

RECOLLECTS

The Official Information Bulletin of the OAR
Vicariate of the Philippine and China

CENTENARY ISSUE

HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II TO THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FAMILY ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE IV CENTENARY OF THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTION

Vatican
November 28, 1988

Most Reverend Father General:

On the occasion of the celebration of the IV Centenary of the Augustinian Recollection, which Pope St. Plus X raised to the rank of the Order of Augustinian Recollects on September 16, 1912 with the publication of *Religiosas Familias*, the Holy Father Pope John Paul II has requested that I send to you and all of the members of the great Augustinian Recollect family his cordial greetings and message.

His Holiness wishes to join you spiritually in giving thanks to the Lord for the abundant graces received during these four centuries. At the same time, he wishes to encourage all to use this time of celebration as an appropriate occasion to strengthen your corporate identity, your unreserved self-giving to God, and your devoted service to the Church.

Those same desires for greater monastic perfection which motivated the Augustinian Fathers of the Province of Castille meeting in the Chapter of Toledo in 1588 and which the Provincial Definitorium conretized in 1589 in the important document, the *Forma de Vivir de los Frailes Agustinos descalzos*, should continue to inspire the spirit of the Augustinian Recollects of today. The sons and daughters of the Recollection profess to follow Christ, virgin, poor and obedient, a way which, in more than a few has flourished into remarkable examples of sanctity. Such a fruition of sanctity seasoned by the grace of God is a constant reason for giving Him praise but in such a way that the gratitude results from a union of hearts in Him which is where the Augustinian Recollect family finds its authentic realization and most profound fraternity.

The celebration of the IV Centenary should also be an occasion for conscientiously renewing the commitment to be daily more faithful interpreters of the "primitive inspiration" (cf. *Perfectae caritatis*, 2) of the institute which has formed the desires for perfection of so many souls. In the prologue to the *Forma de vivir*, it is thus stated: "The true end of the Christian is love... therefore all Institutes which pursue perfection of the virtue profess poverty, obedience and chastity."

This is the path that the Augustinian Recollect religious should take in order to follow the Master more closely since not in vain have they professed "to love Christ with perfection" (*Forma de vivir*, 1). They are guided by the monastic doctrine patrimony incorporated into four centuries of history. Obedient, with firm and creative fidelity to the Church, they are called to build their communities on the celebration of the Eucharist to which they add the communal prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. These acts ought both be interiorized through mental prayer and the contemplation of the salvific mysteries of Christ-Redeemer.

This kind of community, built upon the Church of Christ on the foundation of charity and in which no one has possessions of his own but all is in common, opens itself spontaneously to the apostolate. This is so because just as contemplation unites the religious in truth and in love so also ought contemplation "lead to the ministry of preaching the Gospel" (St. Augustine, Letter 243,6). For this reason, these religious, attentive to the needs of the Church, should seek the manner of achieving an ever greater readiness for service to God and to the brothers.

To this end, the Holy Father encourages all to continue in your efforts for permanent renewal quietly and humbly yet with the tenacity which grows out of the virtue of fortitude. The permanence and power of the primitive impulse depends upon your generous collaboration with grace. The flame transmitted by the religious who preceded you in this way of faith, hope and love has come to you. It now depends upon you to see to it that this way continue producing the light of truth and the warmth charity. Your "goal is to love God" (*Forma de vivir*, 1). All of the affection which arises in the heart of the Augustinian Recollect should be directed toward God. Your principal concern ought to be "all that will light our way more clearly to it (i.e., love of God)" (ibid.) You ought not, therefore, withdraw your gaze from the face of Christ.

Similarly, the Holy Father invites all to seek the protection of the Holy Virgin Mary whom all the religious of the Augustinian Recollect family, as heirs to a centuries-old Marian tradition, venerate and invoke under the title of Mother of Consolation. You should also imitate the examples of holiness which are so close to your heart: The Blessed Francis of Jesus and Vincent of St. Anthony; Venerable Melchor of St. Augustine and Martin of St. Nicholas; as well as their spiritual daughter St. Mary Magdalene of Nagasaki all martyrs of Japan. They ought to be a powerful incentive for you who desire to follow their heroic apostolic virtues. They along with Blessed Ezequiel Moreno and all of the religious who have reached life of perfection are your best advocates before the Lord God.

Finally, His Holiness exhorts you to be faithful to the genuine values which inspired your Augustinian Recollection. Like hopefully toward the future with a confidence proper to the children of God fixing your gaze not in temporal things but upon eternity (cf. 2 Cor. 4, 18). Let your life of prayer, interiority, volutary penance and serene obedience to your superiors be signs of the presence of the Lord in your communities. If you live the mystery of Christ in the fullness of His Church you will always discover the riches of community life and your apostolic and missionary labor become ever more successful in the up-building of the Kingdom of God.

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THE IV CENTENARY CELEBRATION IN REVIEW

June 1987

The Theologate Seminary in Mira-Nila, Quezon City organized ad hoc committees for the opening ceremonies thought to take place on December 5, 1987. Committees for the logo and theme competitions, musical composition contest and for exhibits were formed.

Srs. Ma. Paz Bawagan and Ma. Luz Nitura later to be substituted by Mo. Crescencia Vailoces were named to represent the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters in the preparatory plans. Their first action was to launch an awareness campaign among their communities nationwide.

October 1987

The IV Centenary International Executive Committee announced that the year-long celebration would officially open on December 5, 1988 and not on December 1987. Some Recollect communities in other parts of the globe went on with the inaugurals in 1987.

July 3, 1988

The A.R. Sisters of St. Joseph College Cavite intensified their information drive by organizing conferences on the Augustinian Recollection. Fr. Joseph Granada and the school faculty served as animators.

July to December, 1988

The Novices and Theologians went into a schedule of one-day recollections, all geared toward a deepening of the Recollect identity.

August 25, 1988

St. Joseph College - Cavite held a quiz bee on the life of St. Augustine, involving both high school and college students.

Month of August 1988

St. Rita College of Paranaque, Metro Manila inaugurated the Recollection Centenary year in their school with a dramafest for both high school and college levels. Contests in art, drama and oration were held under the theme "Augustinism."

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IV Centenary . . . from page 1

October 1988

The national preparation for the IV Centennial resumed.

The Community of Mira-Nila took the task of formulating and preparing the activities for the opening rites.

October 17, 1988

University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City held symposia for the faculties of all levels and non-teaching personnel to serve as an eye-opener on the significance of the IV Centenary celebration.

November 30, 1988

The Fathers and Philosophers from Baguio arrived in Mira-Nila to assist in the physical preparations for the opening ceremonies of the IV Centenary Year.

December 2-5, 1988

The Augustinian Recollect Family in the Philippines officially celebrated the inaugural of the IV Centenary Year. The first day, dubbed the "Recoletos' Day," was held at the Vicariate House. A celebrated mass was held at the San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, followed by a banquet and informal program at the Vicariate grounds.

The A.R. Sisters took charge of the "Recoletos' Day" the following day. Ball games and parlor games participated in by the Fathers, Sisters and Seminarians which filed the morning's activities at San Sebastian College-Manila. The afternoon was dedicated to a community recollection at nearby St. Rita College.

December 4 was dedicated to the Augustinian Recollect Tertiaries. The whole morning was spent on recreation of San Sebastian College-Cavite. The entourage transferred to the A.R. Sisters' St. Joseph College in the afternoon for a cultural program.

The so-called day of days, December 5, was labelled as the "Augustinian Recollect Family Big Day." The OAR and AR Communities from Luzon as well as the Recollect Tertiaries from Cavite and Cebu together celebrated the occasion at the Mira-Nila Theologate. The Family Recolects gathered for morning praise at the OLCF Church, which was shortly followed by a solemn concelebrated mass presided by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal L. Sin, D.D.. The day's activities included the holding of exhibits in the Seminary, the official opening of the Museo Recolecto, as well as the holding of ball games and the much-enjoyed "Peryahan sa Mira-Nila." In the evening, the Augustinian Recollect Family gathered once more at the Church for vespers. Supper was held on the Parish grounds. Fr. Victor Lluch, Vicar Provincial, officially closed the four-day program.

December 5, 1988

The OAR Fathers of University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu hosted the

IV Centennial celebration in the East Visayas Region. Most Rev. Manuel Salvador, D.D., Co-Adjutor Archbishop of Cebu, presided the Mass at the Carmel Parish-Recoletos Church. Exhibits were displayed at the USJ-R main lobby for public viewing. The A.R. Sisters from Bohol and Cebu came to join the celebration, which included the holding of parlor games and a sportfest.

The Recollect Fathers and Sisters in San Carlos City, Neg. Occ., jointly organized the IV Centenary celebration for Western Visayas. The day's activities began with a procession around the city streets, with the students of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos and Sta. Rita College forming the bulk of the group. A concelebrated mass followed at the CST-R quadrangle, with Bishop Nicolas Mondejar, D.D., as main celebrant. Outdoor and parlor games exclusive to the Recollect Fathers, Sisters and Seminarians added flavor to the day's affair, which culminated with a simple program in the viewing.

December 1988,

The OAR Fathers in Baguio implemented their plan to include relevant information on the Augustinian Recollection in their Sunday sermons, not only in the Seminary chapel but also in other parishes where they serve. To reinforce the drive, the seminarians occasionally served as choir in these parishes.

January 1989

Selected OAR and AR Religious were invited by Fr. Vicar to meet and compose the National Committee for the IV Centenary. A total of fifteen committees were formed, namely: Retreats, Liturgical, Third Order of OAR Promotion, Souvenir Program, Media, Literary-Musical, Field Trips, Conferences, Sports Social Involvement, Awards and Recognition, Closing Ceremonies, Ways and Means, and Transport and Accommodation.

January to December 1989

University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu concretized its own observance of the Centenary year through the following activities: January: symposia for students; February: information on OAR formation, campaign talks and slides and VTR programs pertinent to formation; March: poster-making contest and slogan-making contest; June/July: slide-showing on OAR in the world and quiz bowl; August: essay-writing contest and oratorical contest; September: skit competition and screening of the songs submitted for the song-writing contest; October: Youth encounter, with the theme: "Mary and St. Augustine;" November: song interpretation of the original composition; December: culminating activity: stage play - "Deepening of the Recollect Identity."

February 16-19, 1989

SSC-R Cavite used the theme "A Deepening of Identity" for its Founda-



At St. Rita College during a seminar in Recoletos Charism preparatory to the 4th Centenary celebration.

tion Day celebration, as a means to promote the Augustinian Recollection among its faculty and the student body.

March 1989,

To promote a deeper understanding of the Augustinian Recollection, the OAR Fathers of UNO-R Talisay arranged for conferences to be given to their students. Meanwhile, in nearby San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, the Fathers included pertinent information in their Sunday sermons on the achievements of the Recolects, especially in Negros.

April 17-21, 1989

In line with the inward thrust of the Centennial celebration, the required annual retreat for priests and lay brothers held in Angono, Rizal focused on the "deepening of the Recollect identity in our lifestyle as religious."

