponsors for the tuition fees of junior and senior high school students of Lyceum of Camiguin. The students of the Lyceum of Camiguin, a mission school of the Dominican Province of the Philippines in Camiguin Norte mission station, are the beneficiaries of this program.

Camiguin Norte, one of the islands in the Babuyanes, is a poor island that belongs to the 3<sup>rd</sup> class municipality of Calayan in Cagayan Province. For a donation of ₱500 a month for 10 months or ₱5,000 for one school year, sponsors are able to send children to school in remote Babuyan Islands.



Fr. Sibug also gave a presentation during the National Conference of the Dominican Laity of the Philippine Province last April 8, 2018. He promoted the "Send A Child To School" program through a very touching and moving PowerPoint presentation about Camiguin Norte island. He shared about the life of the poor school children in Camiguin Norte and how a group of teachers and students from Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila took up the advocacy of sending children to school after their near-death experience when the boat they were riding on capsized off Aparri in Cagayan Province while on their return trip from the island to Aparri.

At present, there are already many college graduates who were once beneficiaries of the "Send A Child To School" program. One of them is Sharmaine Javier. She graduated from Lyceum of Camiguin as valedictorian in 2011. She studied in Letran as a student assistant and



took up BS Education Major in English. After her college graduation in 2015, she went back to Camiguin Norte to teach in Lyceum of Camiguin. She is now the academic coordinator of the school and an English teacher in the junior and senior high school.

Interested sponsors may fill up the official enrollment form in the brochures that are being distributed by the Office of the Promoter of the Missions. Interested parties may also visit the Facebook Page of "Send A Child To School."

## VIVA! VIVA! OUR LADY OF PIAT VISITS CAMIGUIN ISLAND NORTE!

By Ms. Sharmaine Javier, LPT

The Archdiocese of Tuguegarao took heed of the request of Rev. Fr. John Stephen P. Besa, OP, Parish Priest of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, to let the image of Our Lady of Piat visit the said Parish in Camiguin Island Norte from March 5 to 8, 2018. The image of Our Lady of Piat was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Paul Lovell G. Javier, OP, of Colegio de San Juan de Letran Manila. Devotees from all barangays of the island joined in the series of activities held at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish which was spearheaded by Rev. Fr. John Stephen P. Besa, OP, and the teachers of Lyceum of Camiguin headed by Ms. Sharmaine Q. Javier, LPT.



The community of Camiguin Island Norte welcomed the Our Lady of Piat on the first day with a fluvial procession and a grand welcome at the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church. It was followed by a Living Rosary with a pantomime in every mystery held at the Lyceum of Camiguin grounds. After the Living Rosary, Rev. Fr. John Stephen P. Besa, OP, celebrated the first day of Triduum Mass. The parish priest encouraged and welcomed all the devotees to offer their prayers to Our Lady of Piat and to continue their support to the parish. The parish was opened until 10:30 in the evening for the devotees to pray for their petitions through the intercession of the Our Lady of Piat.

In the second day, different schools and devotees joined in the "Harana at Sayaw Para Kay Maria" held in

the Lyceum of Camiguin grounds. Representatives from Cadadalman Elementary School, Camiguin Elementary School, Calayan High School-Camiguin Annex and Lyceum of Camiguin showcased their interpretative dances for Our Mother. Two devotees, Ms. Emma Ruth Agarpao and Ms. Emelyn Costales, shared their experiences of faith to our Lord Jesus Christ through Our Blessed Mother. After the program, the second day of the Triduum Mass was presided by Rev. Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, OP, at the Parish Church.



The third day of the Triduum Mass was also presided over by Rev. Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, OP. It was followed by a procession of Our Lady of Piat from St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church to the chapel of the Immaculate Conception in Surong, Brgy. Balatubat. During the procession, the devotees prayed the Holy Rosary and sang songs for Our Mother. The procession ended with the *Despedida A La Virgen* and a message of thanks from the Parish Priest.

