

THE RECOLETOS OBSERVER

Vol. 16 Nos. 3-4

July - December 2015

OAR Celebrates Int'l Year of Educational Apostolate

August 28, 2015 - August 28, 2016



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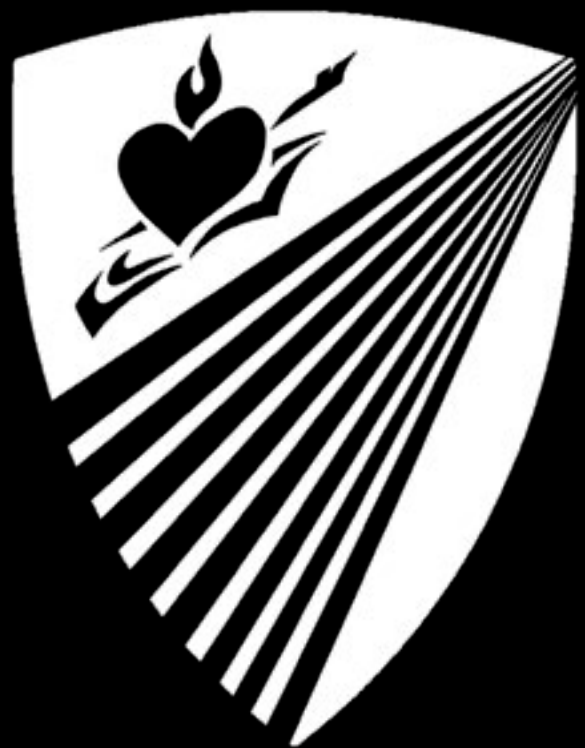


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Recoletos marks International Year of Educational Apostolate

BY IOANNES ARONG

CEBU CITY—Representatives of Philippine schools run by the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) will flock to the University of San Jose-Recoletos on August 28, feast of St. Augustine, to witness the opening of the Order's year of educational apostolate.

The Order's Prior General, Very Rev. Fr. Miguel Miró, OAR, and his Council, proclaimed Aug. 28, 2015 to Aug. 28, 2016 as the International Year of Educational Apostolate (IYEA).

"The educational apostolate, as provided in the OAR Constitutions, makes the Church present in the academic environment," said USJ-R President Rev. Fr. Christopher C. Maspara, OAR, in a memorandum sent to all USJ-R employees.

"Thus, the 54th General Chapter asked for a renewed commitment to the educational apostolate," added Fr. Maspara.

The opening ceremony, which will be held at the Recoletos Coliseum in the University's Basak Campus, will be attended by religious and lay administrators, faculty members, staff, and student representatives of the eight Recollect-run schools in the country.

It will start with a motorcade from the University's main campus in Magallanes St., Cebu City to Basak at 7 in the morning.

Rev. Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno—which has jurisdiction over the Order's missions in the Philippines, Taiwan and Sierra Leone—will read the official communication declaring the celebration.

During the program, the Educational Plan of the Order (EPO) and the OAR Religious Graduate Attributes (RGAs) will be unveiled. The stakeholders of every Recollect school will take part in a ceremonial signing of commitment.

The Order's eco-park at Maslog, Danao in northern Cebu will also be launched. The 10-hectare property is being developed into a pilgrim site to propagate the devotion to the Nuestra Señora de la Salud (Our Lady of Health).

USJ-R, as caretaker of the property, targets to plant 75,000 trees in the area and make it a place for recollection and reflections for the Josenian Community and the public.

The Order, which maintains presence in 19 countries including the Philippines, is behind the management of USJ-R and its 7 other sister schools. These are the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Manila, San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite, Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos, Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos, San Pedro Academy-Recoletos, and San Pedro Academy.

The theme of the IYEA is "Caritas et Scientia: Educating the mind and the heart." **RD**



Rationale of IYEA

BY FRAY JOSE ERNIL ALMAYO, OAR

Let us rewind our timeline to year 2010, when the 54th General Chapter of the Order of Augustinian Recollects was held in Granada, Spain. In that historic chapter, one of the crafted ordinances states:

"Let the Prior General and his Council declare a *Year of the Augustinian Recollect Educational Apostolate* for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Order's first schools. The goal should be to confirm the commitment of the Order to a task that is vast, complex, and urgent. [...]"

But before the major superiors in Rome could act on it, the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno in the Philippines has already been moving faster such that, in June 2011, the Recoletos Education

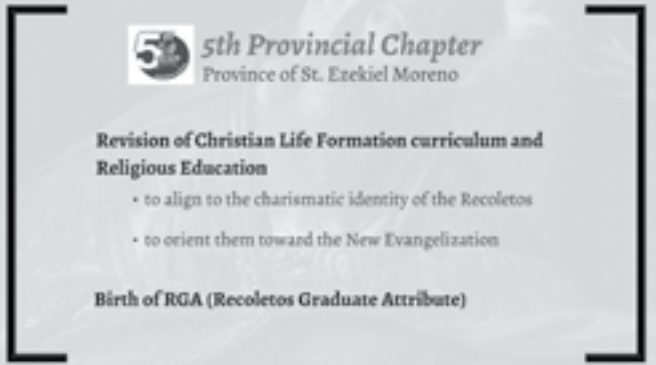
Year was launched. On November 26 to 28 of that same year, the International Recoletos Education Congress was convoked and held at USJ-R. In sum, however, these were initiatives "from below".

The initiatives "from above" would come later, but not without some "inspirations"—again, coming from the Philippines.

First, in compliance with the ordinance of the Fifth Provincial Chapter, in 2012, under Educational Apostolate,

the REAP (Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines) pursued the revision of the Christian Life Formation curriculum (for the Basic Education) and the Religious Education (for the Tertiary level) in order to align them to the charismatic identity of the Recoletos and orient them toward the New Evangelization. This assiduous task led to the birth of what is now called the Recoletos Graduate Attributes or RGA, which turned out to be to be in compliance with the Outcome-Based Education (or OBE) approach mandated





by CHED Order No. 46 and aligned with the mandate of the Philippine Enhanced Basic Education Law.

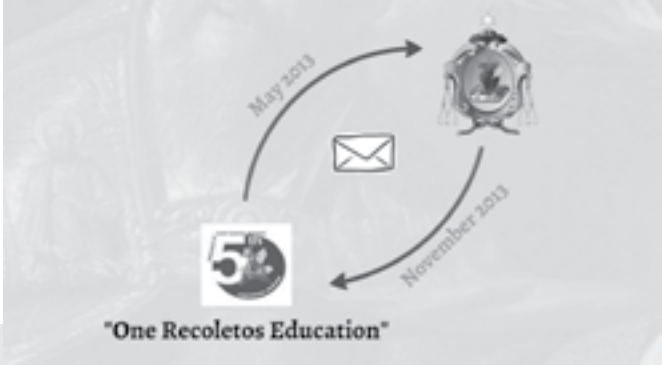
Three important dates related to this:

March 1, 2014 saw the beginning of the formulation of RGA through the concerted efforts of the faculty, campus

Religious Education).

And 7 Recoletos Graduate Attributes were pointed out: Orthodoxy in Catholic Doctrine; Integrity in Moral Life, Dynamism in Prayer Life; Contemplative Character, Communitarian Character, Apostolic Character, and Marian.

Secondly, in response to another



May 2014. That fruitful assembly, with 3 participants from the Philippines, was held in Salamanca, Spain and paved the way to the writing and publication of the document entitled, "Proyecto Educativo Institucional" (or its English equivalent: "Educational Plan of the Order of Augustinian Recollects" or simply "EPO").

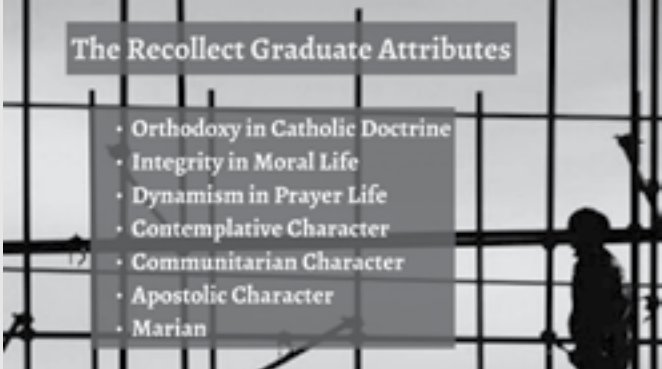


ministry staff, and administrator from the different Recoletos schools.

Three months after, on June 1, 2014, the religious administrators finalized the proposals.

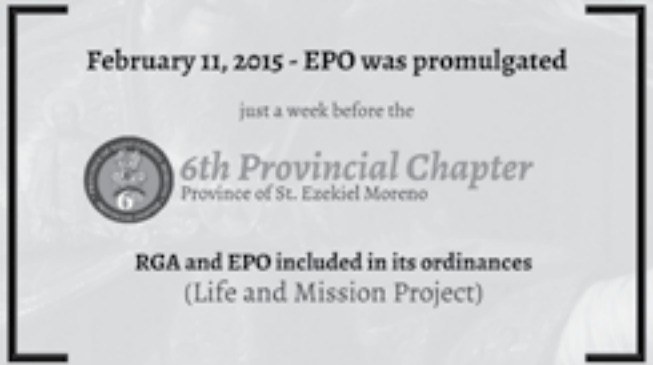
September 26, 2014 was the promulgation date of the approved RGA, with the inclusion of the so-called PILOs (Program Intended Learning Outcomes) of the CORE Ed (or Common OAR

ordinance of the Fifth Provincial Chapter, regarding the establishment of a norm or standard that defines the Augustinian Recollect style of education, the "One Recoletos Education," the REAP requested assistance from the General Secretariat in Rome. The latter proactively designed a program to capture the desire, this time, assumed by the Order, by scheduling a 4-day Strategic Planning and Workshop in



Two weeks after that, our major superiors in Rome approved the said EPO which is none other than the articulation of the common vision, mission, values, motto, characteristics, and strategic options of all the Recoletos Schools worldwide.

On February 11, 2015, the EPO was promulgated and was deemed providential because the following week, the Sixth Provincial Chapter of the



Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno kicked off. In that Provincial Chapter, these two major landmarks, namely the RGA and EPO, were included in its ordinances, technically termed as "Life and Mission Project", as essential features of "the OAR school-based Evangelization Master Plan."



in Manila.

It is even interesting to note how the Recoletos dramatically embraced the school apostolate which was previously, in early 1900s, looked down as "incompatible to our way of life" to something which is—according to the 2010 revised OAR Constitutions—"in

and celebration.

In synchrony, therefore, with more than 40 other Recoletos Schools worldwide, we, in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno in the Philippines and who are administering a network of 8 Recoletos Schools, with a total of 12 campuses nationwide, gratefully get



As we launch today the "International Year of Educational Apostolate," let us recall not only what took place 75 years ago, that is, the simultaneous foundations of our first schools, namely: the Colegio de Santo Tomas de Villanueva in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental; the Colegio Fray Luis de Leon in Caracas, Venezuela; and the erstwhile Colegio de San Sebastian (now, San Sebastian College-Recoletos)



harmony with the charism of the Order."

Guided by the same Holy Spirit since its birth in 1588, to blending the cloister with a life in the missions from 1604 onwards, and to engaging in a special way of evangelization in the schools, the Augustinian Recollection has undoubtedly broken barriers and reached new heights.


Indeed, all these call for thanksgiving

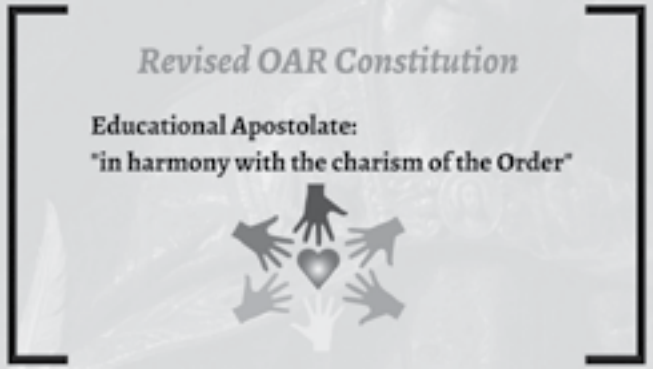
on the bandwagon to open this IYEA (or International Year of Educational Apostolate) with the theme: "Caritas et Scientia/Love and Knowledge: Educating the mind and the heart."

May God bless us all.

Adelante!

Bravo!

Vamos Recoletos! 



Prior General's Proclamation of 14EA



ORDO AUGUSTINIANORUM RECOLLECTORUM
GENERALATUS

Viale dell'Astronomia, 27 - 00144 ROMA
Tel. 06 592 65 34 – Fax 06 592 08 87
curiageneral@agustinosrecoletos.com

Prot. N. 187/2015

TO ALL THE RELIGIOUS OF THE ORDER

Dear Brothers:

The educational apostolate, as our *Constitutions* remind us, makes the Church present in the academic environment, a presence that is revealed especially in the Catholic school. The educational apostolate pursues the goal of achieving the integral education of the human person through a clear educational program that has its foundation in Christ¹.

This apostolate is important and significant in the life and mission of the Order, especially in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, the Philippines, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. At present there are more than 80,000 students enrolled in fifty centers directed by the Order.

The 54th General Chapter asked for a renewed commitment to the educational apostolate, since it is fully consonant with the Augustinian Recollect charism and serves today as a platform for the evangelization of young generations. The same chapter decreed that a Year of Education should be proclaimed². Our Life and Mission Project emphasizes the importance of implementing the Institutional Educational Plan (IEP) and of intensifying the immersion of our school faculties in Augustinian pedagogy.

On the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the opening of our first schools and with the consent of the general council, I hereby proclaim the *Year of the Augustinian Recollect Educational Apostolate*, in order to intensify the commitment of the Order to this ministry and encourage and support the religious and lay people who work with hope in the integral formation of the human person.

We propose as the motto for this year: **"LOVE AND LEARNING: educating mind and heart."** The dates, goals, and subject matter for this year are as follows:

¹ Cf. *Constitutions*, 308-309.

² 54^o General Chapter: *Ordinances*, 17.3.

Dates:

- *Beginning of the education year: August 28, 2015.*
- *End of the education year: August 28, 2016.*

Goals:

- *To intensify the commitment of the Order to the educational apostolate.*
- *To encourage and support the religious and lay people who work in this apostolate.*

Subject matter:

- *The importance of education for evangelization.*
- *Augustinian pedagogy.*
- *Augustinian ministry.*

Saint Augustine reminds us that "We all have in Christ our one Teacher, and we are all fellow students in his one school"³. May the Lord pour out his Spirit upon you to transmit the Gospel with joy and hope to young people and to their families.

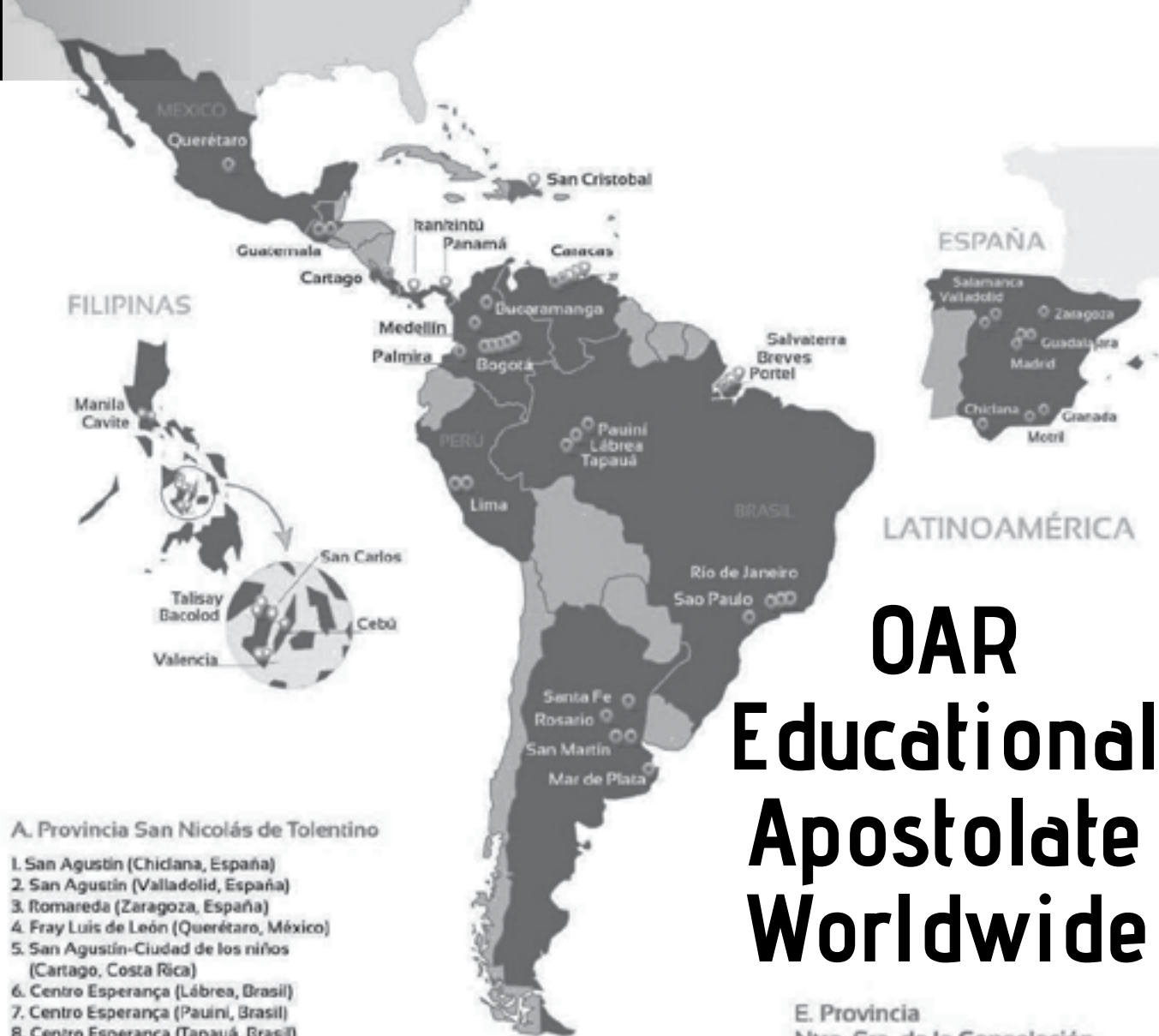
Rome, July 21, 2015.