April 17 to May 28, 1989

A total of 36 A.R. Sisters from different parts of the country took their six-week renewal course at the A.R. Sacred Heart School in Quezon City. To recapitulate the refresher course, the Sisters underwent a five-day retreat conducted by Fr. Rene Paglinawan. The renewal course was handled by Fr. German Chocolate. Both the renewal course and the retreat focused on the Augustinian spirituality of the Recollection.

April 23, 1989

The beatification of two Recollect martyrs, Fr. Martin de San Nicolas and Fr. Melchor de San Agustin, was hailed as the crowning glory of the IV Centenary. Simultaneously with the beatification



Welcome sign strung across the facade of St. Rita College, together with the 4th Centenary logo on the right.

IV Centenary - from page 2

rites at the Vatican, Jaime Cardinal Sin led the community of Recolectos in a Eucharistic Sacrifice to honor the occasion at San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Quezon City.

April to May, 1989

Seven other groups of A.R. Sisters headed for thier annual retreats, all guided by the spirit of the IV Centenary. The retreat masters were all OAR Fathers who accompanied the Sisters in their evaluation of their commitment as A.R. religious.

July to October, 1989

Immaculate Conception College of Balayan, Batangas opened its celebration in July with a drum and lyre exhibition and a foodfest. In August, the school sponsored a quiz bowl on the life of St. Augustine. It was followed by a Bible quiz in September. October was set for a sportfest. Towards the end of October, the high school students took turns having recollections, all supervised by Recollect theologians from Mira-Nila.

August 25, 1989

Fr. Francisco Casalda. announced the culmination of a week-long AWARENESS celebration of USJ-R. The celebration focused on St. Augustine, his life, works and mission. A concelebrated mass was held for this purpose.

August 28, 1989

The Augustinian Recollect Family in Metro Manila and Luzon gathered at St. Rita College-Manila for a symposium entitled "Augustinism in the Order" presented by Fr. Lauro Larlar. A eucharistic celebration ended the symposium.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Minglanilla, Cebu celebrated this day with a holy mass officiated by two Recollect priests. This was followed by a parade and intramural games.

The CST-R and CSR religious communities of San Carlos City, joined by their respective faculty and students, held a solemn procession in the morning. A concelebrated mass was offered at the SRC campus backed by the mixed choir of seminarians and female Ritarians. Outdoor games filled the day's activities, which culminated with the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours at the CST-R chapel.

August 1989,

San Pedro Academy-Recoletos in Caidiocan, Valencia, Neg. Or., expressed its commemoration of the IV Centenary through an elaborate pictorial exhibit in the school library, courtesy of Sr. Grace Bendoval. As culminating activity, a play entitled "Restless Journey" was set for November.

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EDITORIAL

THE RECOLETOS OBSERVER

Message - the Vicar Provincial



Fr V. Lluch, OAR

My Dear Recollect brothers and sisters,

Although time, as one author has said, "is a circus always packing up and moving away," it also has a taming hand that ultimately leaves us not only imprints of events but also lessons of life.

At the closure of our IV Centenary celebration of the Augustinian Recollection we realize that our whole year celebration gave us the necessary sense of time and break and savor a stronger and more conscious gumption of our Augustinian Recollect identity. Such a time was not only significantly meaningful to all Recoletos providing us the inspiring light of a humble yet courageous beginning of the Recollection but has even made us aware of the parameters we have to equip ourselves within our journey towards the solidarity of oneness in mind and heart. There is no shade of doubt that we have learned much from such an evanescent time, and as St. Paul admonishes, "we must respond to its promptings and visions. You know that the time has come... for us to awaken." (Rom. 13.11)

Indeed, we are grateful to the Almighty for affording us not only that timely opportunity to celebrate but also for allowing apostolates in tandem along the whole year centenary celebration, we have discovered the strength and weakness of our togetherness the differences of our perceptions and the commonalities of our noble aspirations, eliciting thereby a firmer resolve and a fervent prayer to love and serve our Master, Christ, in our communities and His outcast, marginalized poor.

Moreover, as we continue in our pilgrimage beyond the journey that we have just celebrated, we thank our Lord for the clearer and vision of our direction, ever imploring Jesus for his bountiful protection and maternal care of our Blessed Mother Mary over our quest for the Augustinian Recollect ideal and evangelical "impossible dreams."

We specially thank the unsung heroes in all the communities including the non-appointed volunteers who, with their sweats, anxieties and sleepless nights took care of the innumerable details so planned and timely arranged all of which substantially contributed to the making of our celebration one singular affair to remember. It also has to be said that the executive committee for the 4th Centenary celebration did a herculean fine job.

On the occasion of the publication of this Centenary edition of the "Recoletos Observer," allow me to express in closing that our efforts in the celebration did not carry with them the illusion of obtaining easy solutions to our problems as human beings, and as religious, much less had the intent to capitalize on the commemorative and historical perspective of a centenary observance, but I hope that by the same efforts illumined and dazzled by the impact of the heroic example of Blessed Ezequiel Moreno Melchor, Nicholas and Saint Magdalena of Nagasaki who gave a witness to Christ by their deaths, we may have the courage to give witness to Christ by our lives. God bless you!

In Christ,

Fr. Victor Lluch, OAR
Vicar Provincial

St. Rita College of Paranaque, Metro Manila inaugurated the Centenary year in the school with drama-fest for both high school and college levels. Contest were held in art with the theme "Augustinism" as well as in drama and oration. Entries for the literary-musical competition, which will be part of the quadricentennial's closing ceremonies, were also readied.

September 3, 1989

On the eve of the solemnity of our Lady of Consolation, the Sisters from Cebu, Bohol and Bantayan Island gathered at IHMA, Minglanilla for a one-day recollection. Fr. Emeterio Bunao was the main speaker.

September 4, 1989

As an affirmation of a truly Marian Recollection, the OAR and AR religious communities of Metro Manila gathered at the OLCP Church in Mira-Nila for a joint commemoration of the solemnity of our Lady of Consolation. Bishop Angel Lagdameo, D.D. of Duamguete was the main celebrant.

Consolatrix Academy of Toledo City celebrated its high school day in honor of our Mother of Consolation. Sisters from Pinamungajan, Cebu and from San Carlos Neg. Occ. came for the occasion. To promote the Recollect closeness among their students, the Sisters of Toledo invited the basketball varsity of CST-R to their court.

September 10, 1989

Another highlight of the IV Centenary was the ordination to the priesthood of the first products of the Recoletos Formation Center of the Philippines. It was held at the OLCP Church in Mira-Nila with Archbishop Jesus Dosado, C.M., D.D. of Ozamis as the ordaining prelate. The new "proudly Philippine-made" priests are: Rev. Fr. Donald Pena, Rev. Fr. Ricardo Pitogo, Rev. Fr. Francisco Antonio, and Rev. Fr. Amadeo Lucero.

September 16 to November 19, 1989

Under the direction of Fr. Delfin Castillo, the University of Negros Occidental Recoletos in Bacolod held its 4th Centennial Augustinian Recollect Foundation Open Basketball Tournament. Held in three categories according to height ceiling, it was participated in by a total of 53 teams, both male and female, all of whom were UNO-Rians.

September 30, 1989

The Closing Ceremonies Committee, led by Chariman Fr. Dionisio Selma, met at St. Rita Convent-Manila to finalize the closing activities of the IV Centenary Year.

A TRIBUTE TO THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS

Bishop Camilo Gregorio's Homily

Delivered during a solemn concelebrated mass to close the OAR IV Centenary at San Nicolas de Teolentino church, Talisay, Neg. Occ., December 10, 1989

There is a little story attributed to St. Augustine. I don't know how authentic this legend is, but there is in it an element which is very striking. St. Augustine was supposed to have met a small boy by the seashore while he was contemplating on the mystery of the Triune God. This little boy was very busy running to and from the ocean to get water and put it in a small hole which he bore on the sand. Asked by St. Augustine what he was trying to do, the boy replied that he was transferring the ocean into the hole he made. When St. Augustine told him that it was impossible to do this, the boy answered back, "It is easier to transfer the ocean into this hole than for you to comprehend the mystery of the Blessed Trinity."

The story refers us to give meaning and at the same time to give gratitude before the goodness and awesome power of God after bringing to us and manifesting to us the 400 years of Augustinian Recollect missionary presence in the world, in our country, and especially here in Negros. And so we say with humility and gratitude, "We praise you God Almighty, we thank you for the sons of St. Augustine who absolved the sins of the faith here in our country and especially here in Negros."

I would therefore like to invite all of you to a meditation through a reflection of these 400 years of the Augustinian Recollection. With their presence, I would like to share with you three thoughts. First of all, we look gratefully to the past. Second, we look humbly to the present. And third, we look joyfully and hopefully to the future.

As a bishop and as a member of the Philippine hierarchy, I take this occasion to thank the Order of the Augustinian Recollects for their four centuries of dedicated missionary service in the Philippines. Within eighty five years after the discovery of the Philippines by Magellan, the Augustinian Recollects arrived on May 12, 1606. When we look back to history, we see the goodness and love of God that was manifested through them for us Filipinos. I am deeply touched as we recall that special day, the very beginning of the period of the Recollect protomartyrs. The period and the time when Recollect missionary priests like Fr. Miguel de la Madre de Dios gave their lives for the faith, for the spreading of the gospel. We think of those hard times when the annals of history tell us that the Recollects were given the most abandoned, the most dispirited places to evangelize, and those protomartyrs who shed their blood for their missionary love. And we think of them, with the words of Scripture, "Deep waters can not quench love."

Yes indeed, nothing could quench the faith and love that these missionaries had for our country. They were true, like St. Augustine himself who said, "The tears that come from tribulations are the new wine that stimulates those who really love God." Indeed, those tears and tribulations, those tests and sacrifices they made stimulated the faith among the Filipinos all over the country.

Brothers and sisters, you have heard well the gospel message of today. Out of His great love and kindness, God laid down His life to save us. The Augustinian Recollects today tell us on their 4th Centenary that love is not love unless we sacrifice for it. Love is not love until we are willing to die for the cause of the faith. And so we give to them our gratitude. We could say in all truth that it was faith and not anything else that made these men say in thought, in words and in deeds that the Filipino was worth dying for.

As Bishop of Bacolod, it is my privilege and honor together with his Excellency, my predecessor, Bishop Antonio Forti, that today as we recall all these zealous missionaries, we give peace and glory to God for them, for what they have done in the island of Negros since 1848. We cannot thank them enough for having evangelized the whole of Negros, particularly during those critical periods before and after the Philippine Revolution.

We cannot thank them enough for the liberational and developmental growth of Negros, not only spiritually but also materially. Who can say that the Church did not do anything for developmental work? The Augustinian Recollects gave us their service in seeking out the total liberation of man. They developed for us our municipalities, roads and bridges, and introduced to us our now lucrative sugar industry. What was so beautiful in all these developmental works was that they were done with true apostolic charity and faith.

We focus the second point of our meditation on the present. We look to the present with humility. Today, we still have them with us, thanks to the Lord. We still have the Augustinian Recollect Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Seminarians who are working in a field that is very important to the Church, that of Catholic education.

Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, we are grateful for your sustained efforts in the field of Catholic education. It is not easy today to be crusaders of Catholic education. Yet through its charisma to OAR, again faithful to their founder, have chosen that which is difficult and that which is selfless. St. Augustine once said, "Nothing conquers except truth and the victory of truth is charity." This is what stimulates and motivates the Catholic schools run by the Recollects that their prominent feature is always the cross. They seem to tell that they really mean to bring the message of the cross to humanity in all levels of society.

Finally, the third point of our reflection is that we look to the future of the Augustinian Recollects with joyful hopes. I enjoy them in their newfound commitment to the Church and to humanity. I see in the enthusiastic faces of our Recollect Fathers, Sisters and Seminarians who are here the expression of hope, the expression of courage. I see their faith which goes with the saying that "the woods are lonely, dark and deep; but I have promises to keep and tasks to do before I sleep." With their renewed apostolic evangelization in the field of Catholic education, the OAR family partakes of the fundamental function of the Church which is to educate and help provide or promote awareness and experience of the whole country toward the mystery of Christ.

Brothers and sisters, particularly of the Augustinian Recollect family, we cannot blind ourselves nor deviate from the spirit of St. Augustine who once said that all the shepherds should become one good shepherd. United we are with Christ and the Bishops of Hierarchy, may we all be united in the realization and knowledge that the evangelization of the world prevails in part due to the instrumental presence of the Augustinian Recollects.

To conclude, brothers and sisters, I enjoin all of you to give blessing, to give thanks and praises to God as we celebrate today the 4th centenary of the Augustinian Recollects. To remember always and treasure their missionary commitment to the Church. And once again, we exclaim to the world with gratitude using the words of St. Paul, "How faithful are they who announce the Good News." Indeed, how beautiful are the works of the Augustinian Recollect religious who announce the Good News to us.

Rev. Fathers and Sisters, friends and benefactors of the Augustinian Recollects, may the Lord bless and reward you. From the grateful faithful here in Talisay, from grateful friends, parents, benefactors, students and alumni, we say to you: God is not unjust. He will not forget your work. He will reward the service, past and present, of His beloved people. Brothers and sisters, let us give praise and thanks to the Lord for the past, present and future presence of the Augustinian Recollects in our country.

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September 1989, month of

UNO-R Bacolod dedicated its University Week to the Augustinian Recollection. This was expressed in the university sportfest, cultural shows, and conferences for students and professors of the university.

October 14, 1989

Virgin of Carmel High School in Tiwi, Albay and St. Raphael Academy of Legaspi City, held a joint celebration at VCHS to commemorate the IV Centenary. The day's affair began with a rosary prayed in the nearby church. From there they paraded and convened at the school grounds, where ball games and the so-called "laro ng lahi" were contested. The sisters later distributed bookmarks bearing the official Centenary logo.

October 19, 1989

Despite the typhoon, the Recollection and Liturgical gathering of the Augustinian Recollects was pushed through as scheduled at Colegio de Sta. Rosa in Makati. Fr. German Chicote gave a talk on the Forma de Vivir while Fr. Huberto Decena discussed the Missionary Expansion of the Recollects in the Philippines and Asia.

November 6 - 10, 1989

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School in Quezon City dedicated its Vocation Week to the IV Centenary. Through the efforts of Sr. Paz Bawagan and The A.R. Aspirants, the school put up exhibits of posters, miniatures and other paraphernalia on the lifestyle, charism and apostolates of the Augustinian Recollects, aimed to give the students a more concrete grasp of the world of the Recollection.

November 20-25, 1989

Although not formally part of the IV Centenary Program, the Ongoing Formation Week held in UNO-R Bacolod was programmed to accommodate it to the goal of the quadricentennial year. Fr. Angel Martinez Cuesta was the main speaker of the gathering. He was assisted by Fr. German Chicote and Dr. Luciano Santiago.

November 21 to December 10, 1989

To help create the Centenary atmosphere in the university campus, the Campus Ministry Office of UNO-R Bacolod put up an extensive exhibit at the school's main lobby. The exposition had four main features: the OAR Brief History; and OAR Apostolates; the OAR Organizational Chart; and the Parishes Founded and Administered by the Recollect in Negros.

November 29, 1989

San Sebastian College-Recollectos of Manila hosted the National Literary Musical Contest of the IV Centenary. The contests were participated in by 7 OAR and AR educational institutions and 2 OAR parishes. Rachel Valencia of St Joseph College, Cavite got the first



Another 4th Centenary activity - A Chorale Contest held on the stage of the St. Rita College auditorium.

prize in the oratorical tilt. In the choral contest, the first place went to the mixed choir of St. Rita College, Manila and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sacred School, Quezon City. -3-

November 24, 1989

Streamers were put up at the San Sebastian College and St. Rita College premises, venue of the Closing celebration. Three days later banners bearing the official Centenary logo were displayed at the facade and inside of the historic San Sebastian Church in preparation for the culmination rites.

November 29, 1989

OAR Historian Fr. Angel Martinez Cuesta gave a conference to the Augustinian Recollect Family at the SSC-R Little Theater. The topics were "Reforms and Longing for Greater Perfection in the Origins of the Augustinian Recollects" and "The Spirituality and Charism of the OAR."

November 30, 1989

Under the direction of Fr. Rex Bangcaya, some Philosophers from Baguio together with the A.R. Sisters, Potulants and Aspirants, completed work on the joint OAR-AR Exhibits entitled: "Augustinian Recollection - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

December 2-3, 1989

The scheduled Closing Program was aborted when news reports were aired of a military coup d'etat in Metro Manila. The Executive Committee held an emergency meeting on December 3. It was decided that the Closing Program would be reset to December 16-17. Despite the tense situation around the city, the Centenary exhibits were opened to the San Sebastian churchgoers.

December 6-19, 1989

Fr. Jose R. Oroz gave a series of conferences to different OAR schools around the country. The conferences were scheduled as follows: Dec. 16: SSC-R Manila "Pedagogical Ideas of St. Augustine;" Dec. 11: USJ-R Cebu - "God-Man Encounter;" Dec. 15: UNO-R Bacolod - "Pedagogical Ideas of St. Augustine;" Dec. 20: CST-R San Carlos - "St. Augustine: Life and Works;" Dec. 17: SSC-R Manila - "Apostolate in the Life of Augustinian Recollects;" Dec. 19:

SM-R Baguio - "The Encounter of God with Man According to Saint Augustine."

December 8-10, 1989

Culmination of the IV Centenary celebration in the Visayas Region.

December 11, 1989

The Media Committee inaugurated the photo exhibits at the San Sebastian College lobby, entitled: Augustinian Recollects: Social and Spiritual Architects. It depicted the history, personages, and accomplishments of the Order, especially in the Philippines.

December 13-17, 1989

The Centenary exhibits were opened for the students of both SSC-R and SRC Manila, under the supervision of the senior A.R. Sisters led by Sr. Imelda Lachica, "seniores" Recoleta at the time of the 4th Centennial celebration.

December 16-17, 1989

Culmination of the observance in the Philippines of the IV Centenary of the Augustinian Recollection.

Others

In the months following the opening day affair, CST-R of San Carlos waged an awareness campaign through several conferences. The school also hosted the Recoletos Students' Congress, which gave the organizers the chance to instill the spirit of the Recollection in the young minds who came from different parts of the country.

During the IV Centenary Year, Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Minglanilla, Cebu held poster-making and essay-writing contests with themes taken from the thoughts of our Father St. Augustine.

Under the direction of Fr. Victor Lluch, Vicar Provincial, Augustinism was made the central theme of the monthly Bible-sharing of our Augustinian Recollect Tertiaries in Cavite City. Our Tertiaries have also been engaged in various means to promote the Recollection.

The Sisters of Colegio de Sta. Rosa in Intramuros, Manila did their share of keeping the spirit of the IV Centenary alive in their school by integrating information on the Recollection in their classroom lessons. They also offered their prayer intentions in their Bible Service and monthly recollections for the success of the IV Centenary.

CALL FOR RENEWAL IN THE IV CENTENARY OF THE ORDER

by: Fr. Antonio Caparros, OAR

1. Our celebration is a moment of grace – an opportunity to contemplate the work of God in us and the response of our fathers all along the four hundred years of our existence.
 2. Moreover it is challenge that demands individual and collective availability and the courage to make this celebration meaningful and achievement that inspires and uplifts the spirit.
 3. Our celebration should have (along the many attitudes) the spirit of:
 - a. Thanksgiving
 - b. Confirmation of our Identity
 - c. Spiritual Renewal
- A. Thanksgiving**
1. Because OAR is a gift of God, thus we owe Him that profound sentiment of gratitude – Toledo 1588.
 2. Also a gift to us priest, brothers and sisters who have received the calling - to serve Him.
 3. Also a gift to all those who receive and continue to receive our spiritual inputs and influences including the benefits of our pastoral ministry.
 4. Four centuries of survival. A religious order with triumphs and difficulties is really a product of the ever guiding Providence and with all its implication.
 5. We thank God for His Providence and the guidance He gave to those who made our existence possible and our presence in the Church charismatic.
 6. This feeling of gratitude must be reflected and translated in our individual and collective lives, in our concrete acts, reflected in the fulfillment of our duties.
 7. This thanksgiving should lead us to openness with the Spirit so that we can easily and sensitively discern what is right and just and be able to purify motives not in consonance with the evangelical attitudes of the first Recoletos.
 8. This thanksgiving lead to the confirmation of our charism as identical to the resolve of our forefathers, imitating Christ as poor, pure and obedient, seeking truth in contemplation and service.
- B. Confirmation of our Identity**
1. The General Chapter says that the very act of celebrating the Fourth Centenary will awaken in us that fundamental charism and reconfirm the Recollect Identity.
 2. The compliance of this 5th ordination reinforces our ties, our relationship effectively and effectively, ties not only by profession but also other ties that make us feel and live better as Augustinian Recollect thus fulfill better our role in the Church.
 3. Adhere to ourselves and have pride of our history. We have to strengthen that sense of identity as Recollect and with such strength as we share one common goal – To allow Christ's body to grow which is the Church.
 4. We cannot be brothers to men unless we are first brothers to our co-religious who live with us. We

were not called in isolation but to live together. Strength of unity is our source of happiness.

5. The Order is not stagnant nor static. It is a life to be handed down and passed on. But it demands a deep knowledge of religious family because we have to know, allow and cherish what is ours.
 6. Know the history and imbed lessons and deeds that the Recollection has done because of them we can love the actual family with its limitations. St. Augustine says we are time. If we improve ourselves we improve the time.
 7. Reinforcing our sentiments of solidarity with what is ours will redound to the benefit of others. We shall serve men better by deepening ourselves in our identity and leaving the imprints of what we are in the Church. (Leo Buscaglia).
- C. Spiritual Renewal**
1. Among other objectives that we propose to realize in the IV Centennial Celebration is the spiritual renovation of the Order as reflected in the lives of the members. Thus it is important to consider the efforts we have to make and the attitude we have to adjust.
 2. The Encyclical Perfectae Caritatis (October 28, 1965) enumerates the characteristics of Religious Renewal.
 - a. Lead members to follow Christ and unite themselves by three vows (category of synthesis).
 - b. Spiritual renewal serves as intense life of prayer which helps us discover the plans of God. This strengthens our union with Him and facilitates our availability to serve Him.
 - c. Personal and comunitarian renewal will make our Apostolate more fertile. New ways and means of evangelizing, new missions to sow words of God reinforces our decision and efforts in living up to the mission that calls for self-surrender, solidarity with the poor and needy.
 - d. Charity is the virtue that accompanies all renewal efforts as moving spirit or essence. With this in mind the first Recolects adapted a lifestyle which describes foundational legislation.
 - e. The spiritual renewal asked of us in summary: an openness to the Holy Spirit to receive that spontaneous and ready willingness to live a life of charity as prescribed by the Forma de Vivir.