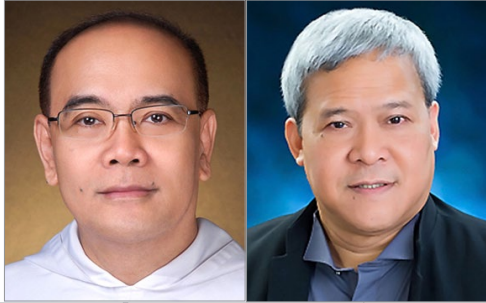
In the morning of March 8, 2018, a Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Paul Lovell G. Javier, OP, at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church which was followed by a motorcade of devotees who brought the image from the Parish Church to the chapel of Nuestra Señora de Asuncion at Brgy. Naguilian. After the devotees in Brgy. Naguilian prayed for their petitions through the intercession of Our Lady of Piat, the people of Camiguin bid farewell to Our Lady at the shores of Brgy. Naguilian, Camiguin Island.



# 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:* 7 May 1973

*Simple Profession:* 20 May 1974

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



*First Name:* **ROLANDO**  
*Middle Name:* **VALENZUELA**  
*Surname:* **DE LA ROSA**  
*Nickname:* "Fr. Roland"  
*Birthday:* 27 Jun 1953  
*Solemn Profession:* 20 May 1978  
*Ordination:* 3 Apr 1982  
*DPP ID No.:* 197401  
*Current Assignment:* **Sto. Domingo Convent (since Sep 2016)**

*Previous Assignments:* Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Dec 2004 - Aug 2016); Convent of St. Albert the Great (Jun 2003 - Dec 2004); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 1984 - May 2003); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1974 - Jun 1984)



*First Name:* **NAPOLEON**  
*Middle Name:* **MARBELLA**  
*Surname:* **ENCARNACION**  
*Nickname:* "Fr. Nap"  
*Birthday:* 21 Nov 1954  
*Solemn Profession:* 20 May 1978  
*Ordination:* 30 Apr 1983  
*DPP ID No.:* 197402  
*Current Assignment:* **Convent of St. Albert the Great (since Nov 2017)**

*Previous Assignments:* Convent of St. John Lateran (Oct 2002 - Nov 2017); Bahay Dominiko (Dec 1996 - Oct 2017); Convent of St. John Lateran (Oct 2002 - Nov 2017); Bahay Dominiko (Dec 1996 - Sep 2002); Convent of St. John Lateran (Dec 1992 - Dec 1996); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (Apr 1987 - Dec 1992); House of St. Albert the Great (Apr 1985 - Apr 1987); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (May 1984 - Apr 1985); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1974 - May 1984)



*First Name:* **JERRY**  
*Middle Name:* **REBLORA**  
*Surname:* **MANLANGIT**  
*Nickname:* "Fr. Jerry"  
*Birthday:* 28 Mar 1955  
*Solemn Profession:* 20 May 1977  
*Ordination:* 3 Apr 1982  
*DPP ID No.:* 197403  
*Current Assignment:* **Sto. Domingo Convent (since Sep 2015)**

*Previous Assignments:* Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Sep 2012 - Sep 2015); Sto. Domingo Convent (Apr 2008 - Sep 2012); House of the Most Holy Rosary (Jul 2006 - Apr 2008); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 1991 - Jul 2006); House of St. Antoninus, Maco (Jul 1985 - Jun 1991); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1974 - Jul 1985)



*First Name:* **RAFAEL**  
*Middle Name:* **BENOSA**  
*Surname:* **LUSUEGRO**  
*Nickname:* "Fr. Pop"  
*Birthday:* 19 Jan 1955  
*Solemn Profession:* 20 May 1977  
*Ordination:* 30 Apr 1983  
*DPP ID No.:* 197404  
*Current Assignment:* **St. Mary Magdalene House (since Aug 2017)**

*Previous Assignments:* Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Oct 2012 - Aug 2017); House of the Most Holy Rosary (Feb 2005 - Sep 2012); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (May 1995 - Feb 2005); House of St. Albert the Great (May 1993 - May 1995); House of St. Antoninus, Maco (Apr 1989 - May 1993); Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (Jun 1984 - Apr 1989); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1974 - Jun 1984)