Fr. Francisco Javier Tello Vegas
General Secretary



Fr. Miguel Miró
Prior General

³ *In Io. ev. tr.* 16, 3 *PL* 35, 1523; cf. *S.* 292, 1, 1 *PL* 38, 1320.



A. Provincia San Nicolás de Tolentino

1. San Agustín (Chiclana, España)
2. San Agustín (Valladolid, España)
3. Romareda (Zaragoza, España)
4. Fray Luis de León (Querétaro, México)
5. San Agustín-Ciudad de los niños (Cartago, Costa Rica)
6. Centro Esperança (Lábrea, Brasil)
7. Centro Esperança (Pauini, Brasil)
8. Centro Esperança (Tapauá, Brasil)

B. Provincia Ntra. Sra. de la Candelaria

1. Universitaria Agustiniana - Uniagustiniana (Bogotá, Colombia)
2. Agustiniano-Norte (Bogotá, Colombia)
3. Agustiniano-Tagaste (Bogotá, Colombia)
4. Agustiniano-Salitre (Bogotá, Colombia)
5. Agustiniano-Suba (Bogotá, Colombia)
6. Agustiniano-Floridablanca (Bucaramanga, Colombia)
7. Agustiniano-San Nicolás (Medellín, Colombia)
8. Agustiniano-Campestre (Palmira, Colombia)

C. Provincia San José

1. Santo Tomás de Villanueva (Salamanca, España)
2. Santo Tomás de Villanueva (Caracas, Venezuela)
3. Fray Luis de León (Caracas, Venezuela)
4. Cristo Rey (Caracas, Venezuela)
5. Santa Rita de Casia (Lima, Perú)
6. San Martín de Porres (Lima, Perú)

D. Provincia Santo Tomás de Villanueva

1. San Agustín (Motril, España)
2. Santo Tomás de Villanueva (Granada, España)
3. Agustiniano (Guadalajara, España)
4. Sagrado Corazón (Guadalajara, España)
5. San Agustín (Mar del Plata, Argentina)
6. Niño Jesús y San Ezequiel Moreno (Santa Fe, Argentina)
7. Agustiniano (San Martín, Argentina)
8. San José (San Martín, Argentina)
9. Ntra. Sra. de Luján (Rosario, Argentina)
10. Santo Agostinho-Leblon (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)
11. Santo Agostinho-Novo Leblon (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)
12. Santa Monica (Breves, Brasil)
13. Santa Rita-Vidigal (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)
14. Sao Joao Bautista (Sao Paulo, Brasil)
15. Santa Rita de Casia (Salvatera, Brasil)
16. Santo Tomás de Villanueva (Portel, Brasil)
17. San Judas Tadeo (Caracas, Venezuela)
18. San Carlos Borromeo (Caracas, Venezuela)

E. Provincia Ntra. Sra. de la Consolación

1. Agustiniano (Madrid, España)
2. Santa Rita de Casia (San Cristóbal, República Dominicana)
3. San Agustín (Panamá, Panamá)
4. San Agustín (Kanhintú, Panamá)
5. Agustiniano (Guatemala, Guatemala)
6. Escuela parroquial San Judas Tadeo (Guatemala, Guatemala)

F. Provincia San Ezequiel Moreno

1. Universidad San José-Recoletos (Cebú, Filipinas)
2. Universidad de Negros Occidental-Recoletos (Bacolod, Filipinas)
3. San Sebastian College-Recoletos (Manila, Filipinas)
4. San Sebastian College-Recoletos (Cavite, Filipinas)
5. San Nicolás de Tolentino-Recoletos (Talisay, Filipinas)
6. Santo Tomás de Villanueva-Recoletos (San Carlos, Filipinas)
7. San Pedro Academy (Valencia, Filipinas)
8. San Pedro Academy - Recoletos (Caidiocan, Valencia, Filipinas)

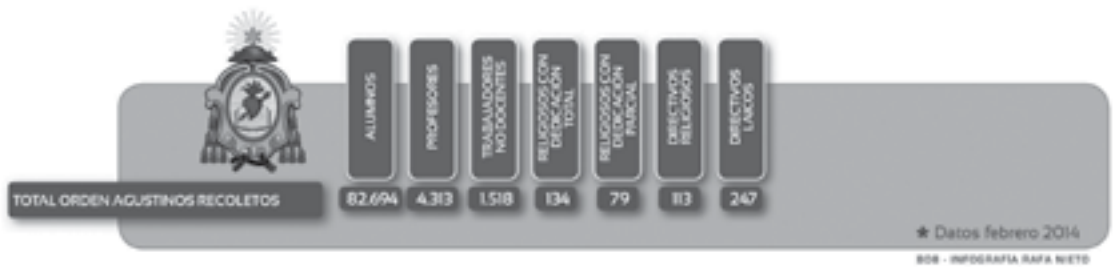
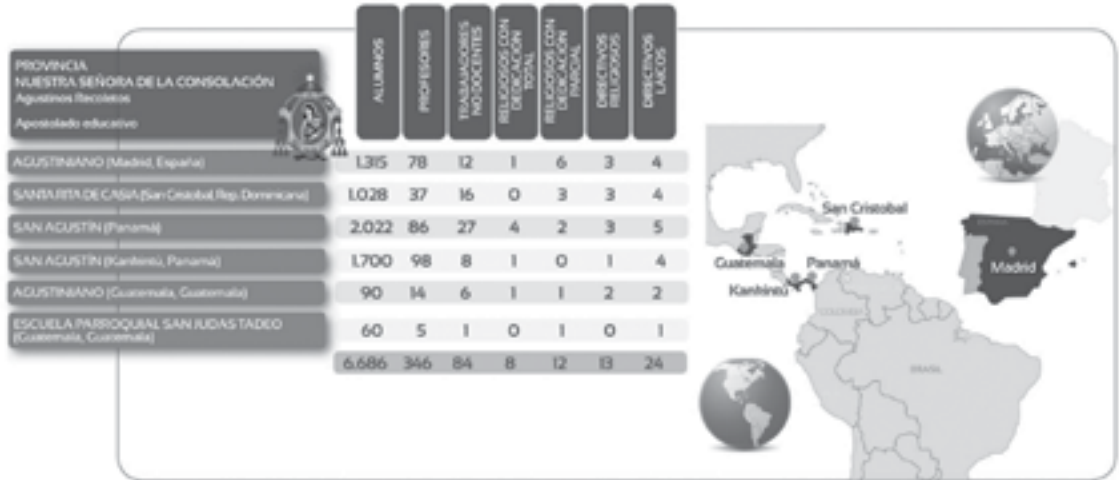
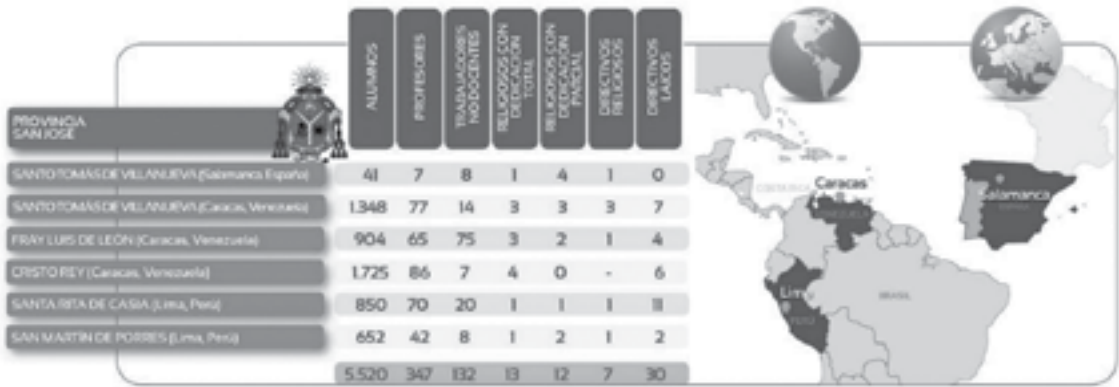
OAR Educational Apostolate Worldwide

PROVINCIA SAN NICOLÁS DE TOLentino Agustinos Recoletos Apostolado educativo	ALUMNOS	PROFESORES	TRABAJADORES NO DOCENTES	RELIGIOSOS CON DEDICACION TOTAL	RELIGIOSOS CON DEDICACION PARCIAL	DIRECTIVOS RELIGIOSOS	DIRECTIVOS LAICOS
SAN AGUSTIN (Valladolid, España)	1.768	110	10	5	3	3	9
ROMAREDA (Zaragoza, España)	1.112	66	6	8	0	3	5
SAN AGUSTIN (Chiclana, España)	334	23	3	0	3	2	5
FRAY LUIS DE LEÓN (Querétaro, México)	1.902	158	82	2	1	2	5
SAN AGUSTIN - CIUDAD DE LOS NIÑOS (Cartago, Costa Rica)	484	40	4	3	3	1	4
	5.610	397	105	18	10	11	28

PROVINCIA NTRA. SRA. DE LA CANDELARIA Agustinos Recoletos Apostolado educativo	ALUMNOS	PROFESORES	TRABAJADORES NO DOCENTES	RELIGIOSOS CON DEDICACION TOTAL	RELIGIOSOS CON DEDICACION PARCIAL	DIRECTIVOS RELIGIOSOS	DIRECTIVOS LAICOS
UNAGUSTINIANA (Bogotá, Colombia)	6.562	318	144	3	7	4	21
AGUSTINIANO-NORTE (Bogotá, Colombia)	2.648	137	63	3	0	3	8
AGUSTINIANO-TAGASTE (Bogotá, Colombia)	1.012	56	23	2	6	-	-
AGUSTINIANO-SALITRE (Bogotá, Colombia)	2.552	154	19	5	0	5	4
AGUSTINIANO-SUBA (Bogotá, Colombia)	1.080	65	20	2	2	2	7
AGUSTINIANO-FLORIDABLANCA (Bucaramanga, Colombia)	900	52	25	2	1	2	4
AGUSTINIANO-SAN NICOLÁS (Medellín, Colombia)	998	43	14	2	1	2	0
AGUSTINIANO-CAMPESTRE (Palmira, Colombia)	380	23	14	2	2	2	3
	16.132	848	322	21	19	20	47

PROVINCIA SANTO TOMÁS DE VILLANUEVA Agustinos Recoletos Apostolado educativo	ALUMNOS	PROFESORES	TRABAJADORES NO DOCENTES	RELIGIOSOS CON DEDICACION TOTAL	RELIGIOSOS CON DEDICACION PARCIAL	DIRECTIVOS RELIGIOSOS	DIRECTIVOS LAICOS
SANTO TOMÁS DE VILLANUEVA (Granada, España)	1.192	77	7	4	3	2	2
SAN AGUSTIN (Motril, España)	582	33	2	1	2	3	4
SAGRADO CORAZÓN (Guadalajara, España)	785	39	15	3	0	3	2
AGUSTINIANO (Guadalajara, España)	195	14	11	1	1	1	3
SAN AGUSTIN (Mar del Plata, Argentina)	1.412	102	15	1	2	2	3
NIÑO JESÚS Y SAN EZEQUIEL MORENO (Santa Fe, Argentina)	700	63	10	1	1	1	4
AGUSTINIANO (San Martín, Argentina)	2.004	198	19	1	1	1	8
SAN JOSÉ (San Martín, Argentina)	760	70	15	0	1	0	3
NTRA. SRA. DE LUJÁN (Rosario, Argentina)	784	60	7	1	0	1	2
SANTO AGUSTINIANO-LEBLON (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)	2.206	146	84	2	0	2	9
SANTO AGUSTINIANO-NOVO-LEBLON (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)	2.713	119	74	1	0	1	9
SANTA MONICA (Breves, Brasil)	1.232	39	56	0	1	0	2
SANTA RITA VIDIGAL (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)	106	10	7	0	1	0	2
SÃO JOÃO BATISTA (Sao Paulo, Brasil)	60	5	1	0	1	0	1
SANTA RITA DE CASIA (Salvatera, Brasil)	62	3	2	0	1	0	1
SANTO TOMÁS DE VILLANUEVA (Portel, Brasil)	220	7	22	0	1	0	4
SAN JUDAS TADEO (Caracas, Venezuela)	958	45	16	2	1	2	8
SAN CARLOS BORROMEO (Caracas, Venezuela)	237	11	23	1	0	1	2
	16.208	1.041	386	19	17	20	68

• Datos febrero 2014



RECOLLECT GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Attributes of Graduates or Institutional Intended Learning Outcomes (IILOs) of OAR Schools as a Catholic and Recollect Learning Institutions and the corresponding Proposed Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) for Common OAR Religious (COrE) Education Curriculum of all Recollect Schools

ASPECTS OF FORMATION	Intended Attributes or Qualities of a Graduate from a School or Institutional Intended Learning Outcomes (IILOs)		Intended Attributes and Qualities of a Student after completing the Common OAR Religious (COrE) Education (COrE Ed) Curricular Program or COrE Ed Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)
	Attributes	Descriptor	
<u>DOGMA/DOCTRINE</u> (CREED)	Orthodoxy in Catholic Doctrine	Demonstrate correct understanding, assimilation and proclamation of the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith (i.e. triune God, Church, Magisterium, sacraments, etc.)	Demonstrate mastery and interiorization of the Catholic Faith and Church Teachings
<u>MORALS</u> (CODE)	Integrity in Moral Life	Demonstrate a life in obedience to the will of God as taught and lived by Jesus Christ and interpreted by the Magisterium	Assimilate the Catholic moral principles in the light of the Beatitudes and live them up virtuously in diverse situations
<u>WORSHIP</u> (CULT)	Dynamism in Prayer Life	Participate fully consciously and actively in all forms of worship to God “in Christ, through Christ and with Christ” as a way of life towards service to others	Give fitting worship to God integrating the liturgical, devotional and sacramental life of the Church with personal conviction
Intended Attributes or Qualities of a Graduate from a School or Institutional Intended Learning Outcomes (IILOs)			CORE Ed
Attributes		Descriptor	Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)
CONTEMPLATIVE Character		Demonstrate personal relationship with Christ through search for truth in prayers and introspection towards “life under the shelter of God, life with God, life received from God, the very life of God himself” (Sermon 297; OAR Constitutions 8)	Lead a life animated by prayer and immerse actively and holistically in different spiritual and liturgical activities in the community
COMMUNITARIAN Character		Show love and concern for family, church, and society by building friendship and solidarity “as children of God and brethren of Christ” (Constitutions 17)	Apply the Augustinian meaning and implications of friendship and communion in community life
APOSTOLIC Character		Share the joy of the Gospel “for all people to love God with us” (De Doctr. Christ. 77, Constitutions 23) especially “to the weakest members” (De Op. Monach, Constitutions 26) and show care for the environment	Imbibe the joy of the Gospel and express it in apostolic activities through community service, care of environment, interfaith and intercultural dialogue and other sustainable initiatives...
MARIAN		Emulate Mary, Our Lady of Consolation, as model of faith, humility and obedience and “as a sign of sure hope and of comfort for the people of God on their journey.” (Lumen Gentium 68, OAR Constitutions 30)	Show/practice filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through Marian devotional and liturgical activities

The newly formulated Catholic and Recollect graduate attributes or institutional learning outcomes (IILOs) are mandatory graduate attributes or IILOs for all Recollect schools since all of them are Catholics and Recollects.

The formulated Program Intended Learning Outcomes for the unified religious education curriculum from elementary to higher education levels among all Recollect schools are aligned to the proposed OAR IILOs and are therefore likewise should be mandatory for all the religious education curricular programs of OAR schools in the Philippines. These are in fulfilment of the determinations of the 54th General Chapter (17.2d) and the 5th Provincial Chapter (16.b4)

MEANING OF GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES OR INSTITUTIONAL INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (IILOs) AND GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES OR PROGRAM INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (PILOs)

The graduate attributes are the IILOs that the school, by virtue of its mission, are offering their students to acquire when they graduate from its institution. The IILOs consist of knowledge, skills, attitudes or qualities that each student should expect to possess when one graduates from a school. In marketing, it is somewhat equivalent to the unique compelling value proposition that the organization offers to its clientele.

The graduate attributes or IILOs are further broken down in the student developmental or formative programs of the school as PILOs which will ensure the attainment of the IILOs. In the academic programs of the school, the PILOs are also broken down to Course (Subject) Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs). The CILOs will serve as essential guide for teachers in the classroom level in instructing the students with essential topics and activities that would bring about gradually in the students the desired learning programs of the program or PILOs.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION

The focus on the learning outcomes resulting from instruction is the essential characteristic of the Outcomes-based Education (OBE). Because of its learner-centered and result-oriented approach, the OBE is being adapted by DEPED in the introduction of K-12 Program and will likewise be embraced in the Higher Education come 2016.

Shifting from the activity-oriented and coverage-oriented curriculum planning, it gives emphasis on teaching the essentials that will bring about the acquisition of the outcomes by the students. Thus, it better prepares the graduates for work.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSAL:

TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The articulation of IILOs or attributes of Recollect graduates are very important in the standardization (or unification) of evangelization programs of the Recollects in the school apostolates. This will be the bases in the development of standardized (or unified) religious education program and standardized campus ministry program in all the Recollect schools. The religious education programs in basic education (K-12) and collegiate levels is tentatively called Common OAR Religious (COrE) Education Curriculum in order to emphasize and realize the directory of the province number 133 that religious education is the core of the curriculum. The graduate attributes or IILOs were used in the articulation of the (Program) Intended Learning Outcomes (PILO) of the COrE Ed. Curriculum. The PILOs in turn will be used in articulating the Intended Learning Outcomes in every Course or Subject (CILO). It is the CILOs that will serve as guide to the COrE Ed Teachers in the formulation of the syllabus per subject and the delivery of instructions so that the the students will be formed towards the full acquisition of the graduate attributes of the Catholic and Recollect schools or IILOs.