"THE IDENTITY, THE VISION AND REALIZATION"

Although the culminating activities of the IV Centenary was originally set for December 3-3, 1990, it was postponed to two weeks later due to the political crisis at the time, as decided by the Executive Committee.

The theme of the program was drawn from "Stadium Sapientiae, the modern day Magna Carta of the Augustinian Recollect formation and lifestyle. This term was used by our great father St. Augustine himself.

The registration was handled by the OAR novices, which was held at St. Rita College. "Bene Orare" was the formal opening activity. The Lauds, incorporated in the Mass celebrated by Fr. Vicar Victor Lluch was recited at the Little Theatre of SSC-R.

Parlor Games followed, among the Recollect Fathers and likewise among the Recollect Sisters, joined in by the delegates from the College Seminary in Baguio who arrived after lunch in time for the games.

Taking on a more serious mood, "Bene Sudere" took on group dynamics among the participants, which was held at San Sebastian College, with each member reflecting on the effects of the IV Centennial Celebration on himself, or on them collectively.

While this was going on, another project, which was that of the San Sebastian Parish, a fund-raising campaign which limited the number of participants in the group dynamics, any of which were involved in the on-going fund-raising campaign.

At the end of the day, the participants converged at the SSC Little Theatre to recap the day's activities, as reported by several reporters from the group.

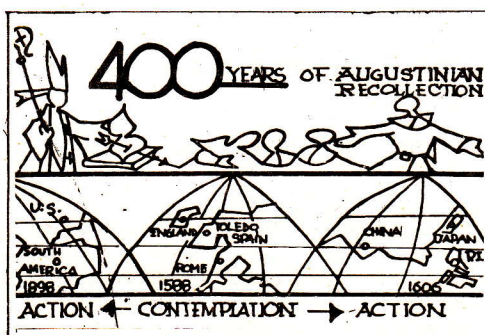
The day, busy, fun-filled and strenuous as it was ended with a sumptuous dinner at the ground floor of the St. Rita College, after the evening Vespers.

Sunday, December 17 was another big day, which began with a conference by Fr. Jose Oroz, an internationally known Recolecto, who holds a professorial Chair at Salamanca University, Spain. His talk on Apostolic Life and the Augustinian Recollect Life, was translated by SSC President, Fr. Lauro Larlar. A midday liturgical hour followed, which was in turn, followed by lunch, at St. Rita College.

In the afternoon, the glorious history of the Augustinian Recolects in the country was recalled through a slide presentation, after which, the participants met in a workshop, guided by the theme, "Deepening of Augustinian Identity.

Marian Devotion, an essential elements of the Recollect tradition, drew from the participants meaningful sharing. Hail Mary's pervaded the atmosphere during this period.

Meanwhile, a concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration was held at the imposing San Sebastian Church, with most Rev. Fr. Cornelio de Wit, MHM, Vicar for



Religious, as the celebrant. This was the highest and most fitting act of thanksgiving.

Professor Alfredo Buenaventura, conducted the selected centenary choir filling the air with angelic music.

Monsignor de Wit, was joined by another prominent Concelebrant, Retired Recollect Bishop, Mosnignor Gregorio Espiga, OAR.D.D., pioneer of missions and other institutitons in Palawan.

The Culminating program officially ended the IV Centennial of the Augustinian Recollects. The presentation of the Augustinian Recollection Awards was easily the highlight of the affair.

The Preamble of the Awards clearly expressed its purpose, "The Augustinian Recollect Priests, Brothers and Sisters imbued with the spirit of joy in the celebration of the Fourth Centennial of their foundation, recognizing indebtedness to Almighty God for the Graces received, raise their hearts in gratitude. In the spirit they wish to recognize their fellowmen for their kindness proffered to them in the course of history. In order to make this gratitude tangible and memorable, and in order to further enhance the knowledge and awareness about the Augustinian Recollection spirit among our people, the Augustinian Recoleciton Awards are hereby instituted."

Varied Plaques of Appreciation and Medallion abound during this closing ceremony.

Presentation of the Awardees were taken care of by the different Augstinian Recollect Priests and Sisters, with Mr. Chito Avelino, as the Master of Ceremonies for the affair.

After all the musical contributions to the program made possible by the IV Centenary Choir, selected AR Sisters, the Baguio Seminarians, and prose-winner of the Centenary Choral Contest.

In behalf of the awardees, Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, delivered the response.

Fr. Rene Paglinawan, Executive Committee Chairman, gave the closing remarks, where he emphasized the Augustinian Recollect vision of occupying a distinct place in the church according to identity, which is committed to spreading the Augustinian Values of interiority, community, and universality.

The celebration ended, but the realization of the vision has just started.

RECOLLECTS TURN 400

by: Fr. Pastor E. Paloma, O.A.R.

A Case of Identity

The Spanish philosopher, writer and statesman Jose Ortega y Gasset (1183-1955) defined a person as "yo y mis circunstancias" (me and my circumstances). He thus underscored the vital role of environment in the formation and identity of a person. This notion of environment is further refined by German ethologists by introducing the word "Unwelt" to denote not merely an external environment which surrounds you but which is also in you. For them it is not so much an outer world but a pervasive actuality that penetrates the inner fabric of one's being.

To understand a person, then, basically demands an understanding of his "circunstacias" and his "Unwelt", his sociology and psychology - a task that is extremely difficult since it presupposes an openness of mind with a sensitivity to nuances, a great capacity for details together with an eye for essentials to avoid missing the forest for the trees.

The task assumes gargantuan proportions when applied to the understanding of a moral person, a spiritual or religious movement far removed in time and space, as far removed as the early part of the 16th century.

The Order of the Augustinian Recollects celebrating its 400th foundation anniversary (1588-1988) takes up this difficult challenge of understanding itself better with the theme: 'A Deepening of Identity.' This interest is obviously not to enhance a new form of isolationism and spiritual elitism nor to indulge in a nostalgic tour of the past with an ego-boosting mechanism primed by a subtle complacency over seeming gains. Rather, it is primarily and ultimately geared to a clearer affirmation of its role in the profix nature of the ecclesial reality thus providing its members with a cutting edge to carve out the Augustinian ideal in the bosom of the Church in a renewed apostolic commitment to Christ and His members.

The Handicap

Basically the difficulty of pinning down the Recollect identity lies in the problem of its historical discontinuity due mainly to a lack of a strong cohesive force emanating from an immediate single core founder. Being a renewalist movement, the obvious questions of: from what, by whom, why and where to explode simultaneously in one's face. The flash can dazzle one's eyes and the dust kicked up smother initial honest enthusiasms of not a few. And due to the unsure note of a bugle and a fuzzy chain of command battles have been lost.

As one writer puts it: "... individuals not chapters and communities innovate." Men and women of clear vision shocked by the glaring discrepancy between contemporary life-styles and the Gospel values drew up a way of life that helped people come closer to the Gospel ideal. Sustaining this healthy "shock" through time has been the secret of the vitality of certain institutes. Call it charisma, call it magnetic personality or leadership style, one thing sure is that the impact of their personal experiences of the driving will of God did not remain locked up in these founding persons.

Unlike the tidal waves caused by renewalist giants like St. Therese of Avila and St. John of the Cross, the Recollection of the 16th century may be compared to a modest ripple initiated by some chapter fathers in the Augustinian Province of Castille in the chapter halls of Toledo, Spain (Dec. 5 1588). This seems to be the bottomline handicap, the unsure note and the fuzziness that a modern appraisal of the Recollect identity crisis precious energy may have been dissipate, energy needed elsewhere in more compelling areas of responsibility and spiritual leadership. Nevertheless the fact remains - 400 years of Recollect existence. Battles may have been lost, but the war is not yet over.

Parameters of Identification

Some call it constitutive elements of an entity. In this case it is preferable to use parameters since it is more a question of arbitrary constants characterizing a system and fixing the contours of a fluid way of life among the many conflicting and rival lifestyles. As the word arbitrary indicates, it is a conventional thing agreed upon, like words to signify concepts. Persons get together and agree upon certain things from nomenclature to exegesis and actual implementation. Through time these become constants on which later members can fall back for reference and meaning. They help articulate the common visions, spiritual reserves and central realities that nurture and give direction to the whole entity; A continuous honest reading of these constants on the part of its members can be the best guarantee of what the systems approach people call negative entropy or plain survival.

Four points surface as parameters in the Recollect phenomenon: Augustinism, monasticism, reformism and mission. These define the countours of the physionomy of a Recollect.

1) Augustinism. Beyond all partisan rhetisan rhetoric and religious intramurals among religious institutions under the cloak of religious emulation and healthy competition, one cannot bypass the obvious imprint St. Augustine left in the ecclesial consciousness. Like a well-known landmark, one cannot seemingly travel without reckoning with Augustine. From the likes of Thomas of Aquinas, Blaise Pascal and the periti of Vatican II, attempts have been made to appropriate and disseminate vital "purple patches" and "nuggets of wisdom" from the Augustinian treasury. For the avid follower of Augustine, however, the embarrassment stems more from abundance rather than penury, digestion rather than research. Hence attempts at reductionism and simplification on this matter should not be judged immediately as anti-intellectualism and caricaturing but more as a survival kit and a coping mechanism. For Example the book and the chart have been the traditional insignia of the Augustinian family to capture and illustrate Augustine's subtle combination of systematic theology and spiritual reflection with mystical moralism. Done in community and for basically dominated by pastoral care, a sharing of things previously contemplated in solitude. This practical tandem provided the eyes, ears and hands of the Augustinian family since the beginning and which the Recollect renewal movement simply strained, cocked and stretched to its possible limits.

2) Monasticism. Although maintaining the title "hermit", the Augustinian follower up to early 12th century was not a man who literally withdrew from the world. This brand of hermitism was not a hard core reclusionism but a product of a need to correct perspectives and priorities before launching into the heart of the city of man. It was a form of rejection of the prevailing socio-economic value-systems and taking a stand for the Gospel ideals. This attitude blossomed in the 13th to the 16th century in the form of mendicant spirituality, a spirituality rooted in the incarnational theology. The solitary hermitages gave way to monasteries enconced in the nerve centers of cities, private devotions gave way to apostolic endeavors. Fired by an intense spiritual entrepreneurship, brilliant converts and founding persons ached to see God's kingdom spread at all cost from the market places to the academe to the ends of the world. Maintaining a difficult balance of "intimacy in distance" the monastic experience left an indelible mark on the moral consciousness of the people of God. To a large degree major religious Orders structured their lives on this module. And Augustinian Order was not an exception.