*First Name:* **JOSEPH**  
*Middle Name:* **RENOLAYAN**  
*Surname:* **RAQUID**  
*Nickname:* "Fr. Otep"  
*Birthday:* 27 Aug 1955  
*Solemn Profession:* 20 May 1977  
*Ordination:* 3 Apr 1982  
*DPP ID No.:* 197405  
*Current Assignment:* **Convent of**



## St. Raymond of Peñafort (since May 2006)

*Previous Assignments:* Sto. Domingo Convent (May 2002 - May 2006); Priory of Our Lady of the Rosary (Mar 2000 - Apr 2002); Convent of St. Albert the Great (May 1995 - Mar 2000); Sto. Domingo Convent (Dec 1994 - May 1995); Convent of St. Raymond of Peñafort (Dec 1992 - Nov 1994); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (Aug 1988 - Dec 1992); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1984 - Aug 1988); Convent of the Most Holy Rosary (Oct 1983 - May 1984); Sto. Domingo Convent (May 1974 - Oct 1983)

## QUALITY FORMATION (as a Priority of the Province)

### TRADTALK SERIES: JESUS IN THE QUR'AN

By Br. Paulo S. Sillonar, OP

Br. Simon Peter Ramos, OP, a student-brother specializing in Islamic Studies gave a talk on how the Qur'an viewed Jesus last March 9, 2018, from 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm at the Dominican Studentate Community Room during the monthly TRADTALK of the community.



Br. Ramos started his talk by presenting the importance of studying Islam and its doctrine by quoting some of the documents of the Church especially those documents that highlighted the importance of ecumenism and inter-



religious dialogue. He then proceeded by presenting some texts from the Qur'an which show some narratives depicting Jesus' identity which have semblance with the Catholic Bible. He also presented some concepts which explain the beliefs and doctrines of the followers of Allah and at the same time show the role of other characters like Mohammad in the development of the doctrine of Islam in the Qur'an. He ended his talk by highlighting that one needs to respect the beliefs of the followers of Allah while guarding one's own faith. Furthermore, he said that if there is one thing that one can learn from Islam, it is their strong conviction in their beliefs.



After the talk, some of the brothers, including the Master of Students, Fr. Ramon Salibay, OP and his assistants, Fr. Marcelino Saria, OP, and Fr. Rudolf Steven Seño, OP, asked questions and shared their thoughts regarding the topic.

The activity ended with the giving of Token and Final Blessing by Fr. Seño, OP.

## GENERAL NEWS

### JSF ON HUMAN RIGHTS

By Br. Wilhelm Boñon, OP

On March 11, 2018, The Juniors-Seminarians Forum (JSF) in cooperation with KADAUPAN, the Justice and Peace arm of the Dominican Studentate, held its Colloquium on "the Philippine Situation on Human Rights." Over 200





Simple Professed Religious from different Congregations, with some lay affiliates and lay scholars of KADAUPAN, attended the event. The guest speakers were Agent Lirio T. Ila, the Chief of Operations Management Division of the Plans and Operations Service of The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA); Ms. Christina Palabay of KARAPATAN Alliance on Human Rights, an NGO tracking the rise of human rights violation in the Philippines; Bro. Rommel Reyes, a rehabilitated drug user and currently a lay preacher; and Most. Rev. Pablo Virgilio "Ambo" David, DD, bishop of the Diocese of Kalookan.

The participants were informed about the achievements and goals of the drug war of the Philippine government. They were challenged to uphold human rights, encourage the drug addicts to undergo rehabilitation and inculcate in them the protection of human life. The event culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Carlo Rey Canto, OP, a former member of the JSF Core Group.