Fray Julius Marcos, OAR, REAP President, speaks about the development of the Recollect Graduate Attributes. (RC Photo/Frei Bo)

Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR, Provincial Secretary, presenting the details of RGA to the community of SSC-R Manila.

TO THE PROVINCE AND THE ORDER

The OAR IILOs and COrE Ed Curriculum PILOs will assure the Recollects that the students would be formed according to what God wants them to be formed as Catholics or Christians sharing the Recollect charism. This is part of concretizing the Provincial Chapter Ordinance number 16.c1 and the thrusts of the General Chapter Ordinance number 17.2d, emphasizing on the new evangelization and the Augustinian Recollect formation of all the members of the school community.

TO THE CAMPUS MINISTRY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, ALUMNI, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

This unified OAR Religious Education curriculum or COrE Ed Curriculum including its PILOs will be the basis for the development of the unified campus ministry programs (CMP). After the finalization of the CILOs hopefully before the end of first semester of 2014-2015, the CMPs will capture and reinforce the COrE Ed themes and values per year level in the retreat and recollection program modules for student and in other religious activities like group bible study and prayer meetings and even in the vocation campaign programs (Directory of the Province 137a.1 and 138.1). These will also be included in the Catholic and Augustinian Recollect formation programs for faculty and staff so that they may become lay collaborators in the evangelization of the students (Directory 137b). These will be included in the evangelization program for the alumni (Directory 137c) and for the students' parents and guardians (Directory 137d). (cf. 5th PCO # 16c.2) The common OAR Campus Ministry Programs is hoped to be ready for pilot testing also next school year 2015-2016.

TO OTHER STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE SCHOOL

The COrE Ed PILOs, relatednthemes and values will be expressed in the outreach programs and activities of the schools (Directory 138.1; cf. 5th PCO # 16b.5). These will also be the bases of the Catholic leadership formation programs of student organizations (Directory 137b) like RAY, SCORES and OAR Scholars (cf. 5th PCO # 16b8a). These will be integrated in non-religious curricular programs (Directory 137b) and reflected in the management, leadership and culture of the school (Directory 136). In all of these, religious education will truly become the "Core of the Curriculum in our Academic Institution" (Directory 133 and 140). This will also assure the Recollects that, in every aspect of the schools, the students and members of the school community will hear the same message of evangelization "so that they will become authentic disciples of Christ imbued with Augustinian Recollect values" (Direct 140)

TO SCHOOL MANUALS

The COrE Ed PILOs and the relevant themes and values will also form an integral part of the standard OAR school manuals in Academics, Student Welfare, Human Resource, Finance and Management of physical facilities that the other groups of the secretariat are now crafting. These standard school manuals will contain general principles common to all Recollect schools in the Philippines based on the laws of the government, the best practices and most especially on the Constitutions of the Order and the Directory of the Province.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF OAR GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES AND COrE Ed CURRICULUM PILOs

Thanks to our Recollect brothers who have advanced studies in Catholic Dogma, Moral Theology and Church Liturgy and who helped in the articulation of these graduate qualities that are now being used in the completion of the religious curricular and campus ministry programs. **RD**



Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, prior provincial strikes the gong to kick off the International Year of Augustinian Recollect Educational Apostolate on August 28, 2015, feast of St. Augustine in the full-packed USJ-R coliseum in Basak, Pardo, Cebu. (RC Photos/Frei Bo)

OAR launches International Year of Recollect Educational Apostolate

BY JOHANNA MARIE O. BAJENTING

Strengthen Catholic presence in the academe around the world, stakeholders of the Recollect-run schools were told on Friday, August 28, 2015, during the declaration of the international year of Recollect educational apostolate.

Prior General Rev. Fr. Miguel Miro, OAR, with the approval of the General Council, proclaimed a year-long observance of International Year of the Augustinian Recollect Educational Apostolate from Aug. 28, 2015 to Aug. 28, 2016.

In the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno—which has jurisdiction over the Order’s missions in the Philippines, Taiwan and Sierra Leone—the opening ceremonies, which coincided with the feast of St. Augustine on August 28, was held at the

Recoletos Coliseum in the University’s Basak Campus.

In his homily, Prior Provincial Rev. Fr. Dionisio Quirante Selma, OAR urged the religious and lay administrators, faculty members, staff and students coming from the eight Recollect schools in the country to reaffirm their faith in education.

“Good education should lead us to the best education,” Fr. Selma said in his homily during the mass adding that there is a need to revitalize the educational structure for the members of the religious community to become more open minded to the diversity of culture not only here in the Philippines but also globally. “We have the restructuring which involves a lot of changes which can be painful and sensitive, but with that we are willing to introduce new reforms,” Fr. Selma said.

The Prior Provincial maintained that the Church respects liberal views like that of the LGBT community’s and challenged the Recollect students and alumni to stand up for the freedom of expression by respecting the individual while never losing sight of Christ’s teachings.

During the program after the mass, the Educational Plan of the Order (EPO) and the OAR Religious Graduate Attributes (RGA) were unveiled. The stakeholders of every Recollect school then took part in a ceremonial signing of commitment.

“This will be the Recollects’ one vision, one mission and core values to reiterate the main objective that the paradigm of education is evangelization all over the world,” USJ-R President Rev. Fr. Cristopher C. Maspara said.

Johann Torrato, a student representative of the SCC-R Cavite said that he saw unity among the Recollect schools present. “Alagang-alaga ka sa school pag Recoleta. Pinaparating sa atin ang kahalagahan at katagalan ng Recoletos sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo,” he said. (You’re being taken care of in a Recollect school. They

make us feel the importance and the duration of the Recollect presence in the Philippines and in the world.)

The development of the 10-hectare Recoletos Eco-park in Barangay Maslog, Danao City in northern Cebu was also announced, with the goal of planting 75,000 trees by 2022 in time for USJ-R’s 75th (diamond) founding anniversary. The eco-park will serve as a place for renewal and reforestation in an effort to bring the Josenian community and the public closer to God and nature.

The event was attended by the eight Recollect schools in the country, including USJ-R, University of Negros

Occidental-Recoletos, San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Manila, San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite, Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos, Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos, San Pedro Academy-Recoletos, and San Pedro Academy.

The Order manifests itself through missionary and academic works in 19 countries that include Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Spain, Mexico, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Italy. **RO**



The launching of IYEA started with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It was attended by students faculty, administrators and guests from the different OAR schools nationwide.



Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, prior provincial, with his councilors unveiled the official marker during the opening ceremony of the International Year of Augustinian Recollect Educational Apostolate.

The celebration of the Eucharist was followed by a parade of flags of the different countries where the Order of Augustinian Recollects are present such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sierra Leone, Taiwan, United Kingdom of Great Britain, United States of America, and Venezuela. OAR school banners were also part of the parade: Colegio de San Nicolas de Tolentino – Recoletos, Talisay City, Negros Occidental; University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental; University of San Jose – Recoletos (Main Campus, Basak Campus, and Balamban Campus), Cebu City; San Pedro Academy – Recoletos Valencia, Negros Oriental; San Pedro Academy – Recoletos Caidiocan, Valencia Negros Oriental; Colegio de Santo Tomas – Recoletos, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental; San Sebastian College – Recoletos de Cavite, Cavite City; San Sebastian College – Recoletos, Canlubang, Laguna; and San Sebastian College – Recoletos Manila.

The eight Provinces of the Order of Augustinian Recollect were also acknowledged during the event: Provincia de Santo Tomas de Villanueva, Provincia de San Nicolas de Tolentino, Provincia de Nuestra Señora De la Candelaria, Provincia de San Agustin, Provincia de San Jose, Provincia de Santa Rita, Provincia de Nuestra Señora De La Consolacion, and Provincia de San Ezequiel Moreno.

As part of the event, performances from the San Sebastian Jammerstags, the San Sebastian Recollect Dance Troupe, and students from different departments were showcased. Rev. Fr. Nemesio D. Tolentin, OAR, President, SSC-R Manila, gave the welcome remarks while the Provincial Secretary of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, Rev. Fr. Jose Enril Faraon Almayo, OAR gave the historical background and rationale of the gathering.

An audio-visual presentation of the members of SSC-R community was played during the event which showed the effects of the Recoletos education in their life. Among the persons interviewed were current students, faculty members, and successful alumni from different fields.

Rev. Fr. Julius M. Marcos, OAR, President of the Recoletos Educational Apostolate of the Philippines, gave his words of gratitude and asked the audience to stand up and pay respect to Rev. Fr. Cornelio E. Moral, OAR for his contributions to the formulation of the Recollect Graduate Attributes.

The event was concluded with a community dance and singing of “Our Greatest Deam” led by members of the Recoletos Education Assistance for Deserving Students (READS) and the singing of the SSC-R Hymn. **RD**

SSC-R Manila launches IYEA

BY PATRICIA BLESSY GONZALES

SSSC-R Manila launched the International Year of Educational Apostolate (IYEA) last September 8, 2015 at Bulwagang Diego Cera. The launching started with a Eucharistic Celebration presided by the Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, Rev. Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR with other OAR priests as concelebrants.



Fr. Provincial and his council with the religious administrators of SSC-R symbolically open IYEA. San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Manila holds its own version of the launching of the International Year of Augustinian Recollect Educational Apostolate (IYEA) on September 8, 2015, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, prior provincial officiates the celebration of the Holy Eucharist preceding the grand presentation. (RC Photos/Frei Bo)



The audience during the SSC-R Manila launching of IYEA: awaiting the opening salvo.



Lead characters entertaining the audience in their cultural presentation.



Recoletos Communications launches Laudato Si' and Provincial Website

BY FRAY LEANDER V. BARROT, OAR

PROVINCIAL CURIA — The 44th birthday celebration of the Prior of the Provincial house Fr. Ernill Almayo, OAR and the 50th Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Emilio Larlar, OAR occasioned the launching of the Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father Francis *Laudato Si'* on Care for our Common Home and the presentation of the revitalized Provincial website <http://recoletosfilipinas.org>.

The birthday celebrant, in his opening remarks quoted the prophetic phrase “faith seeking relevance” from a colleague Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, MB to capture the most important theological and moral issue of the era on ecology, climate change and the mother earth.

Bro. Tagoy Jakosalem, OAR, after demonstrating some salient points of the encyclical, presented its three very important contribution: *Laudato Si'* is a social encyclical about climate and environmental justice; It gives the spiritual and ethical dimension of the debate on environment which for sometime had been dominated by politics and science; and it takes the high moral ground on issues regarding

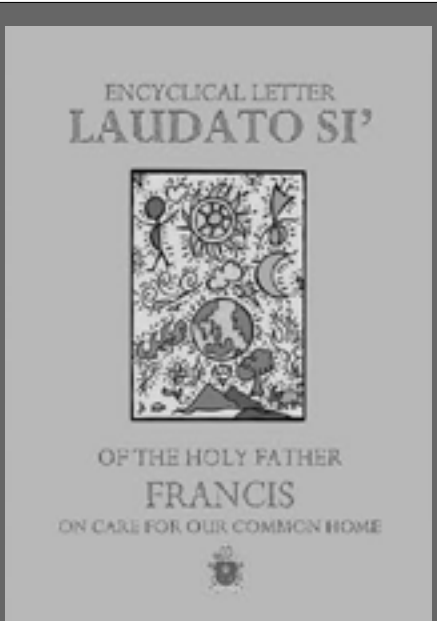
climate justice and climate change.

To symbolize the commitment of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno to the challenges posted by the encyclical letter, the Prior Provincial distributed printed copies of the encyclical to the representative of the various communities present. These copies, with some additional resources were “for the use of the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos as educational manual for the anchors, lay leaders and volunteers of the Commissions.”

Fr. Boyax Jaranilla, OAR, after almost a month of reconstructing and re-programming the hacked provincial website, presented to the Recoletos community the all new and responsive <http://recoletosfilipinas.org>. As he walked through the participants to the new and various features of the website, many who had their smart phones connected to the internet were interactively following his presentation.

The Prior Provincial, Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR, for his part thanked God and those who were present for the various gifts celebrated on this day: the gift of life, the gift of vocation to serve, the gift of Pope Francis to be concerned for all, and the gift of communication—the official website of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

RO



(above) *Laudato Si'* book cover photo;
(below) *RecoletosFilipinas.org* welcome page



IYEA launched in Recoletos de Sierra Leone

SIERRA LEONE—In synchrony with the rest of Recoletos schools worldwide, even the 53 primary schools in our mission stations in Sierra Leone, West Africa also launched the International Year of Educational Apostolate of the Order.

Fray Russell Lapidez, OAR, appointed head of missions in Sierra Leone, led the group of Recollect missionaries, catechists, teachers, and students celebrate the opening of IYEA. (RC Photos/Fray Russell Lapidez, OAR)





Pope Francis speaks to young religious about memory, closeness, prophecy

BY FRAY RALPH LAUREN CICERON, OAR

VATICAN CITY—Memory, Closeness, and Prophecy. These were the three words articulated by the beloved Pope on the third day (16th of September 2015) of the World Meeting for Young Consecrated Men and Women. The participants ballooned to roughly 6,000 who packed the Paul VI Hall to meet and listen to the Pontiff.

Immediately after greeting those present, Pope Francis expressed his closeness to those who suffer in the ongoing conflict in Iraq and Syria. “Few days ago,” he said, “a priest from Iraq visited me and presented a tiny crucifix which I bring with me these days.” The same priest, he narrated, was tortured because of Christ. Like the many martyrs of the past the Pope remembers the martyrs of today.

Then, three religious presented each a question to the Pope, which he answered later on based on three key words: Memory, Closeness, and Prophecy.

The key word “memory” was prompted by the question of a religious

from Syria. He raised a very personal query for the Pope: “Why did you become a religious?” In his response, Francis shared the moment of his own calling. “I remember the day when the Lord looked at me...and he asked me to share his memory,” he said. He narrated his experience of having approached the confessional and coming out as a different person. He said, life was changed in me. He then encouraged the consecrated people to go back to the memory of their first encounter with Christ.

Sr. Mary Jacinta, a religious from the Sisters of Charity of Maria Bambina, asked, “What is the mission of the young today... to whom shall we go, to where

is the Church sending us?” Francis answered it by directing the attention of those present to the nature of evangelization. “Evangelization,” he said, “is drawn from the heart. It is not the same as proselytism, like a football club asking, who will join us? It is not just convincing people rather it is done in the flesh (witnessed) in one’s life....study and courses are good but the capacity to warm hearts comes not from books but from the warmth of one’s heart.” The pope then gave special mention of the exceptional place and character of women religious. He noticed the dominant number of women religious present as well as their desire to be at the forefront. The pontiff commented that the phenomenon reflects the maternity

of women who wants to be intimate, to be close. Afterwards, he inspired them not to lose the sense of maternity and be icons of the motherhood of the Church and icons of our Blessed Mother Mary.

The last question which came from a cloistered nun was read by Sr. Sara, a religious of Don Guanella: “How can we avoid falling into mediocrity and on the other hand rigidity?” The pope then differentiated the freedom that comes from the Holy Spirit and the freedom that comes from the world. The freedom that comes from the Lord calls one to testimony. It inspires another to dream. “Rigidity,” he continued, “is the opposite of the capacity to dream.” He presented the image of a

mother who teaches her children to do things out of blind obedience. This type does not allow the child to grow and eventually affects the life of a child. The child becomes sterile (or incapacitated) in the same way that rigidity would make the consecrated life sterile.

Pope Francis also discussed various topics related to community living. He admonished them against the incapacity to forgive and against gossip which he likens to terrorism. “Gossip is not only a sin. It is also terrorism. The person who gossip throws a bomb on the other who in turn cannot defend himself...darkness is the place of gossip and darkness is of the devil... Pray instead”, he said.

The pontiff also warned against instability in one’s consecration. He calls this “the culture of the probational”. This reflects the throwaway culture wherein promises, like those committed in marriage, can easily be set aside. “The culture of the definitive have been set aside,” he stated.

Francis then recalled the story shared to him by a bishop about a candidate for the holy orders who expressed to be a priest but only for ten years.

The program was concluded with the pope inviting the young consecrated persons to pray and to be men and women of adoration. **RD**



Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, who represented the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, and Sr. Maria Cho, SM, Superior General, who represented the Sisters of Mary of Banneux, together inked a three-year bilateral agreement on said pastoral ministry.

According to the MOA, the Recoletos community in Laray, Talisay City, Cebu will minister to the spiritual needs of the students of the Sisters of Mary Girlstown in Talisay City, Cebu.

Also, the Recoletos through the community of San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite will extend its ministerial services to the Girlstown and Boystown, and in Fr. Al’s Memorabilia and the future Virgin of the Poor Shrine in Bo. Biga, Silang, Cavite.

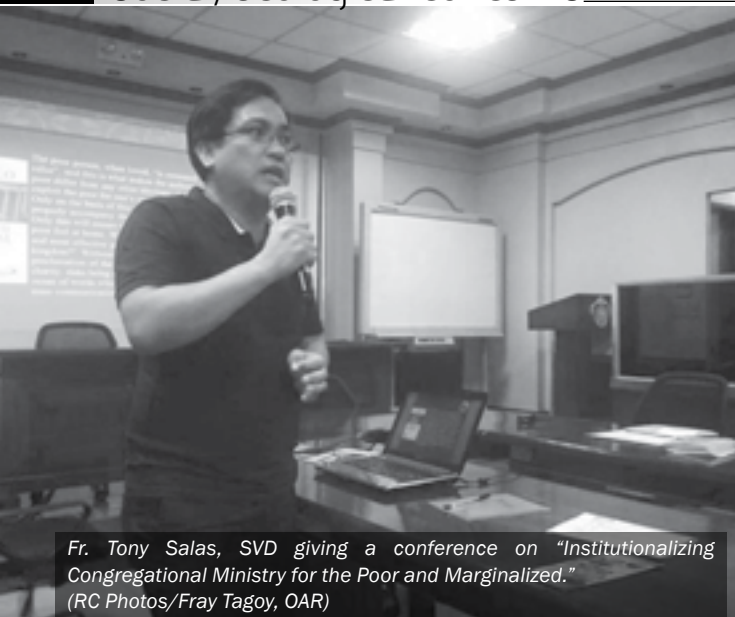
The said agreement also allowed the Recollects to promote devotion to Augustinian saints and vocation to the Augustinian Recollect religious life to these communities. Other details such as transportation “shall be agreed upon by both parties’ local communities.”