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The Spiritual & Social Architects

THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS AROUND THE WORLD



Among the dynamic religious groups that have ever served the Philippines is the OAR — Order of the Augustinian Recollects, which began in 1588 in Castilla province in Spain and spread to other parts of Europe, the Americas and Asia through the years. Today, four centuries since the OAR beginnings, its communities are strongly rooted in 19 nations: Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain, Taiwan, the United States, Venezuela and the Philippines.

From its humble beginnings, the OAR has grown into a global religious sector composed of seven provinces — San Nicolas, Candelaria, Sto. Tomas, San Agustin, San Jose, Sta. Rita and Consolacion. In the 19 countries, about 1,300 priests are scattered to spread the message of the Gospel and lead people toward a deeper and committed Catholic.

Who are the Augustinian Recollects? From the Monastic Hermits of St. Augustine in the early centuries to the Augustinian Order which started in the 13th century as well as the "mendicant orders emerged the inspiration that paved the way for the birth of the religious group in the historic chapter of Toledo in 1588 which eventually became the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollects.

The Augustinian Recollects are committed to the growth and development of a prayerful and common life as well as asceticism, self-studies and a dedicated apostolate ministry.

Following the 1588 foundation and prior to the approval of the "Forma de Vivir" in 1589 which spelled out the ways by which Recollects lead their lives was an order to establish three monasteries for men and another three for women to be dedicated to those who wanted to pursue a more austere way of life. During the order's contemplative period, in 1596, the Recollects moved to a humble house in Madrid that soon became the community's principal monastery. The place served as the general curia, or the seat of the provincial of Castilla, home of the Recollect friars, for two-and-a-half years.

On February 11, 1602, Pope Clement VIII created the "Province of St. Augustine of the Recollect Friars of Spain". At that time the Recollection numbered a little more than 70 friars distributed in over five monasteries.

Another important development came on June 5, 1621 when Pope Gregory the XV elevated the provincial into the rank of the congregation. Almost 300 years later, on September 16, 1912, Pope Pius X decreed the emergence of the Order of the Augustinian Recollect and granted its superior the title and faculties of a General.

In between these developments, on May 16, 1566, or 85 years since the discovery of the Philippines by Magellan, the first Recollect missionaries arrived in the Philippines, where they inaugurated their first house and church in Bagumbayan.

Mission work was indeed very difficult at that time. The friars risked their lives. Among the first casualties was Fr. Miguel de la Madre de Dios, who was stoned to death in 1607 by hostile natives. Today, Fr. Miguel is known in the OAR circle as the "Protomartyr of the Augustinian Recollection on Philippine Soil". Other priests were eventually burned at stake or beheaded of the people's resistance to their mission work.

The OAR work spread to Cavite in 1616, Mindanao and Cebu in 1621 and Palawan in 1622.

Efforts to spread the work to Japan took place in 1623 but it was only in 1632 when two priests succeeded in getting there.

Between 1635 and 1679, the Recollects started work also in Romblon and Mindoro.

An interesting contribution of the Augustinian Recollects was made by Fr. Diego Cera, who arrived in 1795. Fr. Cera was assigned for 37 years in a miserable and backward settlement known today as Las Pinas. There, he built out of almost entirely bamboo cane a world-famous organ, which has become the most precious treasure of the townfolk. Accounts show Fr. Cera also constructed several other bamboo organs, including one for the Cathedral of Manila.

Also considered as a milestone in the OAR history is the birth of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters on June 6, 1725.

The work in Bohol and Western Mindanao began in 1768 when the



*The San Sebastian Church in Manila: A testimonial of the Recollects' contribution to Philippine Society.**

Recollects took over the pastoral work in the two southern islands from the Jesuits, who were expelled. In 1961, the Jesuits returned to the Philippines and the Recollects were ordered out in areas, wrote OAR historian, Fr. Angel Martinez Cuesta, where the Jesuits left and in other parts of the country where the former founded parishes or curates. Earlier, in 1848, the Recollects opened their work in Negros which was given to them by authorities as their mission territory.

The Recollects were eventually given in 1865 mission territories in Luzon, apparently in exchange for what they lost in Mindanao and some of them were sent to Guam in 1873 to take over the work left by the Jesuits.

Recollect friars left the country when the Spanish War broke out in 1896, when 27 members of the OAR community were killed and returned in 1907.

By 1912, Pope Pius X issued the "Religios Familias" decree elevating the Congregation of Augustinian Recollects into an Order.

Records reveal that since the Augustinian Recollects were late arrivals in the Philippines, they were not included in the division of Philippine territories by Philip II to the different Orders of Spanish missionaries. Consequently, they had to accept what was offered to them. Obviously, there were few places to choose from, thus they were assigned to remote territories, where work was extremely difficult and constant threats to their life were felt. As they had to travel on foot or horseback or by makeshift boats for their regular visits to other missionaries, the priests eventually were ambushed by marauders.

In the 1940's, the Recollects focused their concern on education as an apostolate as they founded three schools — Colegio de Sto. Tomas in San Carlos City and San Sebastian College, both in 1941 and the Colegio de San Jose, now the University of San Jose-Recoletos, in 1947.

Today, the order continues to administer the three schools and eight others, including the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod City, the San Sebastian College in Cavite City, a major and a minor seminary in Baguio and San Carlos, UNO-R High School-Talisay, the San Pedro Academy in Valencia, Negros Oriental and the Mira-Nila Theology House in Quezon City.

Obviously, the role of the Augustinian Recollects in this part of the world has been articulated in a chronicle which reads: "The Augustinian Recollects were spiritual architects in the Pacific Basin because, as Christian missionaries, they brought Christ to the natives of the islands; they preached the Word and administered the sacraments and served the people of God. But before they could serve the people of God, they first had to found a human society and form it into a Christian community. In short, they first had to be social architects.

Today, in the Philippines, as it is in many parts of the world, not only church members are awed by the contribution of the Recollects in spiritual and social development of men and women. Even travelers marvel at the number of villages, roads, canals, bridges, forts, churches and other public buildings attributed to the painstaking and devoted efforts of the Recollect missionaries. These are testimonials to the charisma of the order which has become a living reality in areas where the seeds sown by the OAR communities have germinated and grown.*



*The dotted areas show the 19 countries where the Recollects are actively working today.**



The Augustinian Recollect Charism



After receiving the sacrament of baptism, it pleased St. Augustine to return to Africa, to his own house and homeland, together with other compatriots and friends. And there, almost a triennium, freed of the burden and secular cares, he lived for God in the company of friends who had joined him and dedicated himself to prayer, fasting and good works, meditating day and night on the law of God. And what the Lord revealed to him in prayer and reflection he transmitted to all, present and absent, through his words and writings.

While the above-mentioned episode on St. Augustine's life happened centuries ago, its relevance continues today as it basically reflects the divine inspiration that has guided the Augustinian Recollects in their four centuries of service all over the world.

The Augustinian Recollects emerged from the Chapter of Toledo in 1588 in the province of Castilla. A year later, they approved the "Forma de Vivir", or the "Way of Life", which eventually became the basic guide of their philosophy and collective direction.

The Augustinian Recollect charism is founded on a four-pronged basis of meaningful Catholic view:

1. A Prayerful Life
2. A Strong Community Life
3. Asceticism
4. Studies and the Apostolate

This charism developed as a result of the monastic ideal of St. Augustine, whose life eventually inspired the Castilla-based religious men to begin the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollects in 1588. The congregation was elevated into the status of an order by virtue of a decree in "Religiosas Familias" issued on September 16, 1912 by Pope Pius X who inscribed the congregation in the catalog of religious orders and granted its superiors the title and faculties of prior general. The move also meant full independence of the Augustinian Recollects from the Augustinian Order.

Since its beginnings, the Order of Augustinian Recollects and its members have responded to the divine call toward a perfect and austere way of life and a strengthened desire to spread the Gospel.

Prayer has been the Augustinian Recollects anchor to impregnate the entire life of the Recollects. They were to dedicate two hours daily to mental prayer, and have been encouraged to create an atmosphere of quietness and peace that would favor contemplation.

The perfect Augustinian Recollect community is a com-

munity of love, a community born of the Grace of God and consecrated to his service. It is a community of simple and sober life in which everything is placed in common:

*Talents

*Affection

*Material Goods

Authoritarianism and privilege do not belong to the community, which lives in fraternal and trusting dialogue and respects the personality of its members, particularly paying attention to their needs.

The Augustinian Recollect community communicates with the local church and is always attentive to the Lord's voice and the necessities of the church.

The Forma de Vivir, which was written by Fray Luis de Leon, one of the greatest Spanish poet-lyricists, expressed the desire for greater perfection through:

1. The idea of recollection, which includes the "spirit or the exercise of prayer, penitence and continuous conversion".
2. The value of peace and harmony among the brothers as a "certain sign that the Holy Spirit lives among them";
3. Effective and affective poverty, both individual and communitarian;
4. The dignity of divine worship;
5. The appreciation of penitence as an indispensable requirement for the life of prayer;
6. Attention to the care of the sick within the congregation; and
7. The intellectual and spiritual formation of the religious.

The Recollects have always believed that education for individual growth is important, thus they did their studies in their own schools. In the early years of the Order, academic curriculum, which comprised a five to seven-year period, was substantially identical to those of the other orders. Certain developments led to the growth of its congregation's own academic life and, through it, its spiritual and apostolic disposition.

The OAR apostolate has occupied a significant position in all the communities. All its monasteries and churches had been opened to the public, with an abundance of the religious dedicated to the confessional, to the pulpit and to visiting the sick.

The emphasis in self-studies resulted in the growth of intellectual activities that prompted many of its priests to pursue writing activities. The OAR has immensely contributed to the growth of the church in apostolate education through the writing of significant books, pamphlets and periodicals by its own members.*

3) Reformism. But like all human endeavors the maintenance factor failed somewhere along the line. Immersion took its toll. Men of lesser calibre could not sustain the sure note. They reached out mangled. The dynamic equilibrium of homeostatic theology gave way to secularism. Decadence crept into the institutions and ate into the inner fabric of hallowed traditions. Before the whole thing would collapse a clear sound had to be trumpeted. The call of the hour was reform or bust. Rising to the occasion, some in their individual capacities risked strident formulae and cramped visions adding to the reigning divisions and confusion. Finally with a sure hand the epic Council of Trent put order to the house and injected new life into languishing institutions. Seen in this perspective both the protestant reform and the so-called catholic counter-reform providentially restored the healthy tension within the pilgrim Church. It is this scenario that the Recollect phenomenon has to be situated, the immediate Sitz im Leben being the ferment of continued reform and interiorization. The strongly ascetic tones of its charter "Forma de Vivir" was de rigueur nothing more and nothing less than the sure sign of the Recollects being the sons of their times. As one writer puts it: "... decisive events rather than decisive personalities shaped the Recollection." Break-aways from mother institutions should not be seen therefore as repudiations of basic tenets but as a coming of age, like putting new wine into new wine skins without denying that wine mellowed with age.