## MOONDANE @ 3<sup>RD</sup>

By Eikela Cencia

Last March 16, 2018, Angelicum School Iloilo celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> MOONDANE that showcased talents of the learners, a tribute to the facilitators and employees for their efforts in bringing out the best of Angelicans throughout the academic year. For this celebration, different organizations and chosen learners had their own assignments for the whole program. They prepared savory



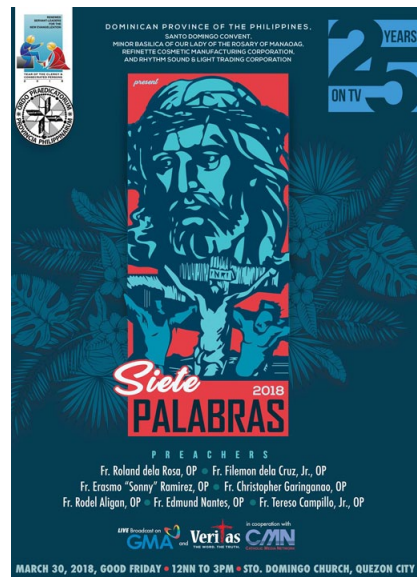
dishes for dinner and intermission numbers, which ended with jamming sessions, to the surprise of the audience. Notable was the mother-daughter tandem, Tia Buyco (a YS 8 Learner, St. Vincent Ferrer) and her mother Mrs. Julie Buyco. Ms. Lyza Velez, a learning facilitator in Filipino, also shared her hidden talent which gave her appealing comments from fellow facilitators and employees. Learners from YS 11 St. Dominic de Guzman, Alex Asiman, Sarah Matulac and Christian Aurelio serenaded the audience throughout the night while the facilitators and employees performed a traditional dance called Singkil with fans as props. The rationale for this event was to give tribute to Mrs. Marilyn Alemon who is considered as one of the pillars of Angelicum School Iloilo. For 38 years she dedicated herself with passion in teaching. The event's purpose successfully upheld the one mantra of Angelicum: where they are united as one, they fly high, aim high, and soar high together as family.

## SIETE PALABRAS

By Br. Siddharta B. Chiong, OP

Sto. Domingo once again hosts the historic *Siete Palabras*. The program, which has been airing for 25 years now, was once again made available to all Filipinos in national T.V. and on radio waves (GMA; Radio Veritas). The program began at 12 noon, on Good Friday, March 30, 2018, and ended at 3pm. This year's *Siete Palabras* cast many of the renowned preachers of the Order, and staged the comeback of Fr. Erasmo "Sonny" Ramirez, OP, on live T.V. The program cut on its performances to allot more airtime for the preachers.

Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, reflected on the first word and eased the bothered consciences of those who, in their







Fr. Erasmo "Sonny" Ramirez, OP

human frailty, still cannot forgive: *"Don't feel guilty that you cannot forgive... forgiveness is a process. Undeserved suffering, when made into a prayer and offered to God, becomes an act of forgiveness."*

In Christ's words to the repentant thief, Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., OP, gave hopeful assurance to the gnawing anxiety of being buried in oblivion, for, *"Ang kinalilimutan ay naiiwan."* Jesus assures us that he always remembers us, and holds our lives meaningful in His eyes.

Fr. Sonny Ramirez, OP, reminded families of their infinite value to Christ. If families are shattered, Fr. Ramirez imagined the crucified Christs lamenting, *"Eh, Bakit pa ako naririto? Bakit kailangan pa akong maghirap? Bakit kailangan akong mamatay? Para kanino, kung hindi para sa pamilya."*



Fr. Christopher Garinganao, OP, emphasized the difference between *habilin* and *pabaya*. He asks us to reflect on the culture of *pabaya* in our society which made Christ ask the Father, *Bakit mo ako pinabayaan sa kamay nila?* He reminded us, *"Si Kristo hindi nagpapabaya,"* and so should we.

Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP, said, *"All of us here are being called by God for something great and noble, and that is what our heart is thirsting for."*



Left to right: Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP; Fr. Filemon dela Cruz Jr., OP, and Fr. Christopher Garinganao, OP.



Left to right: Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP; Fr. Edmund Nantes, OP; and Fr. Tereso Campillo Jr., OP

Fr. Edmund Nantes reminded married couples of the importance of maintaining a healthy and loving relationship, which would render divorce unnecessary to our society.