While this tie-up can be traced back to 2009, it acquired a renewed vigor with Pope Francis’ challenge on this Year of Consecrated Life “to step out more courageously from the confines of our respective Institutes and to work together, at the local and global levels, on projects involving formation, evangelization, and social action” (Apostolic Exhortation to All Consecrated People on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, 3c). **RD**

Recoletos and Sisters of Mary ink pact

BY FRAY JOSE ERNIL F. ALMAYO, OAR

PROVINCIAL CURIA—A signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the Recoletos and the Sisters of Mary of Banneux took place here at 2:30 in the afternoon on July 25, 2015. The pact expressed the former’s renewal of commitment to provide spiritual assistance to the latter.



Fr. Tony Salas, SVD giving a conference on "Institutionalizing Congregational Ministry for the Poor and Marginalized."
(RC Photos/Fray Tagoy, OAR)

CSEC-R holds seminar-workshop to intensify Corazón Solidario advocacy

BY FRAY TOL ALMAYO, OAR

CEBU CITY— A dozen of Recollect friars appointed as community anchors under the umbrella of the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos gathered at the University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu City for a seminar-workshop slated from September 16 to 17, 2015.

The first day was graced by Fr. Tony Salas, SVD who gave a conference on "Institutionalizing Congregational Ministry for the Poor and Marginalized".

The second day focused on individual reporting on the status and updates of respective community's

hired personnel vis-à-vis the Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the Province as well as on suggested programs and activities related to the Year of the Poor and the encyclical Laudato Si'.

"Among the main objectives of this activity are to give updates on the implementation of the LAMP assigned to our commission, to listen to the reports of the different CSEC-R anchors, and to plan for more intensified activities according to the Corazón Solidario advocacy designed by the Order," clarified Fray Jaazeal Jakosalem, chairman of CSEC-R.

In a letter addressed to Fray Jakosalem, the Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, tasked him "to creatively spearhead a province-wide version" of the Order's "Jornada Solidaria" or "Solidarity Day" which is proposed to start on November 8, 2015, a Sunday. **RD**



Fr. General and Fr. Vicar General with the young religious. (RC Photo/Fray Persiuz, OAR)

Recoletos join World Meeting of Young Consecrated Persons in Rome

BY Fray RALPH LAUREN CICERON, OAR

VATICAN CITY—The World Meeting for Young Consecrated Men and Women formally opened on September 15, 2015. An estimated crowd of 3,000 were received in the Vatican Square by His Eminence Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The first night was highlighted by a prayer vigil led by Msgr. José Rodríguez Carballo, Secretary of the Congregation, and the Taizé Community of France who ushered the faithful in prayer and meditation through Taizé-inspired chants.

During the vigil, Pope Francis' Message on the occasion of the opening of the Year of Consecrated Life was read before the gathering: "In convening this Year of Consecrated Life, fifty years after the promulgation of the conciliar decree Perfectae Caritatis on the renewal of religious life, I desire to re-propose before the whole

church the beauty and preciousness of this peculiar form of sequela Christi, represented by all of you who have decided to leave everything to imitate Christ more closely by profession of the evangelical counsels".

The brothers of the Order of Augustinian Recollects were among the throng who congregated enthusiastically for this event. Around thirty Recoletos friars together with the Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR were in attendance. Each of the eight provinces of the Order was represented. The Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno was represented by

three young friars who are currently studying in Rome: Frays Persiuz Joseph Decena, James Castelo, and Ralph Lauren Ciceron.

The theme for the said event "Wake up the World" is inspired by the Gospel of Mark 3:13 which states: "He called those whom he desired and they came to him".

The gathering, which will run from September 15 to 19 was set to inspire the young religious to appreciate better their specific vocation and be inflamed in their prophetic witness especially to those in the peripheries. **RD**

IYEA in pictures





IYEA in pictures



Bishop-elect Fr. Natale Paganelli, SX with His Holiness Pope Francis. (L'Osservatore Romano Photo)

Bishop-elect Paganelli is Apostolic Administrator of Makeni

BY Fray JOSE ERNIL F. ALMAYO, OAR

PROVINCIALATE — July 18, 2015, at 4:33 A.M., Philippine time, Fray Dominador Mercado, Jr., OAR, local prior of Recoletos de Kamalo in Sierra Leone, which is eight hours behind us, sent an FB message to the Provincial Secretary with two updates: first, that Ebola is already absent in their district for more than three months since late March, and second, that the Papal Nuncio would be coming to Makeni to announce a news—to which he added, “I hope good news. We will update you later, Father.” Ten hours later, Fray Mercado sent another message, the much-anticipated good news: “We have a new bishop-elect!”

He was referring to Rev. Fr. Natale Paganelli, SX, the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Makeni since 2012, and now elevated to the office of Bishop. Originally from Bergamo, Italy, Paganelli is a member of the religious congregation of Xaverians working in Sierra Leone.

During the appointment ceremony at the Pastoral Center in Makeni on July 18, at 10 A.M. (Sierra Leonean time), the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Mirosław Adamczyk, pointed out the patient work of Fr. Paganelli who “preserved the Church in Makeni from even greater disorder and lessened the suffering of the people of God still deprived of its Shepherd.”

On January 7, 2012, Pope Benedict

accepted the resignation of then Makeni Bishop Giorgio Biguzzi who has reached the age limit of 75. Bishop Henry Aruna, of the Diocese of Kenema, in the southeast of Sierra Leone, was named to succeed him, but he was not able to make his entry to the Diocese. Pope Francis appointed him auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Kenema.

Makeni started as an Apostolic Prefecture in 1952. It became a Diocese in 1962. As of 2014 statistics, the Diocese of Makeni has 25 parishes.

Bishop-elect Paganelli was born on December 24, 1956. He entered the Theological Xaverian School in Parma, Italy, where he completed

his philosophy and theology (1975-1981). He was ordained a priest on December 25, 1980 in Parma. After ordination, he spent 22 years as a missionary in Mexico before going to Sierra Leone in 2005. After learning English in London for almost a year (2004-2005), he hopped to Sierra Leone where he served as assistant parish priest in Madina (Diocese of Makeni, 2006-07), regional superior of the Xaverians of Sierra Leone (2007), and apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Makeni (2012).

The two parishes administered by the Recoletos, namely, Our Lady of Sierra Leone Parish in Kamabai and St. Paul Parish in Kamalo, belong to the Diocese of Makeni. **✠**

September 29, 2015—Fr. Provincial and local superiors gathered at the provincialate during the first superiors' meeting of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno for the triennium 2015-2018. (RC Photo/Frei Bo)



Haart

General Council, priors provincial meet in Spain

BY FRAY TOL ALMAYO, OAR

Granada, SPAIN—Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, Prior General, led other top officials from the General Curia and from the eight Provinces of the Order in a meeting held in the historic convent of Monachil, Granada, Spain from November 29 to December 4, 2015.



"A pose for posterity" (RC Photo/Fray Diony Selma, OAR)

In his official communication addressed to all the Priors Provincial, Father Miró pointed out that the assembly will form part of the preparations for the upcoming LV General Chapter in Rome in October 2016. As per instruction, each province will submit its own "State of the Province" report and suggestions tackling juridical issues mentioned in the Life and Mission Project of the Order 2014-2016.

For his part, Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, called his Council twice for a meeting to summarize the facts and figures

and recommendations that will be conveyed during that 15-man delegation meet in southern Spain.

In the final draft of the report, one can read: "On November 28, 2015, the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, the youngest of the eight provinces of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, will turn 17. And it is coincidental that while it was in Monachil, Granada, Spain where it was given light of day by the 52nd General Chapter, it will also be there that the forthcoming meeting of the General Council and the Priors Provincial will take place on November 29 to

social/ecological concerns

December 4, 2015.

"Just as it was on a Saturday that the Chapter's Act 19 ordaining the birth of the eighth province was approved, it will also be on a Saturday this year that it will celebrate its 17th founding anniversary. And this State of the Province of St. Ezekiel (as of November this year) appears like a "progress report" to be made before the brothers representing the entire Order so that everyone will come to know: where are we now? how far have we gone since

then? where are we going? what are our views and plans vis-à-vis the Life and Mission Project of the Order?"

On December 5, the 427th anniversary of the Recollection, all roads in Recollect Spain will lead to Madrid for the Booklaunch of Fray Angel Martínez Cuesta's volume 2 of the History of the Augustinian Recollects "which narrates the history of the Order during the 19th century in Spain, Colombia and the Philippines." **R**

Recoletos' Heart Solidarity campaign launched

BY IOANNES P. ARONG



Tree planting by delegates to Heart Solidarity campaign at Recoletos eco-park. (USJ-R Photo)

Talavera House of Prayer, Cebu City - To deepen its commitment to its social action works, the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) in the Philippines launched the "Heart Solidarity" campaign at the Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos last November 6.

The launching of the campaign was attended by Prior Provincial Rev. Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR, 17 other Recollect priests and religious, and over 50 lay people from the Order's different parishes and academic institutions, including USJ-R.

"Heart Solidarity campaign is the concrete response of the Prior General to the calling of Pope Francis to take better care of creation, which involves the human person," said Fr. Selma.

Fr. Selma was referring to the declaration by the Order's Prior General Rev. Fr. Miguel Miro, OAR of November 8, 2015 as "Solidarity from the Heart Day," which seeks to highlight the Order's social action works.

In the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, which has jurisdiction over the Order's missions in the Philippines and Sierra Leone, the Recollects held a two-day talks and sharing on the Order's social action works at the Recollects' house of prayer in Quiot Pardo, Cebu City to

mark the celebration.

The talks by invited speakers revolved around the theme: “Heart Solidarity: Recoletos called to seek out the Lost, the Last and the Least.”

Fr. Selma, who presided over the Holy Mass for the creation and launching of the Heart Solidarity campaign, said the Prior General wished that all members of the Recollect family, including the laity, be involved in the Order’s social action works.

“We need to mobilize the laity for a wider reach,” Fr. Selma said. “Becoming a Good Samaritan is not an exclusive calling of the religious.”

The first day of the event saw Fr. Tito Soquiño, OSA and Fr. Tony Salas, SVD talking about the topics “Cry of the poor: From the perspective of Pope Francis and the Philippine situation” and “Cry of the poor: Towards an

integral response and commitment” respectively.

In the morning of the second day, November 7, the delegates performed a concrete act of taking care of creation by planting jackfruit seedlings in the 10-hectare Recoletos Ecopark in Maslog, Danao City, northern Cebu.

In the afternoon, Fr. John Leydon, MScC talked about “Cry of the earth: Living Laudato Si” while Bishop Gerardo Alminaza of the diocese of San Carlos facilitated discussions on the topic “Community of the poor.”

Bro. Jaazeal Jakosalem, OAR, chair of the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos (CSEC-R) said Heart Solidarity campaign looks to “centralize the social action efforts” of the Order for a more efficient implementation.

“Before going to the campaign, we need to reexamine, to assess, to be

informed about the meaning of our campaign,” Bro. Jakosalem said.

“The conferences and seminars are meant to embolden us, to deepen more our commitment so that when an untoward event that needs our attention occurs, everybody is committed, everybody is aware of what the Order will do,” he added.

Among the social action works of the Order include housing for families displaced by calamities, socio-economic livelihood projects, and scholarships, among others.

“Working from the heart is a very Augustinian Recollect virtue,” Fr. Selma said. “You may be taking good care of creation, you may be looking after the needs of others, but if you are just forced to do it, if you are not doing it out of love, you might as well drop whatever you are doing.” **RD**

Fr. Duran speaks to UNORians

BY CARLOS LEGASPI, JR.



Fr. Julius Marcos, OAR, Fr. Jose Manuel Duran, OAR, and Fr. Edcel Celiz, Jr., OAR, with UNO-R students. (UNO-R Photo/Carlos Legaspi, Jr.)

Rev. Fr. Jose Manuel Duran, OAR, spoke to the Unorians at the President’s Hall, 10:30 am, December 1, 2015. Fr. Duran has been assigned to the Philippines before when the Province was still a vicariate of the OAR Province of St. Nicholas of Tolentino. His visit to the Philippines is to share his insights on seminary formation and about the Augustinian Recollect Formation Itinerary (ARFI) and the recollect way of life and the vocation to consecrated life among the students, faculty and staff of Recoletos schools. He spoke to around 300 students of Religious Education. **RD**



Fr. José Manuel González Durán, OAR, speaks before OAR and AR formands at Recoletos Formation Center. (RC Photo/Frei Bo)

“Return to the Heart” goes viral in OAR communities

BY FRAY BOYAX JARANILLA, OAR

QUEZON CITY—Fray José Manuel González Durán, OAR, is in the Philippines for a series of conferences for Augustinian Recollect Formation Itinerary (ARFI) from November 25 to December 4, 2015.

The conference focuses on the theme “Return to the heart: wisdom of interiority, community and the Recollection.” The emphasis on the affective dimension of formation stirred attention and interest that it has gone viral as religious went back to their communities. Fray Manuel has been working with the formation apostolate for quite some time in the province of St. Nicholas of Tolentine which makes him a credible resource person to speak on the topic. He is presently assigned in Mexico. **RD**



USJ-R hosts REAP Seminar on Education Laws

BY USJ-R CORRESPONDENT

CEBU CITY — The University of San Jose-Recoletos hosts the 2-day seminar on legal issues affecting Philippine education. The seminar is spearheaded by the Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP) which is an aggrupation of all schools, colleges, and universities run by the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) in the country. The said activity unfolds in Cebu City's Hotel La Fortuna from July 28-29, 2015.

Atty. Ulpiano "Ulan" P. Sarmiento III speaking before the participants of the REAP seminar. (USJ-R Photo/Edmondo Navarro)

In his welcome address, newly-installed USJ-R president, Fr. Cristopher C. Maspara, OAR, said he hopes they "will learn the things they need" in running their respective institutions. REAP President, Fr. Julius M. Marcos, OAR, said that the seminar aims to help Recollect friars, especially the first timers, in the school. He further said that while Catholic learning institutions have adequate rules and regulations that govern private schools for the formation of conscience of human persons to develop judgment for the common good, they are also required to know the laws relevant to private schools.

In attendance of the seminar are 70 lay and religious administrators from Recollect schools who are either new to their positions or need to review the laws governing education.

USJ-R Human Resource Director, Dr. Anabella Barcena, considered the inputs "very helpful in correcting misconceptions" about the laws that govern students, faculty, and administrators.

Yesterday's focus was on Basic Government Laws for New Administrators of Private Schools that include academic freedom as enjoyed by the institution, faculty, and students; tuition fee increase; issues involving students like discipline, rights, admission and re-admission.

The seminar is also considered by Dr. Agnes Sequino, Director of the Center for Policy, Research and Development Studies (CPRDS) as "highly important in the practice of educational management."

Discussion will focus on Updates on Education Laws, jurisprudence and the most controversial K to 12

or Enhanced Basic Education of the Philippines. Invited to tackle the legal issues is the recognized author, former legislator, education laws expert and dean of San Beda College of Law, Atty. Ulpiano "Ulan" P. Sarmiento III.

Among the learning institutions run by the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) in the country are University of Negros Occidental - Recoletos in Bacolod City, University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City, San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Manila, San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Cavite City, Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino - Recoletos in Talisay City (Negros Occidental), Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos in San Carlos City, San Pedro Academy in Valencia (Negros Oriental), San Pedro Academy - Recoletos in Caidiocan, and Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary in Baguio City. **RD**

UNO-R Institutional Planning 2015

BY CARLOS LEGASPI, JR.

BACOLOD CITY--The university administrators, Program Chairs, and UNOFELA representatives gathered at the Forest Park in Taculing, Bacolod City, October 28-29, 2015 for its 2015-2020 Institutional Planning. The Sessions started with the Opening Remarks of Fr. President and the setting of the mood by Engr. Mona Freda Secondes, PhD and Dr. Elmer Haro. The presentation of the revised Philosophy-Vision-Mission and the formulation of the UNO-R Graduate Attributes were done and was followed by the reporting of strategies made by the different committees for the themes and agenda statements that were previously formulated.

Dr. Elmer Haro presented the revised Philosophy-Vision-Mission and the Graduate Attributes to the body and was further refined and for the School Board to decide on its adoption. The group on the Human Capital Management presented their report through Mrs. Eden Galve. After Lunch three groups presented their reports on Research Culture by Engr. Mona Freda Secondes, PhD; the Collaboration and Partnership group by Dr. Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr. and

the Outreach Service program Group by Fr. Abraham Latoza, OAR. The day capped with the report of the group on Accreditation and Certification by Dr. Haro.

Day 2 opened with the prayer led by VP-Administration, Rev. Fr. Enrico Peter Silab, OAR. Dr. Elmer Haro recapped the activities of Day 1. The reporting of the groups continued with Engr. Christopher Taclobos for Campus Sustainability; Dr. Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr for Program

Marketing; Dr. Carmenda Leonoras for Management Efficiency and Fr. Latoza, OAR for Evangelization. In the afternoon, Team Building session was conducted by Mr. Jojo Vito after the Opening remarks of VP- Academics, Rev. Fr. Albert Pellazar, OAR. The two-day activity was closed by Dr. Carmenda Leonoras, University Registrar, gave the closing Remarks by challenging everyone to cooperate and materialize the plans for the good of the institution. **RD**

Participants to the 2015 UNO-R Institutional Planning with Fr. President and Mr. Jojo Vito. (UNO-R Photo)

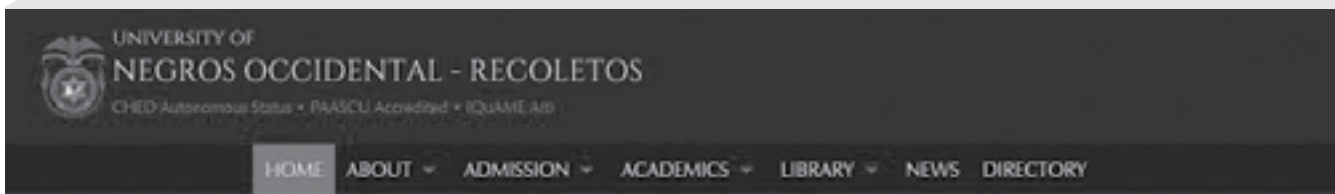


UNO-R appoints new officers

By virtue of University President Memorandum no. 055 Series SY 2015-16 issued on the 27th of October 2015, the following appointments were made upon the approval of the School Board:

Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr, PhD	- Director for External Affairs
Dexter Paul Dioso, MA	- Director of Student Affairs
Elmer Haro, PhD	- Director, Quality Assurance and Planning Office
	Dean of the College of Information Technology
Engr. Vicente Lamson	- Campus Planning Consultant
Ma. Riza Manalo, PhD	- Dean, College of Education
Reymund Sabay, PhD	- Focal Person, Senior High School Program

Their appointments take effect on November 1, 2015 until May 31, 2016.