4) Mission. Strangely enough barely 18 years from its founding (1588-1606) the Recollect movement strongly contemplative at the start felt strong enough to heed the call of the Church to spread the Gospel to the ends of the known world then. The missionary experience in the Philippines debunks outright the artificial dichotomy between action and contemplation. Far from betraying its charism it reaffirmed the perennial validity of "amor diffusivus sui" and the "contemplata aliis tradere" of parallel reform movements. However, this indisputable sign of inner dynamism in an otherwise strongly contemplative entity was officially recognized only in the later part of the Recollect existence and was slowly built into its juridical framework and mission statement. This explicit option of the Recollects has been legitimately sanctioned by the Holy See up to the present. In this apostolic and ministerial thrust, the "Philippine Connection" decidedly show-cases the Recollection. Perhaps no other Order can claim that without the Philippines it could not have survived extinction. Down to its last convent in Spain due to the disamortization move of the anti-clerical liberals, this last redoubt supplying missionaries to the Philippines was spared. Whether for reasons of expediency or simple politics, the fact remains that without that single convent for a specific purpose the Recollection could have been long gone in the ecclesial map. Providence and God's inscrutable ways took over where mediocre minds bumbled and warped wills fainted.

X - Factor

Parameters can help delineate the physiognomy of an entity but this is just half of its reality. The other half is unquantifiable and goes well beyond human parameters. Thus this X-factor the Recollect movement owes its existence in an unprecedented form explicitly acknowledged and articulated by the chapter fathers of the Augustinian Province of Castile in the 5th definition of the Chapter of Toledo (Dec. 5 1588):

"Since there are or can be among us some brother so desirous of monastic perfection that they would want to follow a more austere plan of life, and whose legitimate desire is to be furthered so that no obstacle be placed in the path of the work of the Holy Spirit... we determine that..."

It is from this common perception of the workings of the Holy Spirit among them and the challenge to a resiliency and ductility to His demands that the Recollect affair started. If there is a bottom-line handicap of a lack of a single outstanding immediate founding person for the Recollection, there is also a bottom-line saving factor coming from no less than God's Spirit himself. The awesome implication of this insight can only bring the Recollect to his knees and say: after all we just tried to do His will and we are unworthy servants (cf. Lk 17:10).

Religious Variety

A contemporary writer puts it succinctly: "The advantage of the flowering of numerous special spiritualities and religious institutions is the increasing availability of congenial types of spirituality for the increasing variety of pronounced personality types."

On its part the Vatican II speaking of the phenomenon of variety of religious orders highlights three things: 1) it contributes towards meeting the multifarious needs of the Church in diversified ways of service; 2) it reveals the manifold wisdom of God; 3) it beautifies the Church like a bride.

Thus beyond the utilitarian and theological aspects, the aesthetic aspect is also given consideration. Augustine once defined beauty as "harmony in variety". Monolithic uniformity is not beautiful but simply boring. The secret then of the beauty of the Church lies in the harmonious variety of its members and institutions working towards a common goal.

This talk on beauty, however, is not mere cosmetology. As one Willian Norgen complained: "Sometimes religious Orders have seemed to be preoccupied with themselves..." Vatican II properly subordinates the practice of the evangelical counsels to the saving mission of the Church which is the overriding goal and task of all Christian people. It thus offsets an excessively individualistic and often partisan theology and presents the religious life as an attractive witnessing to the presence of God here on earth. Similarly the vowed life manifests the surpassing greatness of the force of Christ and the boundless power of the Holy Spirit always at work within the Church.

Recollect Commitment

In the trial transcript of Joseph Brodsky, the Soviet artist in exile who won the Nobel Prize in Literature (1987), the judge asked him what he did:

"I am a poet," he replied.

"and who was it that said you are a poet?" asked the judge.

"And who recognized me as a member of the human race?" answered Brodsky.

The moral of the cause celebre scene is, the closer one appeals to universal principles the more solid his case and the more enduring and "for all seasons" he becomes.

Similarly for some so-called spiritualities - the less timebound and culturally conditioned they are the more they stand the test and usury of time itself. In other words, the closer a spirituality is to the fundamental spirituality of the Gospels the more chances of survival and of contemporary relevance.

Now at the heart of the Gospel message is the need for conversion: "Reform your lives and lives and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:14). Augustine saw this as a gaping and constant need for both individual and corporate beings - the agony of a divided heart matched only by the ecstasy of a pierced heart aching for God.

The Recollect spirituality drawing from both the Gospels and Augustine sees this dramatic interplay of God's initiative and man's response through conversion as one of its most basic spiritual components. Perhaps, this single element alone can explain its perennial validity and strength in the heart of ecclesial reality. For he who does not gather (recollect) with me scatters (cf. Mt 12:30).

The Church in need of constant reform (Ecclesia semper reformanda) continuously needs "change agents" in her ranks to carry out her task. The Recollect phenomenon is a historical crystallization and product of this Spirit of conversion. Paul, Augustine, Francis, Ignatius et al. lived this spirit. The Recollect Order looking beyond its 400th anniversary cannot renege on its calling. It does

Con't on page - 11

THE CULMINATION, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

The Augustinian Recollect communities in the Visayas had their culmination rites of the IV Centenary last December 8-10 in Bacolod City. The place was chosen for its accessibility which ensured wider participation.

As venue for the celebration, both UNO-R Bacolod and UNO-R Talisay began their preparations months in advance. Several committees were formed, with Fr. Antonio Palacios acting as over-all coordinator. The Committee on Food and Accommodation was headed by Fr. Enrico Silab; Sports, by Fr. Delfin Castillo. Liturgy, by Fr. Bernard Am-parado; and Communication, by Fr. Francisco Casalda, Fr. Rafael Cabarles, with the help of the high school seminarians, handled preparations for the cultural program.

The representatives from the different OAR and AR communities started arriving on the morning of December 8, the Sisters from Mindanao were not able to come as local airports were closed, a result still of the attempted coup d'etat. In all, a total of 40 Sisters, 36 Seminarains and 21 Fathers made up the 97-strong community, participating in the Culminating program.

After a brief midday rest, the group gathered at the UNO-R chapel to formally begin the activities with the Holy Mass. Fr. Juan Garde, vice-prior of UNO-R Bacolod and the day's birthday celebrator, presided the concelebrated mass. The homily was given by Fr. Casiano Cosmila, parish priest of Talisay. At the end of the mass Fr. Antonio Palacios welcomed all the participants in the name of the Augustinian Recollection.

The overcast sky on the morning of December 9 was barely noticed as each participant concentrated on outdoing the rest in wearing the best sports outfit. The Sisters particularly did not fail to draw attention with their 4th Centenary Culmination t-shirts worn over their habit. The colorful assembly paraded at the beat of drums through the covered walks to the university gymnasium, waving high their banners which were actually just improvised sheets of blankets and towels.

After the customary invocation, the national anthem, oath of sportsmanship and the welcome address, Fr. Delfin Castillo officially opened the Centenary Culmination Sportsfest. Volleyball games were played in the morning while track and field and basketball were contested in the afternoon. Games were played among the Sisters, Fathers, and seminarians. Fr. Cirilo Durana drew thunderous applause in the men's walkathon-senior division, where his winning form earned for him the gold medal. Behind him flowed the less fortunate but just determine competitors, Fr. Jose Antonio Rodrigalvez and Fr. Emeterio Buano, presidents of our two universities. The active day was ended with the eucharistic celebration made distinctive through

a penitential services and renewal of commitment to the religious life by the members. Fr. Victor Lluch, Vicar Provincial was the main celebrant and homilist.

The third and last day of the closing affair, December 10, was met with an early serenade, the so-called "diana" by the university band at the campus. After morning prayers and a hurried breakfast, the participant left for Talisay, some seven kilometers away from Bacolod. Fr. Lizzy Cosmilla, assisted by Fr. Amadeo Lucero, saw to it that the parish organizations put up the occasion "en grande." The church was elaborately decorated with a bamboo arch; an unusually big crowd of faithful had gathered for the occasion; and a brass band in gala uniform was at hand to welcome Msgr. Camilo Gregorio, Bishop of Bacolod, and the guests. In the solemn mass, Msgr. Gregorio expressed his sincerest gratitude in behalf of the Negrenses for the achievements of Recollects in this island with the hope that they will persevere in their good works. The Mass was concluded with the heartfelt singing of the "Te Deum."

In the afternoon, some of the visiting Recollects took a quick tour of the city. At three o'clock the whole family gathered at the UNO-R canteen for the bingo session. After the vespers late in the afternoon came the "last supeper" for this celebration. It was not yet the end though, as the much-awaited variety show had yet to draw the best out of the creative talents of the Augustinian Recollects. The Sisters presented a series of native dances in colorful costumes, part of which was extemporaneously joined by the Cebu Fathers. The Negros Fathers gave a dual music rendition, with Fr. Caloy Durana as the star singer. The seminarians for their part filled in the rest of the evening program with their songs and dances. The night culminated with the revelation of the "manito-manita" game.

For three days, the Augustinian Recollection in the Southern Provinces showed in their own way the spirit of the IV Centenary. The t-shirts they had printed for the occasion said it all: Culmination, Augustinian Recollection, Visayas and Mindanao Communities.

*In things that are certain
UNITY:*

*In things, non-essential
LIBERTY*

*In all things,
CHARITY*

St. Augustine

CONGREGATION OF THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT SISTERS

Saint Augustine loved intensely evangelical perfections set forth by Christ in the Gospel. Desiring that others would join him in this sacred striving, he established monasteries for men as well as for women, where they could live together with one mind and one heart in God, and thereby witness to the risen Lord. (Ep. 211 Serm. 356).

In this way, St. Augustine left to the Church a precious legacy, a form of religious life, which has been perpetuated in the various branches of the Augustinian religious families, which the Holy Spirit has raised up through the centuries, each with its own charism. One of these families is the Augustinian Recollect - made up of a religious Order for men, of contemplative monasteries and active Congregations for women; and of the lay tertiaries. All these institutes have each their own proper end and autonomous government, but all look up to a common father, St. Augustine, and partake of the same Augustinian Recollect spirit.

The Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters originated in 1791 in Manila, from the Order of the Augustinian Recollects, as a fruit of the missionary zeal of the Order. The Congregation is officially and perpetually united to the Order by many ties. The O.A.R. Friars guided the Foundresses, the sisters Dionisia and Cecilia Rosa Talampas, in their striving for evangelical perfection;

and later incorporated them as tertiaries of their Order. They directed the new Instituted in its early stages of growth and development until it was canonically established as a religious Congregation on August 19, 1929. With their guidance and assistance, the Congregation's juridical autonomy was declared by the Holy See on November 20, 1970 just before the visit of Pope Paul VI to the Philippines. Thus, the Order of the Augustinian Recollects has made the Sisters sharers of their own spiritually and their own history. (Dat. Hist 6-13; Dec. de Erec. 1929).

Consequently, the fundamental direction and goal of the Sisters are the same as those of the Augustinian Recollect family; to live the spirit of Saint Augustine, which is one of great fraternal charity, of intimate union with God, and of self-sacrificing service to the People of God.

The Sisters' spiritual heritage are the life, the teaching, and the Rule of Saint Augustine, as well as the examples and the great labors of many holy men and women: all these form the treasures of the Augustinian family, of the Augustinian Recollects, and of this Congregation. Each Sister should make it her effort to embody or incarnate this spirit in herself, and contribute to the growth of this patrimony.

(Historical Preface, Rule and Constitution of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sister, approved by the Holy See in 1982).