Fr. Tereso Campillo, Jr., OP, inspired by Jesus' child-like trust and surrender to the Father, was emphatic about the importance of unconditional love and acceptance that children should experience from their parents. *"Kapag ang anak ay walang-wala na, bagsak na bagsak na, doon mas mahalaga na marinig ng anak ang mga ito [a parent's approval]"*



A recurrent thread that ran through their preaching was the inviolable sanctity of the family. For many Filipinos, Holy Week is a time to quiet down and cherish important realities in life: which would always include the family. *Siete Palabras* was followed by the celebration of the Lord's Passion. *(Photos by Mr. Davy Chioa, OP)*

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION

Three of our brethren recently celebrated their Silver Anniversary of Priestly Ordination last March 24, 2018 with a Eucharistic celebration held at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, OP, Fr. Jose Martin Sibug, OP and Fr. Greg Gregory, OP, were ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood 25 years ago on March 25, 1993.

At present, Fr. Isaias Tiongco, OP, who hails from Guagua, Pampanga, is assigned to the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas and teaches Canon Law at the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Santo Tomas. Fr. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, whose hometown is Malabon, Metro Manila, is assigned to Bahay Dominiko and is presently the Promoter of the Missions. He is also the Promoter of Evangelization through Social Communication and at the same time the





Assistant Vocation Promoter of the Province. Fr. Greg Gregory, OP, a native of Panabo City, Davao del Norte, is assigned to St. Antoninus House in Davao City and is the Chaplain of San Pedro College.

Fr. Isaias Tiongco, OP, was the main presider, while Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, delivered the homily where he shared his reflections on the priesthood or Holy Orders. Fr. De la Rosa was the Novice Master of the three silver jubilarians for a few months during their Novitiate. Among the concelebrants at the Eucharistic celebration were: Fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, Prior Provincial; Fr. Roland Mactal, OP, Prior of Sto. Domingo Convent; Fr. Giuseppe Pietro Arsciwals, OP, Prior of the Convent of St. Albert the Great; Fr. Boyd Sulpico, OP, Syndic of the Province; and Fr. Erasmo Ramirez, OP, who was the Vocation Promoter then when the silver jubilarians joined the Pre-Novitiate. About six other brethren were also present to concelebrate on the occasion of this milestone. Also present during the Eucharistic celebration were the families, relatives, friends and benefactors of Fathers Sai,



Joemar and Greg. A simple *merienda* was served after the Mass at the corridors of Sto. Domingo Convent.

The following day, March 25, 2018, Palm Sunday and the actual date of their ordination, the three brethren celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Cainta, Rizal. Fr. Jose Martin Sibug, OP, was the main presider, while Fr. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, their former Master of Students, gave the homily. Incidentally, Fr. Pedregosa was also ordained to the priesthood on March 25, 1981. After the Mass, the Lay Dominicans of Cainta shared a simple *merienda* with the silver jubilarians.



The silver jubilarians have also made arrangements for their Thanksgiving Masses at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag, with the Dominican Sisters of the Trinity in Davao City, at Our Lady of Manaoag Chapel in General Santos City and at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Calamba City, Laguna.

## **PAGHABOL SANG MGA PAGTULUN-AN**

*By Michael Desano*

Experience is the hardest kind of teacher; it gives you the test first and the lesson afterward (Oscar Wilde). The Angelicum School Iloilo invited its former learning facilitators Mr. Alain Coronel, Mr. Joecil Espulgar and Mr. Bonifacio Gaverza to share and tell words of their Angelicum experiences during their stay at Angelicum School Iloilo as mentors/learning facilitators and as teachers in their respective recent post in education and pedagogy in general. "Within and beyond module: Conversations towards innovative and transformative learning environment." It was a day of sharing of once upon a time teaching life stories and Angelicum experiences as part of ASILINK and 40<sup>th</sup> founding celebration of Angelicum School Iloilo. This momentous activity was conducted last March 27, 2018 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Lizares Mansion Dining Hall, Tabuc Suba, Jaro Iloilo City. Everyone agreed that teaching is an intense, challenging endeavor and yet one of the most rewarding things we have experienced. As teacher and facilitator of learning we all agreed to that statement because teaching and learning is a give and take process. Three of them were given a time





where dreams are borne in grace  
for the truth that sets us free to love.  
ubi in gratia feruntur somnia  
propter veritatem quae liberat nos amare.