The University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos, or UNO-R, is a private catholic university administered by the Order of Augustinian Recollects. Home of the Golden Rams, it is the first university in the province of Negros Occidental.



Admission



Departments



Support Services



News



UNO-R Rams capture NOPSSCEA season 35 men's basketball crown

BY CARLOS LEGASPI, JR.

Playing at the enemy's homecourt did not stop the UNO-R Rams from completing a two-game sweep of the best-of-three finals as they beat the USLS Stingers, 75-68, at the St. La Salle Coliseum last Friday night to bag the NOPSSCEA Season 35 men's basketball title.

It was the second for the Recoletos team four years after Roland "Giom" Aledron took over the reins as head coach of the Rams. "This is second in four years and I am giving credit to the players for showing great teamwork," Aledron said. "After winning Game 1, I told our players that we need to win in Game 2 and end the series. No more Game 3," he added. While the Rams journey to the championship this year was far from perfect and there were games in the early rounds that left them frustrated, the back-to-back win against the Stingers in this year's finals showed the dominating side of the team. Last Friday night's Game 2 saw the Stingers up by a point in the first quarter, 20-19, with Harvey Eslawa scoring 6 points, the Rams bounced back in the second canto and outscored their host, 21-17,

to take the lead at halftime, 40-37. And like in Game 1, when the Rams upped the tempo of their play in the second half, the Stingers' offense once again took a back seat in Game 2 as they repeatedly failed from salvaging second chance points. A flicker of hope momentarily ignited the Stingers' camp as Dave Chuatico hit a triple in the 8th minute mark of the fourth quarter to put the Stingers 2 points behind at 51-53, but the Rams were unshaken as Kim Damaranan completed a three-point play to give his team a 5-point lead. Chuatico hit another jumper to make it 53-58 and USLS had the momentum after UNO-R failed to score in transition but a bad pass delivered the ball into Coleen Testa's for another quick two points for the Rams. From then on, Ritcher Santillan took over as he

made his presence felt and completed another three-point play to give the Rams a 10-point lead at 63-53 with 4:46 left in the game. Running out of time, the Stingers tried to redeem themselves with attempts from the three-point area with Eslawa and Jasper Villacampa hitting their mark. But the Rams were determined to end the series in Game 2 as they calmly converted free throws in the final minutes of the game. Santillan topscored for the Rams with 18 points while Stefano Ayuco, who exploded with 9 points in the second quarter, tallied 16 and Dimaranan added 12 points. Villacampa led the Stingers with 16 points and Eslawa finished with 11. (*Nida Buenafe, Visayan Daily Star, November 28 issue*)

Recoletos de Cavite welcomes Cavite Historical Society

BY ERIKA EFIGENIA ALIX

CAVITE CITY—As part of its quadricentennial celebrations, the SSC-R de Cavite religious administrators welcomed members of the Cavite Historical Society (CHS) in a meeting at the St. Thomas of Villanova Main Campus Library last September 19, 2015. The President of the CHS, former Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, met with Rev. Fr. Emilio Edgardo Quilatan, OAR, HED (Dean of the Studies of Recoletos School of Theology), Rev. Fr. Cristituto A. Palomar, OAR (President of SSC-RdC), and Rev. Fr. Felipe U. Rollon, Jr., OAR (Vice President for Student Welfare).

The meeting was significant in the light of orienting Caviteños about the continuing presence of the Recollects in the province of Cavite, such as the propagation of the devotion to St. Ezekiel Moreno. The CHS members also offered their assistance in reclaiming the belfry of the St. Nicholas Parish Church remains, a monument of the then Sta. Monica College run by the Augustinian Recollect Sisters. **RD**



SSC-RdC religious administrators meeting with Virata. (SSCRdC Photo/Erika Alix)

One hundred SPA-R students receive scholarship

BY FRAY JOSEPH CYPRIAN J, PANALIGAN, OAR



SPA-R students receiving the subsidy from EDC through Rev. Fr. Urbano Galanido, OAR. (SPA-R photo)

San Pedro Academy- Recoletos, Caidiocan —On October 20, 2015, one hundred (100) students of San Pedro Academy- Recoletos were given the scholarship from Energy Development Corporation's (EDC) Scholarship Program at Valencia Gym.

Energy Development Corporation is a private company that manages the geothermal plantations in Caidiocan, Valencia, Negros Oriental. The company provides clean energy throughout the Philippines. As part of their advocacy, they don't just provide electricity to the place but opportunities for the people. And one of them is through education. The scholarship program assists those students with financial problem but

very eager to learn.

Every school-year, one hundred deserving students from San Pedro Academy-Recoletos (SPA-R) will have the opportunity to be an EDC scholar. Those whose average grade is not lower than 80% can be qualified as a scholar. SPA-R is just one of the four privileged Secondary Schools that were given the scholarship program from EDC. The other three schools are Balogo National Highschool,

Pulang-bato National Highschool, and Valencia National Highschool. All in all, there were hundred (400) scholars during the awarding. Each scholar received two thousand five hundred pesos (Php 2,500.00) during the event, which is just half of the subsidy, the other half will be given before the end of the school year. The subsidy will cover mostly the tuition fee of every student. **RD**

16 Recollect aspirants receive religious habit

BY FRAY ANTHONY P. IRINEO, OAR

BAGUIO CITY—"The habit does not make a monk," Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, the Prior Provincial, remarked in his homily to the sixteen candidates to the *Toma de Habito* in the Our Lady of the Pillar chapel of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary.

Since the taking of the habit symbolizes the formal acceptance of the aspirants to the next stage of formation, Fr. Selma used it as his starting point to deliver his message. "I have a confession to make" actually was his opening line which captured the attention of the eight CaReS formators, six other Recollect priests who concelebrated with him, 73 college seminarians, parents, guardians, relatives of the candidates, benefactors, lay formators, SARF members, and invited guests. "I had an 'immature' motive in entering the seminary," he confessed. He was attracted to the Recollect habit, especially the belt, because since his younger years, as a martial arts enthusiast, he wanted to be a black belter. In his mind, being a Recollect seminarian who wears the habit with the attached black belt around the waist would make him then an instant black belter!

The "taking of the habit" or investiture marks the start of the postulancy stage of formation of these young men in the Order

of Augustinian Recollects after, at least, two years of their commendable stay in the formation house. The event coincided with the feast day celebration of the seminary's patroness, *Nuestra Señora del Pilar*, which falls on October 12. In the past, it was usually held on August 28, the fiesta of St. Augustine, but due to the transfer of the opening of classes from June to August, hence the change of the date of the investiture.

To drive his point on the importance of the habit in religious life, Fr. Selma mentioned *Perfectae Caritatis* or the Decree on the Up-to-Date Renewal of Religious Life from which he quoted no. 17 of the Vatican II document, "the religious habit, as a symbol of consecration [...] must be suited to the times and place and to the needs of the apostolate." Moreover, he stressed, "the habit is a sign of consecration and a testimony to poverty" (1983 Code of Canon Law no. 669).

This formation year 2015-2016, the newly invested brothers came from

two year levels—Bros. Nero Bautista, a computer engineering student before his entrance to the seminary; Enrico Gallego, an architecture graduate; Rem Ruel Encenzo and Ray Jay Quevedo both came from other seminaries before joining the Recollects, are from the fourth year college level or "The Believers" and the twelve brothers belong to the third year college level who call themselves "The Luminaries."

In the Philippines, the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, due to its climate, the Recollects are permitted to wear the white color of the Recollect habit. In other parts of the world, the Recollects are seen in their black habit, especially in any liturgical act. The professed Recollect religious, aside from the habit and the cincture (belt) have the *capucha* (cowl or hood) placed over their shoulders of which its tradition is traced back from the Order's contemplative and mendicant way of life. **RD**

CaReS personnel celebrate feast day

BY FRAY ANTHONY P. IRINEO, OAR

BAGUIO CITY – November 7 is a big letter day for the Recollect employees. It is the personnel day of the Recollect communities in almost 20 countries, including the Philippines, where the Order has its presence.

In Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary (CaReS), the community where college seminarians and their formators are housed, the occasion was celebrated on November 6-8, 2015. A recollection with excursion was held at White House Beach Resort, Bauang, La Union on November 6-7. It was facilitated by Fray Leonardo Pauligue, the seminary spiritual director. He was assisted by Fray Raymund Alcedo, the seminary procurator who directly supervises the workforce, and three seminarians who also take charge of the personnel's spiritual formation program. After their recollection, outdoor games were participated in by the thirteen regular and two contractual employees. Towards the evening and continued the following morning, the resort's swimming pool and calm blue sea were filled with their recharged bodies and souls.

On Sunday, November 8, the seminary staff attended the 7:00 A.M. Mass in the Our Lady of Pillar chapel of the seminary. They were assigned as readers, cantors of the responsorial psalm, and collectors. Some of them offered gifts to the altar. By noon time, with their respective family members, the employees gathered at the seminary refectory where the formators and seminarians treated them for lunch and a program.

Four personnel are recipients of service awards this year. Miss Joyvell Dioquino, the administrative assistant, received a certificate of appreciation and cash gift from Fray Bernard Amparado, seminary Rector and Fray Joseph Philip Trayvilla, Vice Rector, for her ten years of dedicated service. Mr. Judas Estabillo has already rendered twenty five years of committed service to the community as a kitchen assistant



Blessed Gratia of Kotor
Patron of OSA/OAR Personnel

before, to security, grounds and building maintenance personnel, rolled into one at present. Miss Melanie Oquias, a member of the Third Order and kitchen personnel of the seminary for nine years and Miss Flordeliza Geron, a seminary laundrywoman, are this year's retirees.

As a tribute to them, the first year brothers (The Martyrs) presented a dance number. The second year brothers (The Vanguarders) had their improvised band and singing performance. The third year brothers (The Luminaries) showcased their "seminaryo-serye" while the fourth year brothers (The Believers) led the community in the closing prayer. The personnel also did their best and rendered the meaningful song, Handog. As a surprise, the formators serenaded the personnel and the community with their melodious rendition of the song, You by Karen Carpenter and another one, anticipating that the community will shout for one

more so they had prepared the song, More by Frank Sinatra.

This Personnel Day celebration is in connection with the memorial of Blessed Gratia of Kotor (on the Dalmatian coast in former Yugoslavia), a religious of the Order of St. Augustine (OSA), who, like his father, was a sailor from his teenage life until he reached the age of 30. After hearing the sermon of Blessed Simon Camerino in the Augustinian church of St. Stephen in Venice, he was deeply moved and decided to enter the convent. Later, he became a brother who worked primarily in the monastery garden, and distinguished himself by his virtuous life and love of the Eucharist. He took the name Gratia out of gratitude to God for the many gifts he had received. He is the patron saint of the Recollect and also the Augustinian personnel.

"Gratia might have been considered a belated vocation in his day, earning a living by the hard labor of an itinerant sailor. Following his entrance into religious life he continued to use his natural gifts in the service of God and his community, and by his simple but genuine demeanor drew others to also recognize the grace of God at work in their lives," the augustinian.net website quoted.

While the employees were out of the community for two days, the members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity of CaReS Chapter took turn in cooking, preparing the refectory, serving food, and washing dishes for the formators and seminarians. With their kindness and collaboration, indeed, there is truth to what the psalmist says, "How good and how pleasant it is for brothers (and sisters) to live together in unity and harmony" (Ps 133:1). **RD**

Day of the Order at CaReS

BY FRAY ANTHONY P. IRINEO, OAR

BAGUIO CITY – December 5 is the Day of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. It was on that date, 427 years ago (1588) that the Recollection came into existence in the Province of Castile, Spain and thereat spread to twenty countries.

To specially commemorate this historical moment, Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary (CARES) had the 6:15 AM Mass officiated by the Prior of the House, Fray Bernard C. Amparado, OAR and with him to concelebrate were the members of the community. Within the Eucharistic celebration, after the homily, the seven religious had their renewal of vows and followed by the Secular Augustinian Recollects' renewal of promises.

A simple breakfast was shared by the community together with the SAR members and the mass-goers right after the Mass.

By 3:00 PM, the Music department of the University of Baguio, through Sir Miguel Villacruz, had their end of the semester recital held at the newly renovated little theater of the seminary. Performances of UB guitars, UB rondalla, Cordilleran Gangsa and Bamboo class, aweed the CARES community and also the

family and visitors invited by, more or less, fifty performers themselves.

After dinner, the awarding of certificates and prizes of the concluded annual Sportsfest of the seminary ensued. The night became a bonding moment of the formators and seminarians, not only to celebrate the Day of the Recollection but also as a treat for the fruitful hosting of the 11th Recollect Augustinian Youth Summit. **RD**



CARES community at breakfast after the Mass. (CaReS Photo/Fray Leo Pauligue, OAR)



RAY Antipolo with the pre-novices performing the traditional Caracol. (RC Photo/ Frei Bo)

Recoletos de Antipolo celebrates St. Ezekiel's Day

BY BRO. JAMES EROLD POTENTE GATINAO

AUGUST 14, 2015 – The community, headed by Rev. Fr. Bernabe Dosdos, OAR, the Prior of the house, visited the Rizal Provincial Hospital System (RPHS). The group administered a healing rite through the intercession of St. Ezekiel Moreno. They also rendered some lively songs and animations for the sick in the said hospital. At 12:00 noon, Fr. Bernabe Dosdos, OAR, Fr. Leopoldo Estioko, OAR, Fr. Manuel Lipardo, OAR, and Fr. Roland Cepe, OAR, presided the healing mass in honor of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

The event served as part of the activity for the feast of a Recollect Saint, Ezekiel Moreno, the patron of cancer patients.

AUGUST 16, 2015 – The Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) and the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) fed more or less, 150 children from the surrounding areas of the seminary. They also fed them spiritually through catechism. The SARF and the RAY were rewarded with smiles from the children as the activity ended.

AUGUST 18, 2015 – The SEMONORE held a Religious Night. The religious priests and brothers, together with the seminarians exercised fraternal bond through basketball games. The event continued with a dinner integrated with a short program.

AUGUST 19, 2015 – The celebration officially started at about 9:30 AM with the launching of Prof. Emmanuel Luis Romanillos' book, Life and Spirituality of St. Ezekiel Moreno Parish Priest of Las Piñas (1876-1879). It was followed by the tribute dance to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the known devotion of the aforementioned saint. After which, the RAY members and the pre-novices performed the traditional dance of Antipolo called Caracol.

Rev. Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR, the Prior Provincial, presided the solemn Eucharistic celebration which ended with a healing rite. A program and a buffet ended the activity. **RD**



OAR welcomes 3 new solemn professed brothers

BY FRAY REYNALDO E. JARANILLA, OAR

Quezon City—Three (3) religious brothers, namely, Fray Roweno Eugenio L. Hamo, Fray Sir Michael C. Dineros and Fray Mark Saludes of the Order of Augustinian Recollects in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno took their solemn profession of vows yesterday, September 12, 2015 in the church of Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of the said OAR province welcomed the newly professed in behalf of the Prior General of the Order, Fr. Miguel Miró Miró, OAR. (RC Photos/Frei Bo)



*going to where
the Church sends us*

Order of Augustinian Recollects • Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno
Philippines • Taiwan • Sierra Leone

24 Neptune St., Brgy. Bahay Toro, 1106 Quezon City
+632.921.6103 • (fax)+632.456.1658 • provsec_stezeziel@yahoo.com • recoletosfilipinas.org



The newly ordained deacons presented before the people of God. (RC Photo/Frei Bo)



Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno at 17 receives 5 new deacons

BY FRAY EMILIO A. QUILATAN, OAR

Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City – On November 28, 2015, the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno celebrated its 17th Anniversary Foundation. As a fitting gratitude to God’s goodness, the province offered five of its brothers to Mother Church as deacons.

His Excellency, Bishop Julito B. Cortes, DD, of the Diocese of Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, ordained to the diaconate the following:
Fray Mark R. Saludes, OAR
Fray Sir Michael C. Dineros, OAR
Fray Roweno Eugenio L. Hamo, OAR
Fray Jayferson A. Baldeovar, OAR
Fray John Paul R. Tanquis, OAR

The rite of ordination to the diaconate was held at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church, Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City, at 9:00 AM. The Augustinian Recollect Family – religious priests, brothers, sisters and the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity – as well as priests and religious from other congregations, families, friends and benefactors of

the newly ordained deacons graced the celebration.
The five new deacons will begin a new stage of formation called the “transitional diaconate,” when for at least six months as required by Church Law, they begin their religious-pastoral program in preparation for the priesthood. **RD**



Archbishop Soc Villegas and concelebrants laying their hands on the newly ordained. (RC Photo/Frei Bo)

A Date to Remember in the Annals of OAR History

BY PROF. LUIGI ROMANILLOS

An unforgettable event ever! What a rare blessing from Almighty God for the Order of Augustinian Recollects! What a great number of workers for the Lord's harvest! Never in the annals of history of the Augustinian Recollects in the Philippines since 1606 were so many Filipino priests ordained to the Sacred Order of Presbyterate—10 priests.