MESSAGE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II - from page - 1

The Holy Father commends these celebrations of the IV Centenary to the intercession of St. Augustine and to those who have attained sanctity in your religious family so that the Almighty may shower abundant graces upon your people and your apostolic works. With these desires and as a sign of benevolence, he imparts from his heart the requested Apostolic Blessing to you and to all of the Augustinian Recollects.

Joining as well in the joyful celebration, I am pleased to send you the testimony of my own consideration and esteem in Christ.

(Sgd.) Agostino Card. Casaroli
Secretary of State

RECOLLECTS TURN 400 - con't from page - 10

not have to be defensive nor squeamish about shortcomings and failures in the vineyard of the Lord. More fully aware of its place and role in the Church, measuring and assessing its true worth in this anniversary it can now more effectively be a true gift of edification to others. From the security of conventual life to the insecurity of the smallest and remotest mission outpost, from the intellectual pursuits of the academic community to the market of urban parishes, the Recollect Order, the brainchild of the Spirit of Conversation in the 16th century, is called upon to stoke the fire and incarnate anew a spiritual cybernetics of reform and renewal in the 21st century.

As Pope John Paul II through the Sacred Congregation puts it in his message to the Recollects on this occasion:

"... continue quietly in your mission according to your charism..."
The challenge boils down to a return to a tranquil delivery system within the economy of salvation without fanfare down the corridors of time. For shorn of all rhetoric, all shall one day stand before the common Judge to render an account of his stewardship.

CONGREGATION OF THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT SISTERS

SUPERIOR

Mo. Ma. Eufemia Lauzon, AR
AR Generalate
Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila
P.O. Box 1485, 1099, Manila
Tel. No. 742-3516

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|----|
| Sisters: | | | |
| In Final Vows | 216 | Formation Houses | 2 |
| In Temporary Vows | 40 | Schools | 32 |
| Novices | 15 | Retreat Houses | 1 |
| Postulants | 12 | Dormitories | 2 |
| Aspirants | 14 | Orphanage | 1 |

COMMUNITIES, WORKS, PERSONNEL

1. A.R. Generalate
Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manil
P.O. Box 1485, 1099, Manila
Tel. No. 742-3516
Mo. Ma. Eufemia Lauzon, Superior General
Sr. Crescencia Vailoces, Vicar General
/First Counsilor
Mo. Ma. Bibiana Vendiola, 2nd Councilor
Sr. Modesta San Jose, 3rd Councilor
Sr. Brigida Jamisola, 4th Councilor
Sr. Ma. Nicholasa Sabado, General
Econome / Councilor
Sr. Ma. Flora Elli, Superintendent of
AR Schools
Sr. Ma. Paz Bawagan, Vocation Directress
Sr. Dorothy Aguila, Coordinator of
Helath Services
Sr. Clemencia Ranin, Pastoral / Cate-
chetical Ministry

2. MOTHERHOUSE / SAINT RITA COLLEGE
Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila
P.O. Box 1485, 1099, Manila
Tel. Nis. 742-3513 / 742-3515
Sr. Esperanza Heffler, Local Superior
Sisters: 62

3. A. R. JUNIORATE
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque
1700 Metro Manila
Tel. No. 828-47-90
Sr. Noemi Mapa, Directress of Juniors
Juniors: 5

4. ST. RITA COLLEGE AND ORPHANGE
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque
1700, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 828-4790 / 828-5241
Sr. Irene Vergara, Superior, Directress of
Orphanage
Sr. Ma. Esperanza Escaño, Directeess / Dean
of College
Sr. Ma. Josefina Disen, High School Principal
Sisters (excluding Juniors): 19

5. OUR LADY OF CARMEL NOVITIATE
4120 Tagaytay City, Cavite
Sr. Escolastica Calsado, Superior
Sr. Emilia Buenaseda, Directress of Novices
Sr. Ma. Lourdes Piccio, Directree of Postulants
Sisters: 4; Novices: 15 Postulants: 12

6. A.R. HOME OF RECOLLECTION
4120 Tagaytay City, Cavite
Sr. Cecilia Salgado, Superior
Sisters: 4

7. A.R. MONTE CARMELO
Paradise Farms, San Jose del Monte
3017 Bulacan

8. OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL
Plaridel St., Santol
1113 Quezon City
Tel. No. 61-33-81
Sr. Ricarda Raganas, Superior / Directress
Sr. Marilou Delmoro, Principal, H.S.
Sr. Andrea Cabunilas, Pncipal, Elem.
Sisters: 7

9. COLEGIO DE STA. ROSA
Santo Tomas St., Intramuros
1002 Manila
Tel. No. 47-13-56
Sr. Ma. Celina Magcauas, Superior
Sr. Lucena Antipala, Directress/Principal
Sisters: 5

10. COLEGIO DE STA. ROSA
P.O. Box 2095, Estrella St.
Palm Village
1299 Makati, Metro Manila
Tel. Nis. 88-4790, 88-0129
Sr. Lourdes Tablizo, Superior
Sr. Maxima Pelaez, Directress/Principal
Sisters: 9

11. ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE
San Roque, 4100, Cavite City
Tel. No. 431-1937
Sr. Matilde del Rosario, Superior/Directress
Sr. Lucina Cabili, Principal, H.S.
Sr. Yolanda Navea, Principal, Elem.
Sr. Potenciana Azurin, Pastoral/Catechetical Work
Sisters: 11

12. SAN FRANCISCO JAVIER COLLEGE
Narra (Panacan), 5303, Palawan
Sr. Ma. Amparo Serra, Superior
Sr. Felicidad Pangilinan, Directress
/ Dean of College
Sr. Ma. Christina Bernaldez, Principal, H.S.
Sisters: 5

13. SACRED HEART OF JESUS HIGH SCHOOL
Brooke's Point, 5303, Palawan
Sr. Ma. Crisanta Armendez, Superior / Principal
Sisters: 5

14. EZEQUIEL MORENO HIGH SCHOOL
Liminangcong, Taytay, 5312, Palawan
Sr. Ursulina Balading, Superior/ Principal
Sisters: 4

15. IMMACULATE CONCEPCION COLLEGE
Balayan, 4213, Batangas
Tel. Nos. 147/125
Sr. Ma. Juliana Mandia, Superior/Directress
Sr. Rafaela Paras, Dean of College
Sr. Leonora Mercado, Principa, H.S.
Sr. Ma. Milagros Lucero, Principal, Elem.
Sisters: 9

16. IMMACULATE CONCEPCION HIGH SCHOOL
Sambat, Balayan, 4213, Batangas
Sr. Gabriela Garcines, Principal
Sisters: 2

17. COLEGIO DE STA. TERESITA
Laoang, 6411, Northern Samar
Sr. Rebecca Adarayan, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 4

18. LADY MEDIATRIX INSTITUTE

Candelaria, 4223, Quezon
Tel. No. 314
Sr. Ma. Carmen Bolaños, Superior
Sr. Celerina Hifarva, Directress/Principal, Elem.
Sr. Rosario Alvero, Principal, H.S.
Sisters: 6

19. SAINT RAFAEL ACADEMY

Aguinaldo St., Legaspi City
4500 Albay
Tel. Nos. 29-94 / 29-93
Sr. Alfonsa Canon, Superior
Sr. Pasculina Peral, Principal
Sisters: 5

20. VIRGIN OF CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

Tiwi, 4513, Albay
Sr. Primitiva Berdejo, Superior
Sr. Candida Umali, Principal
Sisters: 4

21. HOLY NAME ACADEMY

Palanas, 5404, Masbate
Sr. Fortunata Gaspillo, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 4

22. A.R. COMMUNITY WORKING IN SAN PABLO COLLEGES

San Pablo City, 400, Laguna
Sr. Agustina Salcedo, Superior
Sisters: 4

23. OUR LADY OF CARMEL SCHOOL

Calatagan 4125, Batangas
Sr. Ma. Gloria Acha, Superior / Principal
Sisters: 4

24. COLEGIO DE STA. RITA

San Carlos City, 6127, Negros Occ.
Sr. Ma. Luz Nitura, Superior/Directress
Sr. Elvira Vergara, Dean of College
Sr. Ma. Goretti Cui, Principal, H.S.
Sr. Angelica Fuentes, Principal, Elem.
Sisters: 9

25. COLEGIO DE LA MEDALLA MILAGROS

Jagna, 6308, Bohol
Sr. Ma. Auxiliadora Somosot, Superior
/Principal
Sisters: 4

26. SAINT MARY ACADEMY

Guidulman, 6310, Bohol
Sr. Alejandra Bendoval, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 4

27. BLESSED TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

Talibon, 6325, Bohol
Sr. Anastacia Fangon, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 4

28. SAINT AUGUSTINE ACADEMY

Bayawan, 6221, Negros Oriental
Sr. Marcela dela Cruz, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 5

29. SAN PEDRO ACADEMY

Valencia, 6215, Negros Oriental
Sr. Ma. Virginia Acha, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 3

30. SAN PEDRO ACADEMY-RECOLLETOS

Caidiocan, Valencia, 6215, Neg. Or.
Sr. Leonarda Muncada, Principal
Sisters: 2

31. SAINT RITA DORMITORY

Pelaez St., 6000, Cebu City
Tel. No. 778-74
Sr. Ma. Ninfa Inzon, Superior
Sisters: 4

32. CONSOLATRIX ACADEMY

Magsaysay Hills, Toledo City
6038 Cebu
Tel. No. 216
Sr. Ma. Corazon Nartia, Superior/Principal, Elem.
Sr. Ma. Lea Eseo, Principal, H.S.
Sisters: 5

33. IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY ACADEMY

Minglanilla, 6046, Cebu
Tel. No. 797-05
Sr. Ma. Martina Labao, Superior/Principal, H.S.
Sr. Genoveva de Asis, Principal, Elem.
Sisters: 6

34. STA. MONICA ACADEMY

Pinamungajan, 6039, Cebu
Sr. Filomena Oliva, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 4

35. OUR LADY ACADEMY

Ronda, 6073, Cebu
Sr. Benedicta Marco, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 4

36. SAINT PAUL ACADEMY

Bantayan, 6052, Cebu
Sr. Ma. Soledad Samonte, Superior&Principal
Sisters: 4

37. NOTRE DAME OF BANGA

Banga 9511, South Cotabato
Sr. Aurelia Cagang, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 5

38. NOTRE DAME OF LAMBA

Lamba, Banga, 9511, South Cotabato
Sr. Juana Mirasol, Principal
Sisters: 2

MEMBERS ABROAD

1. SAINT AGUSTINE CONVENT

Bonthe, Sherbro Island
C/o Archbishop's Office
P.O. Box 98, Freetown, Sierra Leone
West Africa
Sr. Ana Rechilde Llorando, Superior/Principal
Sisters: 6

2. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

609 Wool Drive
Milpitas, CA 95035 USA
Sr. Ma. Clotilde Edora, Superior
Sisters: 4

3. ST. JOSEPH CONVENT

197 The Trongate
East Granville 2142
NSW, Australia
Sr. Ma. Ruth Gulane, Superior
Sisters: 4



**The General Administration
Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters**

Mother Ma. Eufemia Lauzon, AR - Superior General
Sister Crescencia Vailoces, AR - Vicar General
Mother Ma. Bibiana Vendiola, AR - 2nd Councilor
Sister Modesta San Jose, AR - 3rd Councilor
Sister Brigida Jamesola, AR - 4th Councilor
Sister Ma. Nicholasa Sabado, AR - General Econome/Councilor
Sister Ma. Flora Silvero, AR - General Secretary/Councilor