**ALAIN CORONEL**  
**JOECIL ESPULGAR**  
**BONIFACIO GAVERZA**



to share and talk their life stories; as we all listened and grasped for some wisdom and insights from the different educational perspectives and pedagogical knowledge of the three speakers who are experts on their different chosen field of expertise and major subject areas. Their life stories as teacher and facilitators of learning enlightened us to some possibilities, opened our minds, helped digest and formulate deeper understanding on what and how to enhance our present Angelicum facilitating and learning methodologies and strategies in teaching-learning process as learning facilitators. Such would be helpful in uplifting ASIL and its unique non-graded mastery based system of education as a whole.

A teacher plants the seeds of knowledge sprinkles with love and patiently nurtures their growth to produce tomorrow's dreams. Their genuine love and beautiful dreams for ASIL made them decide to go back to their humble beginnings and share their educational expertise that will contribute to the institution. Being part of this Dominican education is both pride and honor because from the system, they have learned different classroom strategies and methodologies that are being applied in real life scenarios and situations. If a child cannot learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach them the way they learn because a teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the learners (Ever Garrison). The speakers challenged the present learning facilitators to be more creative,



innovative, and transformative in facilitating learning. It might be stressful and an extra work for us, but if we have the burning passion, vocation and love for ASIL, all becomes lighter and easier. Indeed, education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think (Albert Einstein).

In this fast changing and challenging world of this 21<sup>st</sup> century of education, we, the learning facilitators, are challenged to be role models of our community to do our best at all times to facilitate our learners' learning because teaching and facilitating learning is one profession that creates all other professions. From the speakers, I learned that we should always consider the attention and the environment that we provide for our learners because they are factors that help develop their motivation and interest to our lessons. The more motivating the environment we set in our class is, the more they are interested to learn. Moreover, as we connect the bridge of learning gaps of yesterday and today's present generations, we learning facilitators are challenged to enhance our teaching methodologies and strategies to facilitate and promote authentic learning because to the world, we may just ordinary teachers or facilitators of learning, but to our students/learners we are heroes. They may forget what we say, but they will not forget how we make them feel.



A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart. Together, we the present and the former Angelicum School Iloilo learning facilitators agreed to collaborate our educational pedagogy and work hand in hand bound with our passion and love to materialize our beautiful dreams for ASIL. Saint Thomas Aquinas once said "Leaves without flowers: these are they who have words without works". As Angelicum School Iloilo mentors and learning facilitators, we will burn candles together and stretch the horizon to uplift the non- graded and mastery based system to be a sanctuary of continuing educational innovation and learning institutions where dreams are borne in grace and where students are developed in their our own identity as a strong, progressive, beautiful and happy catholic. The Angelicum School Iloilo is a learning place that enlightens young minds to the truth that sets free.



## April in DPP History

(Culled from the Archives of the Province)

- ✉ **1972 April 13** - +Br. Amador Ambat, OP, was installed as the first Parish Priest of Santo Domingo Parish, Quezon City.
- ✉ **1975 April** - A new parish was established in Quezon City called the Parish of Resurrection. It was entrusted to the Filipino Dominican priest, Br. Rogelio Alarcon, OP. The Parish was composed of two barrios of Paltok and Bungad with a population of 20,000.
- ✉ **2008 April 16** - Installation of Br. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP, as the 10<sup>th</sup> Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines at the Angelicum College, Quezon City.

## PC Notes...

Some Notes from the 410<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council Meeting  
on 5 March 2018

- ✉ *Reports in relation to the 4 year Apostolic Plan (Stat 40, II)*
  - *Holy Name Society* by Br. Edgardo Alaurin, OP  
Br. Alaurin was informed that the Society could tap the services of the staff of the Central Office of the Promoters.
  - *Beatification/Canonization Causes* by Br. Mhandy Malijan, OP  
In his absence, Br. Louie Coronel, OP, was represented by Br. Malijan.
- ✉ *Decision to formally undertake the Beatification Cause of Fray Gregorio Hontomin, OP*  
The Prior Provincial and his Council unanimously approved to formally undertake the beatification cause of Br. Gregorio Hontomin, OP.
- ✉ *Request from Br. Clarence Victor Marquez, OP, convenor of ONELETRAN, for the direction of Letran integration.*  
The Provincial Council approved the proposed resolution of ONELETRAN that the Rectors of Letran schools (Manila-Bataan, Calamba and Manaoag) shall serve as members of each other's Boards of Trustees and to amend each Letran school's By-Laws with reference to the composition of the Board of Trustees in order to reflect this resolution.
- ✉ *Dialogue with Archbishop Agustinus Agus of Pontianak for the possible involvement of Dominicans in educational ministry in Pontianak.*  
Archbishop Agus together with Br. Dela Cruz, Br. Marianto, Br. Kurniawan and Mr. Iwan Baskoro came