The new Recollect priests come from all over the Philippines: Ken Oliver Lao from Candelaria, Quezon; Nelson Plohimon from Kabankalan City, Jerik Troy Siozon from Tacloban City, Rafael Pecson from Jolo, Sulu; Mark Ryan Prado from Aklan; Nimrod Launio from Santa Barbara, Iloilo; Lounal Jarumay from Canlaon City;

Leo Neil Bullos from Banga, South Cotabato; John Zachary Haguisan from Sipalay City and Enrico Nacorda from Cebu City.

The ordaining prelate Archbishop Socrates Villegas DD of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan was joined by more than sixty priests, including Augustinian confreres and secular

clerics. Most of the concelebrants, however, were Augustinian Recollects from communities in Manila, Quezon City, Antipolo City, Cavite City, Palawan and Cebu City. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass commenced at 3:00 in the afternoon of 8 December 2015 at Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church, Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City.



RC Photos/Frei Bo

The ordination rites ended at already past six in the evening after the reading of the Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis to the new Recollect ordained priests by Rome-based General Councilor Samson Silloriquez, then followed by Prior Provincial Dionisio Selma's acknowledging their parents and finally the reading of individual "patentes" [Spanish for assignment papers] to the new priests by Provincial Secretary Jose Ernil Almayo. The traditional kissing of the hands of the new ministers began at 6:30 pm.

At the outset of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the CBCP president asked the beloved patroness of the Philippines, the Immaculate Conception, to bless the ten Augustinian Recollect deacons who were to receive the Order of Priesthood. He sought divine favors from the Immaculate Conception, the graces for the future priests in their new lives as consecrated priests of her Divine Son.

In his homily, Archbishop Soc who did not read his prepared text throughout, if ever he had one, began by relating his first commitment in the morning: he gave the First Holy Communion

to young children. He recounted the great encompassing love of God. God is love and the Eucharist is the living proof of that love. He told the ordinandi that God's love is immense: "You cannot contain God's love."

The archbishop, fondly called "Bishop Soc" said new priests would be dispensers of the Sacraments of Christ Jesus. And he added: "You will be His walking Sacraments. People will look at you as His walking Sacraments. When people see you, they will be reminded of God, they will recall God's immeasurable love for His people. They will see God in you. They will see you as poor like His Son and obedient to bishops and superiors."

"People will see you and realize," Bishop Soc addressed the Recollect deacons, "that the source of happiness is neither money nor sex nor pleasure but solely God. He is the real source of our long-lasting happiness. God alone suffices; He alone can make you happy." Then he recited from memory Saint Augustine: "O beauty ever ancient, ever new, too late have I loved You.... Our heart is restless until it rests in You."

He continued: "You shall not be

afraid of anything. Not even of death. You shall be afraid only of sin." They should not be afraid of the Cross, of carrying the Cross of Jesus. He went on: "You will receive though your ordination many duties as well. You receive the duty of hearing confessions. Confession is a duty. Do not forgo your duty to be at the confessional, to receive the penitents and hear and forgive their sins, as Christ had told his Apostles."

Bishop Soc then asked them: "Where are you going? A very Filipino question: "Saang punta mo? Saan ka pupunta?" Then he immediately answered the own query: "You are going to Heaven. Yes, you are going to Heaven, whether you will be assigned in the missions or in the parish or in the seminary. You are going to Heaven in the any place of assignment."

Then Archbishop Villegas thanked the soon-to-be priests for inviting him to be their ordaining prelate: "I am thankful to be part of this very important phase of your priestly vocation. "Beginning today," he wrapped up by saying "We are stuck with each other. May God bless you always." **RD**



Taiwan Mission marks 50 and 25 years

Taliao, Kaohsiung County [Taiwan]—His Excellency Archbishop Peter Liu Cheng-chung, D.D., Archbishop of Kaohsiung and Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno graced the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Recollect parish church in Taliao and the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the first Filipino missionaries to Taiwan on September 6, 2015. (RC Photos/Fray Diony Selma, OAR, and Fray Owen Maturan, OAR)





Chada Valencia

BY FRAY JOSEPH CYPRIAN J, PANALIGAN, OAR

Valencia, Negros Oriental— On October 12, 2015 the town celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Abandoned. Valencianons and pilgrims all over Negros flocked the parish to honor the Lady of Valencia. Msgr. Gamaliel Tulabing, Vicar General of the Diocese of Dumaguete, together with OAR priests and Diocesan clergy, celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Here at Valencia the month of October is not just a season for “rambotan” and “lansones”, but it’s a month dedicated to Mary as Our Lady of the Abandoned. The theme for this year’s fiesta is “Maria: Inahan sa mga kabus ug mga sinalikway”. It was chosen in solidarity with the Church as it celebrates the Year of the Poor. Novena Masses began on October 3 at 5:30 p.m., The “Heart Sharing” program of the parish that will help the poor families of the place was also launched. The mass was followed by “Halad Sayaw”, a traditional dance offered by Valencianons in honor of Mary. An opening program was also prepared by the municipality for

their patroness that evening.

Days before the fiesta celebration, different events were held at the town plaza. One of them was the Mass Demonstration Competition, where all the schools of Valencia compete through festival dancing. The declared champion for this year was San Pedro Academy, who wowed the audience with their colorful costumes and dance formations.

The highlight of the fiesta was the concelebrated mass at 10:00 a.m. but people were already coming to the church as early as 6:00 a.m. to offer a lighted candles to Mary. Msgr. Tulabing, with the OAR and Diocesan

priests began the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Vicar in his homily gave emphasis on the duty of every Christian to bear witness to the Gospel in this present time with Mary as our Model of Faith. After the Eucharistic celebration, people went to their homes to celebrate at their dining table while other pilgrims were given packed lunch by the parish.

This is how Valencianons honor Mary as Our Lady of the Abandoned—a town full of joy and life, because they have a Mother who will never abandon them. We can truly say “chada” which means beautiful Valencia. **RO**



The newly blessed San Vicente Ferrer Chapel in Talisay, Negros Occidental. (RC Photo/Fray Chote Bitangjol, OAR)

San Vicente Ferrer Chapel: inaugurated and blessed

BY FRAY SIXTO BITANGJOL, OAR

TALISAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—Before the break of dawn on December 12, 2015, the people flocked in the ground of San Nicolas de Tolentino Church to fetch the first class bone-relic of San Vicente Ferrer from St. Ezekiel Moreno Monastery of the Augustinian Recollect Nuns.

The roaring sounds of motor vehicles started to fill the air as the motorcade started to tread the road going to Tanguib, Bacolod City. As per schedule, at 7 am, the pilgrims with motor vehicles lined up outside the monastery to accompany the Relic of San Vicente Ferrer that looks like welcoming a dignitary. A special mounted glass casket was the place where the relic was placed. There were more than 30 vehicles that joined in the motorcade. It made a solemn movement and due respect while treading the thoroughfares of the city. While the relic was being paraded in the streets of Bacolod City, a car with sound system played the chant in honor of Señor San Vicente

Ferrer. There was a real testimony how the pilgrims love and venerate the relic of our beloved miraculous saint. This was participated by the different organizations of the Church, both young and old and other devotees outside of the parish.

When the motorcade with the relic of San Vicente Ferrer arrived in Ayala North Point, the pilgrims of more than 200, welcomed our beloved relic-saint with joy by waving their white handkerchief and singing the hymn of Señor San Vicente Ferrer. In a prayerful mood, the almost kilometer walk to the Church was a glimpse of a true expression of love and piety. All pilgrim braved the scorching heat of the sun

without any complain or even an expression of discontentment. Simply, they offered every step to San Vicente.

It was almost 8 in the morning when the pilgrimage and motorcade arrived in the Church. The relic was placed on the side altar of the Church for people to pray and ask intercession from the Saint.

The Eucharistic Celebration presided by the Bishop of Kabankalan, Most Rev. Patricio Buzon, SDB, DD, together with Augustinian Recollect Fathers started at 9 am. In his homily, he expounded the meaning of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy which

was declared on December 8, 2015 and will close on December 8, 2016. He said, “usually, jubilee celebration is after a century or centuries. It is for this reason that after the millennium celebration, Pope Francis has to declare the EXTRAORDINARY Jubilee Year of Mercy though it was only few years ago that we celebrated a jubilee. There is a posing challenge on our merciful commitment like Jesus by asking forgiveness and by forgiving others. It is in following Christ that we can achieve the real meaning of Mercy». Before the final hymn, the hymn of Señor San Vicente Ferrer was sung while Bishop Buzon incensed the relic of the saint. Right after the mass, the people proceeded to the newly-reconstructed chapel in honor of St. Vincent Ferrer and the Multipurpose hall. After the blessing, the Prior Provincial,

Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR delivered his message “that the place is not merely a building but a holy place where we can strengthen our faith and encounter God”. Likewise, the Local Prior of the Community, Rev. Fr. Sixto M. Bitangjol, OAR added some messages with an emphasis on «not merely on the action of «palapak” because we are in need of physical healing. There’s a need to heal our spirit and our relationship with God and the saint”, he quipped. Rev. Fr. Joseph Dexter D. Palagtiosa, OAR, Rector of the Diocesan Shrine of San Vicente Ferrer expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the benefactors, sponsors and those who contributed in many ways to the success of the event of the day and also reminded the faithful about the so many miracles made by the Saint both recorded and unrecorded. It has continued

his intercession not only to locals of Talisay City, Negros Occidental but also outside the parish jurisdiction. After all the activities, the morning activity ended with the “palapak” starting from Bishop Buzon, Prior Provincial, Fr. Selma, priests and the faithful pilgrims. Packed lunch was served to all pilgrims while the Bishop and the clergy went to a CSNT-R Elementary AVR were lunch was prepared.

In the evening, the “Dinner -for- a -Cause” was a successful event with the presence of the celebrities from the Pinoy Big Brother Housemates, twin sisters, Jab and Jel Mendoza. The night ended with people gladly looking forward to see another day to visit the Relic of San Vicente Ferrer.

San Vicente Ferrer, pray for us! 



San Sebastian Basilica Conservation. U.S. Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg and former prior provincial, Fr. Lauro Larlar, OAR, as then Chairman of the San Sebastian Basilica Conservation and Development Foundation, Inc. enjoying a light-hearted moment during the Ambassador’s visit earlier this year. The ambassador graced the event to celebrate the end of the diagnostic phase of the restoration of the basilica, funded by the U.S. Department of State through the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation, Manila. Stay updated with the San Sebastian Basilica Restoration by liking our page and help us by inviting your friends to spread the word: <http://www.facebook.com/savessbasilica>. (BasteCon Photo/Maria Carissa Veloso)

Minor Basilica of San Sebastian declared a nat’l cultural treasure

BY EVELYN MACAIRAN/INQUIRER


The National Museum has declared the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian in Quiapo, Manila as a national cultural treasure (NCT) and recognized other structures, places and paintings as important parts of the country’s heritage and history.

The National Museum bestowed the title on the 124-year-old Minor Basilica of San Sebastian as it is the only all-steel temple in Asia.

The National Museum said the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian was “inspired by the Roman Movement of the 18th and 19th centuries” and “a highly associated Neo-Gothic revival style of the Middle Ages.”

The construction of the church was the idea of engineer Genaro Palacios, who was then the director of public works in Manila. He recommended to the Recoletos to use steel instead of stone in building the church.

“The church stands as a marvel in structural engineering skills and artistic creativity with its Gothicized pulpit and confessionals; silver frontals; frescoes and ornaments; delicately wrought ironworks and chandeliers; its twin spires with belfry; and the intricate massive paintings on colored glass which was freshly introduced to the Philippines by an international multi-awarded studio in Brussels, Belgium,” the National Museum said.

“The Basilica is embellished with remarkable trompe l’oeil of saints and martyrs in niches, the only surviving work of Lorenzo Rocha, a 19th century Filipino prizewinning portraitist. It also houses a magnificent gilded retablo designed by another notable Filipino artist, Lorenzo Guerrero,” the National Museum added. 



Aerial view of the majestic Basilica of San Sebastian in Quiapo, Manila. (RC Photo/Frei Bo)

SARF Visayas holds Annual Reunion

BY SARF CORRESPONDENT

San Carlos City—Recoletos, Sama-sama tayo! The Red Letter Day was preceded with the HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS. Then, the Superior and Director, Rev. Fr. Constantino Real, OAR, warmly welcomed all the eighty-two registered guests. He underscored the main objective of the event with a nugget of wisdom, “There’s no man rich enough that he doesn’t need something; there’s no man poor enough that he cannot give anything.”



Eventually, yells and cheers of the hosting chapter as well as the attending delegates echoed in the four walls of the STVR Social Hall, which served as the opening salvo of the three-day celebration of 14th SARF Visayas Annual Reunion held in St. Thomas Villanova Seminary on October 16, 17, & 18. with the theme: SARF, One With The Church In Caring For God’s Creations And For The Poor. However, chapters from University of San Jose Recoletos and Our Lady of Consolation, Laray were forced to return back to Cebu due to Typhoon Lando, hampering several trips.

As the saying goes, “Rain or shine life must go on”—the host, SARF of San Carlos, couldn’t dare to let other delegates, guests and speakers be dismayed nor the long-term preparation be inveigled by unfavorable weather.

The first session started 2 o’clock on a windy and dire sunny afternoon. With zest Rev. Fr. Rafael Cabarles, OAR, unfolded the historical background of the Third Order, CST-R Chapter.

Through the recommendation Fr. Cabarles to Rev. Fr. Victor Lluch, OAR, Rev. Fr. Crisostomo Garnica, OAR, was appointed the first Spiritual Director in the year 1992, the birth of SARF, San Carlos. In 1998, the second batch together with SPA candidates, was installed in San Pedro Academy, Valencia.

Like an acacia tree spreading its foliage, this community with thirty-two members has continued to support and participate the Recoletos ministry strived toward Christian perfection through the Augustinian Recollects’ lifestyle and charism as imbibed from the knowledge and wisdom of Rev. Fr. Enrico Peter A. Silab, OAR. The essence of his enriching and inspiring speech delivered on the first day, October 16 was extracted


from Pope Francis’ advocacy—Jubilee Year of Mercy (2016).

He exhorted the members of the SARF to be rich in mercy; to trust in God’s mercy, and a genuine Christian who refrains from cursing, and using hurting words.

This message was complemented by Sr. Evelyn Balingit, the SARF National President with her down-to-earth speech, Women Empowerment. The SARF, especially the female members have to keep up the charism of the Recollects through by performing their duties whatever calling of life they are in.

Sunday, October 18—most of all the delegates appeared fresh and well prim of their white uniform, a symbol of simplicity and wholehearted dedication. No sooner the CST-R SARF Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Francisco Antonio, OAR, calmly clicked his laptop and with a soft-spoken voice delivered this topic, “Vow of Poverty and The SARF and The Spirituality of the SARF in the Context of Canon Law, OAR Constitutions and Rule of Life of SARF.”

The three-day Annual Reunion was highlighted by a concelebrated mass. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. William Villafior, OAR, with him were Fr. Francisco Antonio, OAR, Fr. Sixto Bitangjol, Fr. Urbano Galanido, OAR, and Fr. Enrico Peter A. Silab, OAR, as concelebrants.

Within the mass was the acceptance of the new members to the Tertiary Order of Recoletos. The members were the following: CST-R Chapter, Sr. Rosalina L. Dumdum and Sr. Merceditha L. Macabihag, while one from UNO-R, Bro. Mariano D. Antinor, Jr. 

370th Anniversary (1646-2016) of Isabel of Butuan:

Life of a Pioneering Augustinian Recollect Beata or Tertiary in the Philippines¹

BY LUIS DE JESÚS, OAR (1622-1693)²
General Chronicler, Order of Augustinian Recollects

Blair & Robertson translation

EDITED AND ANNOTATED BY EMMANUEL LUIS A. ROMANILLOS

One of our beatas³ named Isabel passed to the better life this year 1646 in the village of Butuan of the Philippines. We know nothing else about her except that she was converted to the faith by the preaching of Ours⁴ when they entered that province.⁵ The Lord illumined her so that she should leave the darkness of their idolatries, and she was baptized and given the name of Isabel.

She produced great fruit in a short time, for the hand of God is not restricted to time limit. Seeing her so useful in the mysteries of the Catholic religion, our religious sent her to become an assistant⁶ and the spiritual mother of many souls, whom she converted to the faith and catechized thus gaining them for the Church. She was sent to the villages where the devil was waging his fiercest war and deceiving by his tricks, so that she might oppose herself to him by her exemplary life and the gentleness of her instruction.

Isabel established her school in a house in the village to which the young girls resorted. With wonderful eloquence she made them understand that the path of their vain superstitions would lead them astray, and explained the rudiments and principles of the Christian doctrine. At her set hours she went to the church daily, gathered the people and instructed the unlearned,⁷ confirmed the converted, and enlightened the ignorant and that with so much grace and gentleness of words that she seized the hearts of her hearers. To this she joined a modesty and bearing sweetly grave, by which she made great gain among those barbarians.

¹ This is chapter 6 of the second volume of the *Historia general de la Orden de Agustinos descalzos*, to which confrere historians refer simply as *Crónicas*. This is the second of the thirteen volumes of the general history published in Madrid in 1681. This was authored by Father Luis de Jesús. The English translation is titled by the editors as *Recollect Missions, 1646-1648*, in BLAIR & ROBERTSON [hereinafter B&R], vol. 36, 109-188.

² The Augustinian Recollect chronicler Fr. Luis de Jesús was born in Toledo, Spain, in May 1622. At 16, he pronounced his vows at the convent of Madrid of the Province of Castile. Successively, he became a theology professor in Salamanca, provincial councilor, prior of Valladolid for three terms, prior provincial (1678-1683). After the death of the first general chronicler Fr. Andrés de San Nicolás, Fr. Luis de Jesús was named to take his place. In his *Crónicas*, as the *Historia general de la Orden de Agustinos Recoletos* is traditionally known among confrere historians, published in Madrid in 1681, he wrote only about facts and did not engage much in ascetic reflections. His general history abounds in continual expressions of love for the Recollect Order. Fr Luis bewails the pointless dearth of historical sources and the prevailing “neglect of great religious to use the pen and leave news for posterity.” At 71, he joined his Maker in June 1693 in Madrid. Cf. Emmanuel Luis A. ROMANILLOS, *Augustinian Recollect Chroniclers and Historians* [Unpublished research work], 2-3.