ORDER OF THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS VICARIATE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINA

VICAR PROVINCIAL

Fr. Victor L. Lluch, OAR
22-24 Neptune St., Congressional Subd.
Quezon City
P.O. Box 127, 1100, Quezon City
Tel. No. 921-6103

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| Bishops | 1 | Formands: | |
| Priests: | | Deacons | 3 |
| Filipino | 61 | Teologians | 26 |
| Spanish | 21 | Novices | 12 |
| Chinese | 7 | Philosophers | 89 |
| Total | 89 | High School | 84 |
| Brothers: | | Formation Houses | 3 |
| Filipino | 3 | Parishes | 8 |
| Spanish | 1 | Schools | 7 |
| Total | 4 | Universities | 2 |
| | | Colleges | 2 |
| | | High School | 3 |

COMMUNITIES, WORKS, PERSONNEL

1. VICAR PROVINCIAL'S RESIDENCE
22-24 Neptune St., Congressional Subd.
Quezon City
P.O. Box 127, 1100, Quezon City
Tel. No. 921-6103
Fr. Victor L. Lluch, Vicar Provincial
Fr. Antonio Ausejo, Procurator
Fr. Domingo Saladaga

2. PARISH OF SAN NICOLAS DE
TOLENTINO
20 Neptune St., Congressional Subd. Quezon City
Tel. No. 99-53-36
Te
Fr. Leonardo Pauligue, Parish Priest
Fr. Alejandro Ramirez
Fr. Clemente Jubera

3. SAN SEBASTIAN CONVENT AND PARISH
Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila
P.O. Box 3173, 1099, Manila
Tel. Nos. 742-5310
Fr. Dionisio Gutierrez, Prior
Fr. Herminigildo Ceniza, Vice Prior/
Vice President
Fr. Nicolas Salvatierra, Parish Priest
Fr. Salvador Frutos
Most. Rev. Gregorio Espiga Infante, D.D.
Fr. Jose Francis
Bro. Severino Cuesta

4. SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-RECOLETOS
Claro M. Recto Ave. Manila
P.O. Box 3173, Manila
Tel. Nos.
Fr. Lauro Larlar, President
Fr. German Chicote, Treasurer
Fr. Francisco Siguenza
Fr. Rene Albarico
Fr. Jorge Peligro
Fr. Manuel Lipardo

4. RECOLETOS FORMATION CENTER
(Theologate and Novitiate)
71 Alondras St., Mira-Nila Homes
Tandang Sora, Quezon City
U.P. P.O. Box 206, U.P. Diliman
1101 Quezon City
Tel. Ni. c/o 921-6103
Fr. Rene Paglinawan, Rector
Fr. Crisostomo Garnica, Vice Rector/
Novice Master
Fr. Dionisio Selma, Master of the
Professed
Fr. Ernesto Estonilo
Fr. Cornelio Moral
Fr. Huberto Decena
Fr. Aaron Baygan
Bro. Agustin Culaton

5. OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION PARISH
71 Alondras St., Mira-Nila Homes
Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City
U.P. P.O. Box 206, U.P. Diliman
1101 Quezon City
Tel. No. c/o 921-6103
Fr. Samson Silloriguez, Parish Priest

6. PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PEACE AND
GOOD VOYAGE
Del. Pan St., Tondo, 1012, Manila
Tel. No. 27-54-24
Fr. Victor Virtudazo, Parish Priest
Fr. Pastor Paloa
Fr. Celestino Cachapero

7. SEMINARIO MAYOR-RECOLETOS
Naguilian Road, P.O. Box 91, 2600, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-2823
Fr. Melquiades Modequillo, Rector
Fr. Regino Bangcaya
Fr. Joseph Philip Trayvilla
Fr. Edwin dela Torre
Fr. Celso Neo
Fr. Ricardo Pitogo

8. SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-RECOLETOS
P.O. Box 13, 4100, Cavite City
Tel. Nos.
Fr. Walthrode Conde, Prior/President
Fr. Lino Agunod, Vice Prior
Fr. Federico Gregorio, Vice President
Fr. Federico Dela Rosa
Fr. Joseph Granada

9. UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
RECOLETOS
P.O. Box 214, Liars Avenue
6100 Bacolod City
Tel. Nos. 252-02/250-36
Fr. Antonio Palacios, Prior
Fr. Juan Garde, Vice Prior
Fr. Jose Antonio Rodrigalvarez, President
Fr. Enrico Silab, Vice-President
Fr. Delvin Castillo
Fr. Bernard Amaparado
Fr. Marcelino Mayor
Fr. Demetrio Penascosa
Fr. Andres Rdante Gotera
Bro. Santos Serato

10. PARISH OF SAN NICOLAS DE TOLENTINO
AND UNO-R HIGH SCHOOL
TALISAY / 11! 'Negros Occidental
Tel. Nos. 53-72 / 59-93
Fr. Casiano Cosmilla, Parish Priest/School Director
Fr. Amadeo Lucero

11. COLEGIO DE STO. TOMAS-RECOLETOS
Minor Seminary and High School)

6127 San Carlos City, Neg. Occ.
Tel. Nos. 438 / 997
Fr. Rafael Cabarles, Rector
Fr. Cirilo Durana
Fr. Cirtituto Palomar
Fr. William Villafior
Fr. Loreto Dacanay

12. PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE
ABANDONED and SAN PEDRO ACADEMY

6215, Valencia, Negros Oriental
Fr. Pedro Ko, Parish Priest
School Director
Fr. Victoriano Polestico

13. CONVENT AND PARISH OF OUR LADY
OF MOUNT CARMEL

Magallanes St., 6000, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. 784-22/755-85/538-03
Fr. Jose Maria Martinez, Prior/Parish Priest
Fr. Oscar de la Rosa
Fr. Esteban Garcia
Fr. Florentino Echavarri

14. UNIVERSITY OF SAN JOSE RECOLETOS

Magallanes St., 6000, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. 538/756-00
Fr. Emeterio Buñao, President
Fr. Dionisio Cachero, Vice-President
Fr. Anesio Villanueva
Fr. Hernando Coa
Fr. Constantino Real
Fr. Francisco Caslada
Fr. Juan Almarza
Fr. Antonio Caldeiro
Bro. Joaquin Jamelo

15. OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION PARISH-
RECOLETOS

Laray, San Roque
6045, Talisay, Cebu
Fr. Faustino Paglinawan, Parish
Priest
Fr. Francisco Antonio

16.

MEMBERS OF THE HIERARCHY
Most Rev. Gregorio Espiga e Infante
OAR, D.D.

Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Palawan
San Sebastian Convent
Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila

MEMBERS ABROAD

Fr. Nicolas Shi
Fr. Jose Wang
Fr. Lucas Wang

TAIWAN

Fr. Melecio Ho
Fr. Felipe Liu
Fr. Pedro Tung
Fr. Cipriano Zubiri
Fr. Manuel Perola
Fr. Sotero Macabudbud
Fr. Arsenio Escabusa

USA.

Fr. Emilio Larlar
Fr. Pedro Escanillas
Fr. Melchor Dano

3. ENGLAND

FR. Euben Capacillo

4. ITALY

Fr. Felizardo Daganta
Fr. Raul Buhay
Fr. Donald Peña

**PRAYER FOR THE
AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT
VOCATIONS**

*Lord our God, may the
sound of your call be heard by
many that they may arise and
live united in You.*

*Prepare their hearts with
your word, so that they may
be willing to proclaim your
Gospel to the poor and to take
care of your plentiful harvest.*

*Lord, grant that all who are
called to the Augustinian
Recollect way of life hear your
voice and be able to fulfill
your will, through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



The RECOLETOS OBSERVER is a quarterly publication of the OAR Vicariate of the Philippines and China which aims "to provide the religious a regular, updated and systematic information ... in the various OAR apostolates" (Vicarial Circular Letter, July 3, 1989).

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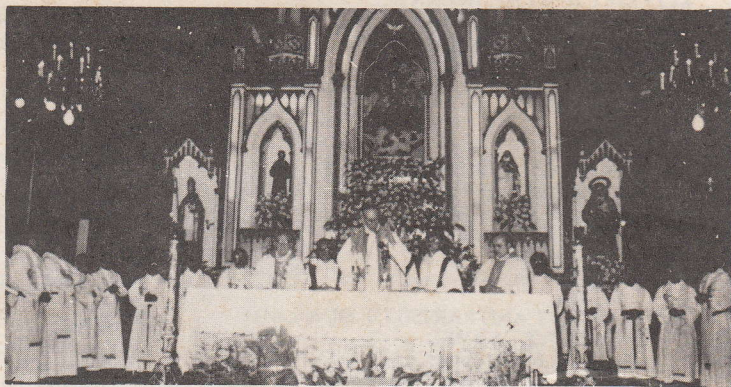
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PICTORIAL-OAR'S 400th



Special designed award medal for the 4th Centenary celebration. Yellow ribbon, with red and silver medallion and green outline of the 400 in the center.



Concelebrated mass showing main Celebrant, Msgr. De Witt, held at San Sebastian Church, Manila.



An evening/dinner-reception at St. Rita College, showing Presidential table, with Guest of Honor, Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication, Honorable Oscar Orbos, an Alumnus of San Sebastian College, Manila.



Community of the Recollect Fathers in line waiting the start of the concelebrated Mass. Photo shows the main entrance of San Sebastian Church at Plaza del Carmen.



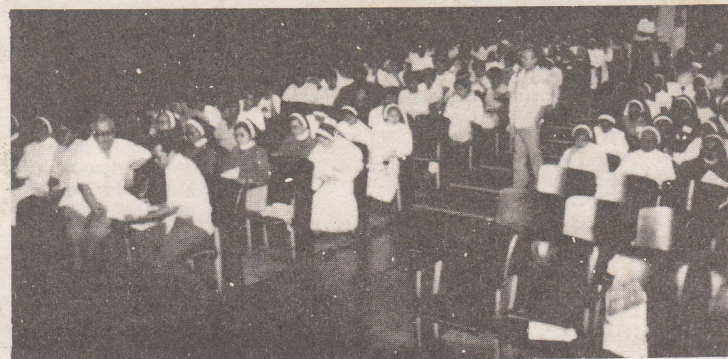
A panoramic view of the Concelebrated Mass at San Sebastian Church - part and parcel of the 4th Centenary celebration. Front row show Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Marcelo Fernan, and immediately behind him, to the left, Secretary of Transportation and Communication, Honorable Oscar Orbos.



An evening reception at the quadrangle of the St. Rita College, Manila.



Msgr. De Witt - Main Celebrant in the Concelebrated Mass held at San Sebastian Church.



Another seminar in Recoletos Charism held at the Little Theatre of San Sebastian College, preparatory to the Recoletos' 4th Centenary celebration. Photo shows Vicar Provincial Fr. Victor Lluch before the microphone.