to attend the meeting. A thorough and comprehensive presentation on the profile of Indonesia, the Archdiocese of Pontianak, their educational apostolate and the road map for the establishment of a future Catholic University in relation to the STKIP Pamane Talino at Ngabang, Kabupaten, Landak.

The Provincial Council resolved that:

- ⦿ The Pontianak group headed by Br. Robini forego the previous directive of PC 407<sup>th</sup> Meeting dated 4 December 2017: "extending their research to cover more areas in the internal and external factors" regarding the developmental studies/research on the tertiary education in Pontianak.
- ⦿ The Dominican Province of the Philippines commits to involve itself in the coming up with a future Catholic University in relation to the STKIP Pamane Talino at Ngabang, Kabupaten, Landak.

✉ *On the Request of the Promoter of Vocations*

The Provincial Council resolved that:

- ⦿ The Prayer for Vocations (printed in the *Preces*) be recited daily in the respective houses and convents.
- ⦿ During benedictions held in the houses of formation, intentions will be served for the vocations to the Order.

## SPECIAL GUEST VISITS BAHAY DOMINIKO!



Rev. Fr. Rui Carlos Antunes e Almeida Lopes, OP (second from left) Promoter General for the Dominican Laity, visited Bahay Dominiko from April 4 to 9, 2018.

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

.... continued from page 1

- affiliation of the College of Theology of the Catholic University of Korea to the UST Faculty of Sacred Theology.
- ✈ 11 Apr-3 May - Italy and Spain - Br. Ramon Salibay, OP - to attend the formation course "for the brothers who serve as masters of formation" initiated by Fr. Vivian Boland, OP, Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation.
- ✈ 14 Apr-14 May - S. Korea - Br. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP - for a four-week teaching stint at the Theological College



of the Catholic University of Korea upon the invitation of the Dean of its College of Theology and the Rector of the Seminary of the Archdiocese of Seoul.

- ➔ 16-19 Apr – *Singapore* – Br. Herminio Dagohey, OP – To attend the Global Trends Conference
- ➔ 17-19 Apr – *Hong Kong* – Br. Delfo Canceran, OP – To attend in the International Workshop ‘Global South Perspectives’.
- ➔ 27 Apr-1 May – *S. Korea* – Br. Gallardo Bombase Jr., OP, and Br. Roman Santos, OP – To join in the integration activities of the administrators of the UST-Legazpi Hospital.

## DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of:

- † **Sr. BENEDICTA G. APOLINAR, OP**, of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Philippines, who passed away peacefully in the grace of our Lord on March 17, 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 brothers during the anniversary of their death in the month of April.

April 2 + Br. Patricio Apa, OP  
17 + Br. Lope Perez, OP  
26 + Br. Anthony Hofstee, OP

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

*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.*



Five (5) brothers were instituted to the Ministry of the Acolyte on April 7, 2018. Please pray for them as they begin their service at the altar of the Lord.



(Left to right) Br. Reginald Zamora, OP; Br. Asanka Melroy Adikari Arachchige Don, OP; Br. Ariel Adolfo, OP; Br. Rambang Ngawan, OP; and Br. Jaymar Capalaran, OP.







**Processional Icon Crucifix**  
(Used for Sto. Domingo Church's Via Crucis)  
Acrylic and gold leaf on wood

Metal ornaments  
by Ben Torres Metalcraft  
March 2018



**Heart on the Cross**  
Watercolor, February 2, 2018  
Br. Luigi Christian R. Bracamonte, OP  
Second Year Student Brother