³ *Beata* or *mantelata* is a member of the Third Order of Augustinian Recollects. Juridically sanctioned by the superior general or prior provincial, the Third Order was composed of lay men and women who wished to attain Christian perfection according to the spirit of the founder. Today the tertiaries compose the Augustinian Recollect Fraternity, “the members of which, remaining in the world, pursue evangelical perfection, according to the charism of the Order, which maintaining their secular identity,” cf. *Constitutions* no. 114 in the *Augustinian Recollects. Rule, Constitutions, Additional Code* (Rome 2012) page 136. The members of tertiary orders of colonial Philippines daily donned the habit.

⁴ *Ours* alludes to the chronicler’s Augustinian Recollect confreres.

⁵ This refers to present-day Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur in northeastern Mindanao.

⁶ *Coadjutor* is the B&R translation; *assistant* or *collaborator* in the mission work of the Augustinian Recollect missionaries is preferable.

⁷ The B&R translation is *stupid*.

Since so copious results were experienced through Isabel’s work,⁸ both in the reform⁹ of morals and in the many who were converted from their blind paganism, the priests sent her to preach in the streets and open places where the people gathered to hear her—some through curiosity and others carried away by her wonderful grace in speaking. By that means many souls were captured and they begged for baptism, for she was a zealous worker and an apostolic collaborator in that flock of the Lord. She even entered the houses of the obstinate ones who did not go to hear her in the streets. There, with mild discourses and brimming with charity, she softened their hearts and persuaded them to receive the faith.

After some years of employment in that kind of apostolic life her husband died. Upon being freed from the conjugal commitment,¹⁰ she yearned to subject herself to the yoke of religion. Father Jacinto de San Fulgencio,¹¹ at that time vicar provincial of that province, gave her our habit of *mantelata* or *beata*. She recognized, as she was very intelligent and experienced in the road to perfection, that her obligations to make herself useful were stricter, that she must live a better life and employ the talent which she had received from God for the benefit of her neighbor, and she did so.

One cannot easily imagine the diligence with which she sought souls and the means that she contrived to draw them out of the darkness of heathendom. What paths did she not take! What hardships did she not suffer! She went from one place to another discussing with the spirit and strength, not of a weak woman, but of a strong man. The Lord whose cause she was advancing aided her; for the solicitation of souls for God is a service much to His satisfaction.

She finally saw all that province of Butuan converted to the faith of Jesus Christ, for which she very joyfully gave thanks. She then retired to give herself to divine contemplation, for she thought that she ought to get ready to leave the world as she had devoted so much time to the welfare of her neighbor.


Isabel of Butuan sought instruction from Sister Clara Calimán¹² (whose life we have written above) and imitated her in her penitences, her fastings and her way of life, so that she became an example of virtues. For long hours did Isabel pray devoutly; she visited the sick; she served them; she exhorted them to repentance for their sins and to bear their sorrows with patience.

She devoted herself so entirely to those works of charity that it seemed best to our fathers (who administered¹³ that district of Agusan) not to allow her respite from them, and that she could [not] live wholly for herself.

The Recollect priests built a hospital for the poor and sent her to care for them. She sought those in need, whom she often carried on her shoulders. So great was her charity. She cared for their souls, causing the sacraments to be administered to them as well as for their bodies, applying to them the needed medicines.

She solicited donations and alms, and she had scheduled the hours for going out to beg for the ailing poor. She did all that with a cheerful and calm countenance, which indicated the love of God burning in her breast.

Her hour came during those occupations and she fell grievously ill. She knew that God was summoning her and she begged for the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. She received the Sacraments with joy.

At last, Isabel of Butuan surrendered her soul to her Lord, leaving, with sorrow for her loss, sure pledges that she has eternal rest. 

8 *Agency* is B&R’s translation.
9 *Reformation* according to B&R.
10 The B&R translation is *yoke*.
11 Fr. Jacinto Claramonte de San Fulgencio was born in Cocentaina in Spanish province of Valencia to Vicente Francisco Claramonte and Isabel Juana Tamarit. He professed in the Augustinian Recollect convent of Valencia in 1614. With eleven confreres he left Cádiz in March 1619 for Mexico. From Acapulco he headed for the Philippines on 4 March 1620 and arrived in Manila five months later on 16 August. When the spiritual administration of Caraga and Butuan in Mindanao was handed over to the Augustinian Recollects in 1622, the first eight missionaries, including Fr. Jacinto, were sent there. He spent ten years in Bacoag, Gigaquit, and Butuan (1629) until he was dispatched to the new mission in Binalbagan in Negros Island in 1632. In 1635, Fr Jacinto was assigned to Tandag in Surigao and in 1638, he was elected provincial counselor in Saint Nicholas Convent in Intramuros, Manila, and concurrently its prior until 1641 when he was chosen as prior of the Immaculate Conception Convent in Cebu City. During his ten-year mission work in Mindanao, he established six convents, three of which were along the banks of the Agusan River, and baptized more than 20,000 natives. During the Caraga Revolt in 1631 he served as military chaplain of the military expedition from Cebu and helped negotiate the pacification of the rebels of Tandag in 1635. Fr Jacinto risked his life in several instances so much that the commander of the military expedition Captain Juan de Chaves lauded him no end for his services. His life was exemplary and so was his death which happened towards 1656 at Saint Nicholas Convent. Cf. Francisco SÁDABA, *Catálogo de los religiosos agustinos recoletos de la Provincia de San Nicolás de Tolentino de Filipinas desde el año 1606, en que llegó la primer misión a Manila, hasta nuestros días* (Madrid 1906) 48-49.
12 The life of Clara Calimán is treated in a previous chapter of this *Crónicas*.
13 *Governed* in B&R translation.

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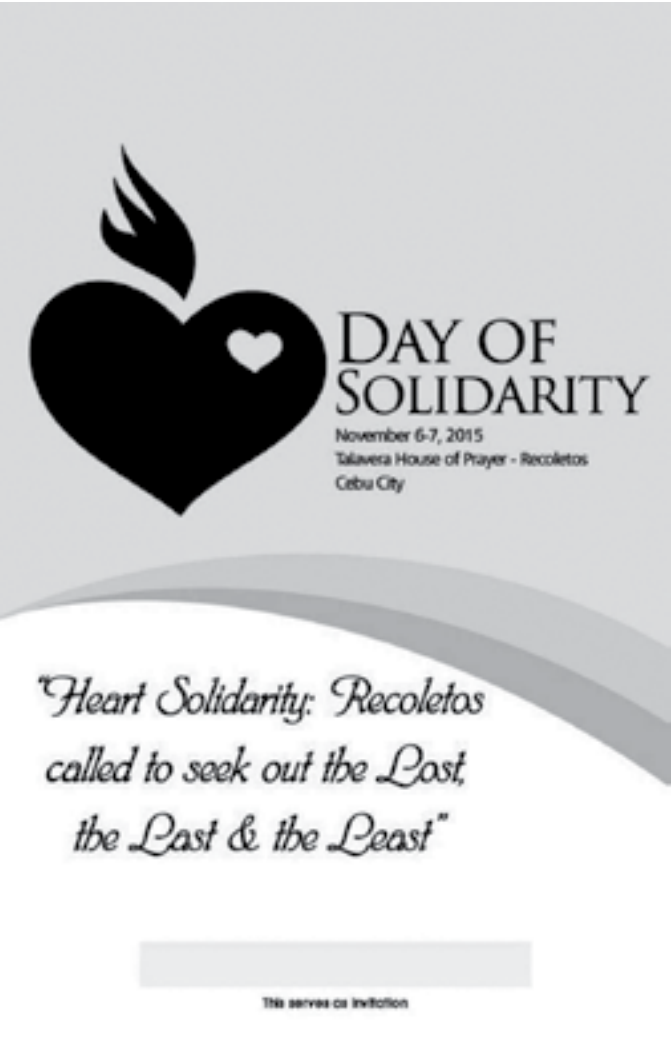
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"Heart Solidarity: Recoletos called to seek out the Lost, the Lost & the Least"

This serves as invitation

Program

FIRST DAY	
MORNING	
8:00 AM	Mass for Creation & Launching of HEART Solidarity Presider: Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR Prior Provincial
9:30 AM	First Speaker: Fr. Tito Soquillo, OSA Topic: Cry of the Poor: From the Perspective of Pope Francis and the Philippine Situation
AFTERNOON	
2:00 PM	Dialogue with the Poor
4:00 PM	Second Speaker: Fr. Tony Salas, SVD Topic: Cry of the Poor: Towards an Integral Response & Commitment
SECOND DAY	
MORNING	
	Tree Planting @ Recoletos Eco-Park (Brgy. Maslog, Danao City)
AFTERNOON	
2:00 PM	Third Speaker: Fr. John Leydon, MIsC Topic: Cry of the Earth: Living Laudato Si' Open Forum
3:30 PM	Fourth Speaker: Bishop Gerardo Almirez, D.D. Topic: Community of the Poor
OBJECTIVES: 1. To deepen the social action works of the Order in our ministries; 2. To pray for those who suffer poverty and experience necessity; 3. To extend financial help to the projects and activities of the Order through one Sunday collection a year.	

Dr. Raul V. Fabella: A Recollect education product among 5 new UP professors emeriti

BY ALBINO C. GAMBA JR. & EMMANUEL LUIS ROMANILLOS



The UP Board of Regents at its 1309th meeting on 22 July 2015 approved the appointments of five University of the Philippines Diliman faculty members as professors emeriti.

They are Dr. Raul V. Fabella from the School of Economics, Dr. Grace J. Alfonso from the College of Mass Communication, Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman from Cesar E.A. Virata School of Business, Prof. Nestor O. Vinluan from College of Fine Arts, and Dr. Rosario Torres-Yu from the College of Arts and Letters.

Professor Emeritus, a title for life, is conferred upon retired faculty members in recognition of their exceptional achievement and exemplary service to the University.

Fabella whose fields of interest are in economic theory, agricultural economics and international economics, served as School of Economics dean from 1998 to 2007. For his pioneering works in “novel analytic constructs which turn out to be useful for problems in economics,” he was conferred the Order of National Scientist in 2011. The Order of National Scientist is the highest honor given by the President of the Republic of the Philippines to an individual who has made significant contributions in the field of science and technology in the country.

Fabella, who hailed originally from Bacolod City, now lives in Quezon City. He finished his secondary education in 1966 at the Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. He lived for four years at the high school seminary, having been recruited by Father Jesus L. Solabre, erstwhile Recollect missionary from Shangqiu, Henan, China.

Among Fabella's high school classmates were Fr. Regino Z. Bangcaya and the late Fr. Cornelio E. Moral. They went on to obtain their AB Classical degree from Seminario Mayor-Recoletos [now known as Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary] in Baguio City. Fr. Euben Clemente Capacillo joined their class and all finished college in 1970.

In 2011, Fabella's Recollect contemporaries and acquaintances like Fr. Hubert Decena, Fr. Lauro Larlar, Fr. Federico Gregorio, Fr. Ceferino Añez and of course his classmate Fr. Regino Bangcaya feted him at his home in Capitol Homes, Quezon City. Other batchmates like Tony Obtinario, Tony Yap, Gil Alonsagay, Luigi Romanillos,

Felix Sumortin, Jose Escartin were around for the festive gathering. They happily recalled their high school and college memories in the bosom of the Augustinian Recollection.

Fabella's better-half and daughter were there for the warm welcome and to sing Christmas carols with the group a cappella. Each one then delivered a short laudatory speech in honor of the new National Scientist, a true-blue product of Augustinian Recollect education of eight years. The honoree then said in response and rebutted one who had said he wanted to be a Jesuit: “I lived eight happy years of my life in the Order. I am always thankful to it for the secondary and college education the Recollect professors had bequeathed to me. I have always wanted to be an Augustinian Recollect. But Our Lord had other plans for me.”

It was past midnight when the “ageing and aged” men faded into the darkness to the comfort of their homes and communities. **RD**



QUEZON CITY — “Saipan is another window through which one can see another perspective,” shared Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR, during the Chapter of Renewal, a monthly gathering of brothers for spiritual reinvigoration through input, reflection, lectio divina, etc., here at the Provincial Curia last July 31.

Fray AJ, as he is better known to his confreres, has just arrived from Saipan the day before. When asked if he could share something about his three-month stint in this second largest island, after Guam, in the Mariana archipelago, this former sacristan of San Sebastian basilica in Manila did not hesitate.

“Saipan is a confluence of modern and traditional ways of life,” Fray AJ told the brothers who were intently listening to his account. The existential philosopher in him would draw out an even more profound discovery on that phenomenon. For example, he said that while the locals there celebrate life everyday,, they do not know the meaning of the celebration. To be factored here, he surmised, is the great influence of the mainland US to this commonwealth with a population

of almost 50,000. “There is confusion, indeed,” he underscored, citing the first case of same-sex marriage in the locality.

With this vortex of influences from outside, what, then, does this have to do with religious and priestly life there? “Lots of challenges,” he said, recounting an instance when a Spanish Mercedarian nun was asked to define life in Saipan. “Sencillo!” she replied, pronouncing the last syllable akin to the stereotyped Boholano accent, in which the ‘y’ sound, as in “Sto. Niño,” is changed into ‘j’, as in “Sto. Ninjo”.

But the simple life which that religious sister alluded to has been eroded through the years. “Some natives no longer speak Chamorro; they now prefer English. It’s a big cultural challenge,” she bluntly noted.

Towards the end of his brief talk,

Fray AJ appeared convinced that if this is the context of this western Pacific island, all the more that the Text (with capital “T”) of the Gospel is relevant there. “There’s really a demand to serve in Saipan,” he pointed out.

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Although the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, to which Saipan belongs, will turn 31 later this year (1984-2015), the rich history of Catholicism in Saipan in particular, and in the Mariana Islands, in general, harks back to 1668 with the arrival of the Jesuits led by Fr. Diego Luis de Sanvitores. (Fr. Diego Luis was beatified in 1985, and his Filipino sacristan and catechist, Pedro Calungsod, was beatified in 2000, and canonized in 2012. Both died a martyr’s death.)

And for a review: the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana

Islands (CNMI) is composed of 15 islands (11 “Northern islands” and 4 “Southern Islands” which include Saipan). CNMI plus Guam are together called Mariana Islands.

The Jesuits ministered to these group of islands from 1668 to 1769. Following the decree of King Charles II of Spain, they left the mission territory. Then came the Augustinian Recollects who toiled in these places from 1769-1908. During this period, the accomplishments were abundant. To name the notable ones (cf. website of the diocese): In 1858, the village called San Isidro de Garapan was established and the first pastor was Fr. Modesto Sesma de Francisco Javier. The Saipan Chamorros brought the Catholic Faith with them from Guam and built the first church out of simple materials like coconut fronds and bamboo.



In 1890, the population in Saipan continued to increase with Chamorro families from Agana and with approximately 400 Carolinians who were transferred from the Carolines by order of the Spanish Government.

In 1892, Fray Tomas Cuerva de la Virgen de Araceli was the new priest for San Isidro de Garapan (Fray Calixto Moral del Pilar also came to Saipan and was assigned to Tanapag.) Fr. Tomas Cuerva immediately began to

build a church.

On May 14, 1893, eve of the feast of the Patron of the Village, San Isidro Labrador, the new church was blessed and inaugurated and was dedicated to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It had a galvanized steel roof.

A year before the Recoletos left in 1908, the German Capuchins came over and they continued the apostolic work up to 1919. When Japan declared war on Germany in 1914, the German citizens and German Capuchins were expelled and shipped to Japan.

With the lack of missionaries, a commission was sent to Rome to request for assistance. On March 2, 1921, the Spanish Jesuits returned to Saipan. They remained there up to the end of the WWII. The American Capuchins took over the mission field. Later, the native diocesan clergy

started to grow and saw to the spiritual needs of their own people.

On November 8, 1984, Pope John Paul II canonically erected the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa (Diocesis Vialembensis in Latin). It is a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Agaña and it comprises the whole of CNMI. Although it is a prelate bishop who heads the diocese, it is right now pastored by an apostolic administrator in the person of Fr. Ryan Jimenez,

whose seat is at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Saipan.

Fr. Ryan's Invitation

Although many Recoletos priests had already been invited and permitted to go and work for few weeks in Saipan, it was only towards the end of 2014 that the formal invitation to the St. Ezekiel Province for collaboration with the Diocese was made. It was favorably considered by the previous administration under Fray Lauro Larlar, prior provincial.

In January 2015, two Recollect friars were commissioned to make the official visit. Fray Leopoldo Estioko, OAR, President of the Secretariat of Ministerial and Mission Apostolate, and Fray Edgar Tubio, Chairman of the Commission on Missions, flew to Saipan. They went back bringing “positive vibes” about the prospective mission field.

With the revamp of administration in February 2015, Fr. Ryan remained consistent with his invitation, this time, addressed to the new prior provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma. In his March 27 letter, he enumerated four reasons for invitation: 1-to assist the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa with basic pastoral needs; 2-to nurture vocations to the priesthood and religious life; 3-to help form and nurture local church leadership, both for the lay and the clergy; and 4-to reach out to the “unchurched”. In mid-April, Fr. Ryan personally came over and dialogued with the Prior Provincial.

Backed by the so-called Life and Mission Project of the Province, the decision to send a religious for a three-month exposure was realized. Fray Allan Jacinto, the appointed Chairman of the Commission on Missions, was sent to Saipan in early May.

Positive Review

If his sojourn to Saipan were like reading a book, Fray AJ would give it a positive review. Even his image of

Saipan as “another window” is quite apt since he has been assigned to many places and was able to look through their windows. He has been in our “local mission” in Inagawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan right after his ordination in August 2007, then in the challenging mission stations in Brazil from 2009 to 2011, and in Rome from 2011-2014 where he studied and earned with flying colors both his Baccalaureate and Licentiate in Missiology. More or less, these were windows representing Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

And Saipan—the Pacific window—was equally unique! While staying at Mt. Carmel Rectory there, Fray AJ worked in two parishes: at Sta. Remedios Parish, every M-W-F, and at San Roque Parish on Tuesdays

and Thursdays. On Sundays, the holy mass is at 8:00 AM in Sta. Remedios, and at 9:30 AM in San Roque. The celebration of the sacraments is said in English.

Those two parishes are just among the 11 parishes in Saipan. And there are only 10 priests working there. “The diocesan clergy appreciated the presence of the religious. They appreciated our community life,” Fray AJ happily informed this writer in a casual conversation.

“In the cathedral where I stayed, there are only 4 of us: Fr. Ryan, the two diocesan priests one of whom was my classmate in Rome, and I,” he related, and zestfully added: “We also find time to pray together.”

When asked as to which parish

would likely be offered to the Recoletos, he said, “Yung dalawa.” Then, he described them briefly: in San Roque Parish, where the parishioners are very active and participative, there is already an existing house which can be converted into a convent. The community is a mix of Chamorros and Filipinos. In San Remedios Parish, the church's premises are more spacious. It is nearer to the beach and the tropical sceneries are relaxing. The people are a combination of Carolinians, Chamorros, and Filipinos.

But just in case, Deo volente, Saipan will finally be accepted as another mission station by the Recoletos, Fray AJ disclosed: “Fr. Ryan wants us also to take charge of the youth ministry.” **RD**

You are cordially invited

Life and Spirituality of
St. Ezekiel Moreno
Parish Priest of Las Piñas
(1876-1879)

by
Emmanuel Luis A. Romanillos

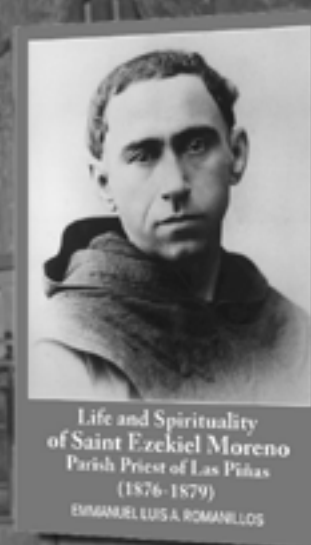
BOOK LAUNCH

19th | August | 2015

9:00 AM

Concelebrated Mass (10:00 AM)
Solemnity of St. Ezekiel Moreno

Venue: St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate House
Nuestra Señora de la Paz Subd., Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal



BE PREPARED! THE REKOLETO WAY

get connected!
• radio
• tv
• internet

news & updates

bring!
• cellphone (fully charged)
• batteries
• power bank for gadgets

bring!
• flashlight
• solar lamp
• candles

food!
• canned goods
• rice
• bottled water

first-aid kit


don't!
• travel
• stay outdoors

consider!
• evacuation
• staying on higher ground / building

avoid!
• staying along the coastline

EARTHQUAKE

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction



An earthquake (also known as a quake, tremor or temblor) is the result of a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust that creates seismic waves. The seismicity, seismism or seismic activity of an area refers to the frequency, type and size of earthquakes experienced over a period of time.

After the Earthquake:



CINEMA Z

If you are inside public places: (movie house, church, schools, malls, restaurants, gyms or public center)

- Do not rush outdoors. Many people are injured in this way when struck by falling debris.
- Do not use the elevator, and warn others not to use it, because a power outage may occur after the quake has stopped in your immediate area.
- Check for injuries or people who are trapped.
- Follow emergency medical procedures.
- Follow the Emergency Action Procedures for building evacuation.
- Assist individuals in leaving the building if it is safe to leave.

Watch out for After-shocks!!!

Stay outside in the open field
Call for Rescue group,
if possible, put off the water and electrical main switch.

BLESSING OF THE BALON PARI

BY FRAY REGINO BANGCAYA, OAR

After more than a year of non-stop construction at the "Balon Pari" of St. Ezekiel Moreno at Brgy. Inagawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, the new modern structure enclosing the spring (Balon) was finally blessed and inaugurated on August 22, 2015. It is dubbed as the "Grotto ng Balon Pari ni San Ezekiel Moreno. The project was funded by Mrs. Trina Davies, OBE, of Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City. Invited for the celebration were Congressman Douglas Hagedorn, Mayor Lucilo Bayron of Puerto Princesa City, City Tourism officials, local officials, Rev. Fr. Jose Felipe Torrecampo, Vicar General of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa City, Rev. Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province, and His Excellency Bishop Edgardo S. Juanish, D.D. of the Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay as the main celebrant of the Holy Mass held at the Chapel of the Balon Pari.

Many devotees from all over Palawan also came to witness the blessing and inauguration. Also blessed were the street named as "Kalye Balon Pari" leading to the interior site from the main road (St. Ezekiel Moreno Street), and the newly constructed spacious rest room building. **RD**



Immediate Action:




Remain Calm.
By staying calm yourself,
you will be better able
to assess damage
and assist others.

If you are inside a building:
stay there; move under
a sturdy table, desk, or bed
and stay there; brace yourself in an inside corner,
or doorway; stay away from windows; protect your head
and face with any available material.

If you are outdoors:
stay there; move away from tall buildings,
structures, and trees; stay away from fallen
power lines, as they may appear
to be "dead" but may suddenly
re-energize as automatic restoration
of power is attempted; proceed
if possible to an open area.
Do not lift or raise any
power lines

If you are in a vehicle:
pull over and stop; remain clear of overpasses,
tall buildings, structures, and trees;
make certain your seat belt is fastened;
stay in your vehicle, as it will provide some
protection from falling and flying debris.

If you are near the shoreline:
watch out for the signs of "tsunami", and be ready to
move out to high ground if sea water rises.

8-Peat: UNO-R Women Table Tennis Team is NOPSSCEA 2015 champion

BY FRAY LOUIE GABINETE, OAR

BACOLOD CITY— Excellence was once again proven as the hallmark of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos when in the field of women table tennis, the UNO-R team kept hold of the championship plum, for the eight time, on September 26, 2015.

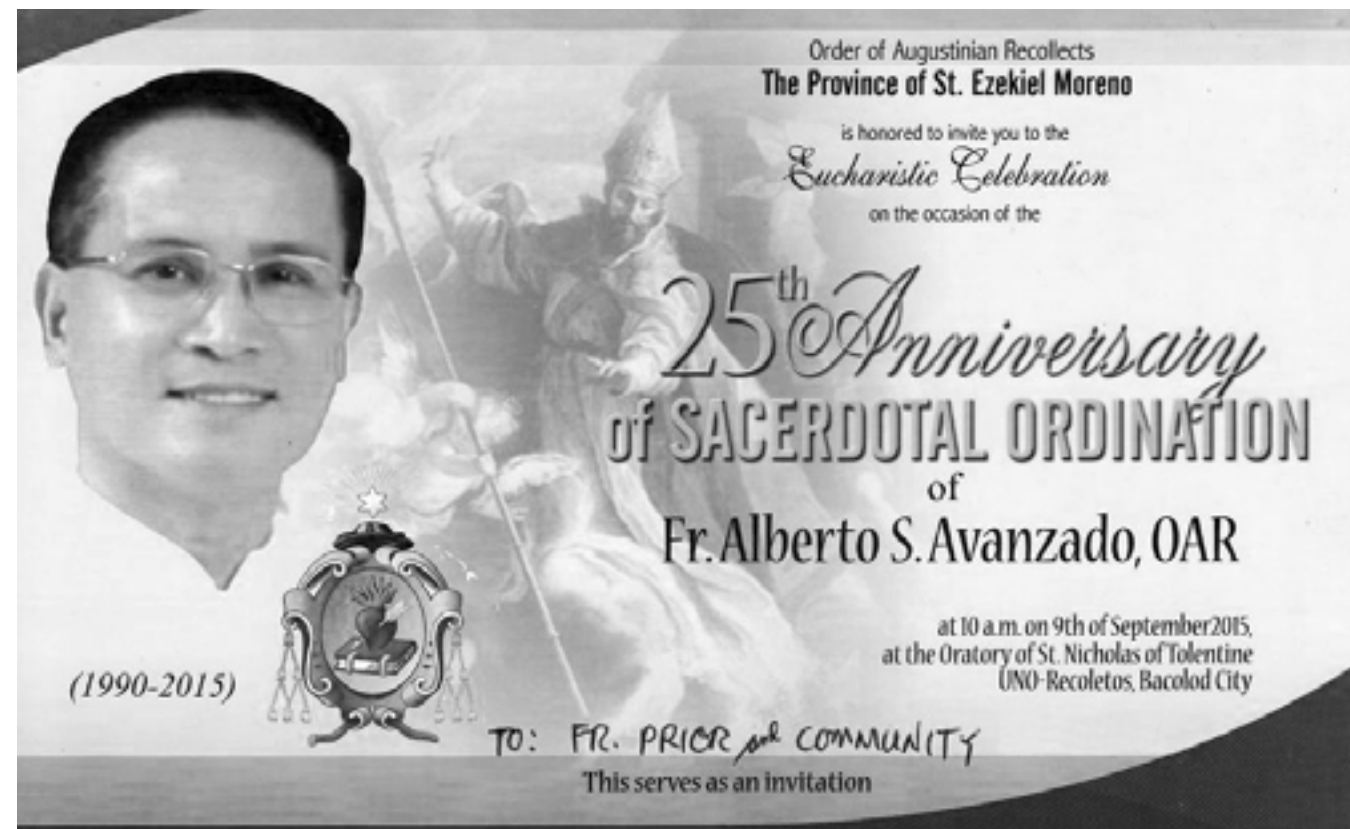


UNO-R Women Table Tennis Team 2015 (UNO-R Photo/Ericson Rios)

It has been for eight straight years that the university's team successfully defended its number one place on this event. "Reigning in this field in the tertiary division from 2008 to 2015 means a lot of hardwork and preparation," avers Fray Louie Gabinete, OAR, Sports Director and VP for Student Welfare.

And he added that with God's grace and with their humility, these young women will be able to continue to once again show the Rekoletos brand of excellence, not only in sports, but in all aspects of a student life!

Congratulations! **RO**



Pointless Points to Ponder Not...

BY FRAY ONZ, OAR

WHO IS THE PRIEST?

There he is—perspiring, speeding, kneeling, frowning, pardoning, teaching, playing tennis, and attempting to live up to half of what he preaches.

He's a man who once wore diapers. He was heckled by schoolmasters, punished by his parents and suffered the adolescent confusion of searching for his identity. He is a person who can fall in love with a girl and betray his friends. He is a striving person who dreams of personal happiness and occasionally feels duped.

Why does God call "a man to do a God's work?" Who knows?

I will put it on my list of QUESTIONS TO ASK THE LORD WHEN I MEET HIM AFTER DEATH!

* * * * *

SHADES OF FRATERNAL CONCERN . . .

For some reasons, we are prone to take another in the community for granted as though each of us were a completely self-sufficient autonomous human person. We recount the local and world news to one another, we try our latest jokes on one another, and we laugh together, and many times genuinely enjoy one another's company. Then we go our own way, thinking that we have important things to do, classes to prepare, term papers to correct, a book to read, a friend to phone or visit.

* * * * *

Is it because our zeal is too often turned outward toward other people who need our help without at the same time turned inward toward our own religious brother who is hurting inside? My neighbor is not only the blind beggar lying on the road to Jericho but also the confrere who has coffee beside me at the breakfast table.

* * * * *

Is it not sad to see two religious sitting beside one another like two blocks of stone, mute and impervious to what goes on inside each? Think of two airline passengers sitting together in the waiting room, each absorbed in his own anticipations, completely oblivious of one another... charity, it is said, should begin at home!

* * * * *

ADVENT CANDLES: THE CANDLE'S EXAMPLE

Once upon a time a little candle stood in a room filled with other candles, most of them much larger and much more beautiful than she was.

Some were ornate and some were rather simple, like herself. Some were white, some were blue, some were pink, some were green.

She had no idea why she was there, and the other candles made her feel rather small and insignificant.



When the sun went down and the room began to get dark, she noticed a large man walking toward her with a ball of fire on a stick.

She suddenly realized that the man was going to set her on fire.

“No, no!” she cried, “Aaaaagghhh! Don’t burn me, please!” But she knew that she could not be heard and prepared for the pain that would surely follow. To her surprise, the room filled with light. She wondered where it came from since the man had extinguished his fire stick. To her delight, she realized that the light came from herself. Then the man struck another fire stick and, one by one, lit the other candles in the room. Each one gave out the same light that she did.

During the next few hours, she noticed that, slowly, her wax began to flow. She became aware that she would soon die.

With this realization came a sense of why she had been created. “Perhaps my purpose on earth is to give out light until I die,” she mused.

And that’s exactly what she did.

Every Christmas light we see during Advent is a reminder that life on earth is the path, it is a task, a mission - it is not the goal.

(slightly adapted from a forgotten source)

* * * * *

THIS CHRISTMAS

“What does Christmas mean?” Perhaps we should begin with this question because Christmas seems to mean so many things to so many people.

IF Christmas means family; THEN what does Christmas mean to a person who has just lost a loved one or has no family?

IF Christmas means shopping malls, Christmas trees and blinking lights; THEN what does Christmas mean to a family who lives in a remote village in the hills of Ghana that has no electricity, let alone a shopping mall and has never seen a Christmas tree...

IF Christmas means the giving and receiving gifts; THEN what does Christmas mean to a single mother of 4 children, working 2 jobs, barely having enough money to pay the mortgage, the heat and buy food?

IF Christmas means white snow falling from the sky and covering the ground and bare tree limbs THEN what does Christmas mean to a person who lives in the desert?

Family, trees, lights, food, gifts and snow are all fine and good, and they can be very beneficial - but they are not what Christmas really means.... “

Adapted from a forgotten source

* * * * *

THE DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS

It is just a few days after celebrating Christ’s birth. But there is the inevitable letdown. The empty boxes, the pretty paper on the floor, the empty bottles . . . Life has come back to normal, whatever that is, and it means that the diversion of the past few weeks, the frenzy and fuss, the lights and glitter are packed away once again like the star at the top of the tree; taken down and carefully wrapped, padded and protected in its ample box.

And what is left? War, homeless people sleeping in door stoops, hungry people begging for food, worries about health, people that bother us, concerns that wear us down. We’re back to where we left off before the holidays.

Well, Mary and Joseph weren’t allowed to reside permanently in Bethlehem and neither can we. It’s back to the real world... **RD**



Moderator

Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR

Editor

Fray Francisco Antonio, OAR

Contributors

Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR

Erika Efigenia Alix

Ioanes Arong

Johanna Marie Bajenting

Fray Regino Bangcaya, OAR

Fray Leander Barrot, OAR

Fray Sixto Ciriaco Bitangjol, OAR

Fray Ralph Laureen Ciceron, OAR

Fray Louie Gabinete, OAR

Albino Gamba, Jr.

Bro. James Eroid Gatinao

Patricia Blessy Gonzales

Fray Anthony Irineo, OAR

Fray Jaazeal Jakosalem, OAR

Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla, OAR

Dr. Carlos Legaspi, Jr., PhD

Evelyn Macairan

Fray Joseph Cyprian Panaligan, OAR

Fray Emilio Edgardo Quilatan, OAR

Prof. Emmanuel Luis Romanillos

Lay-out

Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla, OAR

Photography

Fray Jaazeal Jakosalem, OAR

Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla, OAR

Circulation

Anthoneth Salcedo

Publisher

Recoletos Communications

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The RC Team

Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, *CC-R Chairman*

Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla, *President*

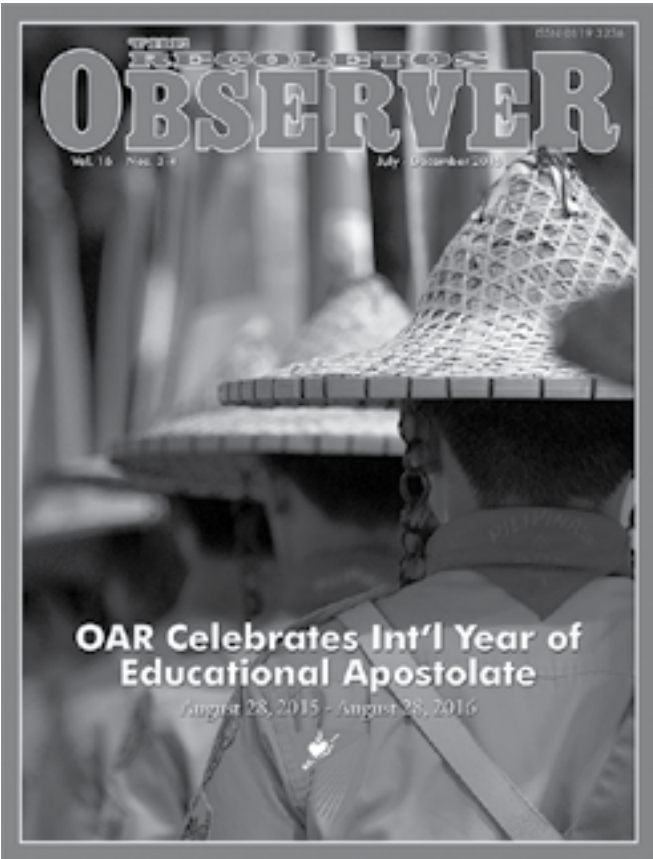
Fray Francisco Antonio, *Recoletos Observer*

Fray Leander Barrot, *Non-Serials*

Fray Anthony Irineo, *Bulletin of the Province*

Fray Jaazeal Jakosalem, *Creative Designs*

Anthoneth Salcedo, *Staff*



The Cover: Education requires discipline as symbolized by the boy scouts tasked to carry the international flags and colors during the launching of IYEA in Cebu last August 28, 2015 at the USJ-R auditorium in Basak, Cebu.

The Recoletos Observer is the official Newsletter of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno Order of Augustinian Recollects

24 Neptune St., Congressional Subd.
Brgy. Bahay Toro (P.O. Box 1127)
1106 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (02) 921-6103
Fax. (02) 456-1658

email: observer@recoletos.ph
website: recoletosfilipinas.org, recoletos.ph



THE RECOLETOS OBSERVER

Minor Basilica of San Sebastian: A National Cultural Treasure

(Story on page 52)



Recoletos Communications