



RECOLETOS

ORDER

1998 April-June

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

1998 April-June

Philippine Vicariate Prepares for Provincehood

Since 1975 there has been a desire manifested by the Filipino religious that the OAR Philippine Vicariate become a province. All along these years, as Filipino vocations grew in number, there would surge some mild representations in favor of the provincehood but these were not officially entertained until the General Chapter of 1992 when a position paper based on a vicarial survey -- with findings on sufficiency of the number of religious, establishment of a theologate, complete cycle of formation houses, and favorable reports of Frs. General and Provincial -- ventilated the possible creation of Philippine Province in the next five years.

Thus the General Chapter of 1992 held in Bogota, Colombia responded with an enactment which states: *"The vitality of the Order consists principally in the strength of our interior life, but also made manifest in the growth of the number of its members and in the importance and work of the ministries which it attends. The General Chapter views with gratitude the evolution of the Vicariate of the Philippines and China towards becoming a future province of the Order. The Chapter asks the General Council, in the sexennium and in accordance with the Constitutions (n.377), to undertake the studies and organize the meetings necessary to make it possible for the General Chapter of 1998 to establish the new province, if it judges that it is opportune to do so."*

Fr. General, in order to fulfill the said enactment, sent the necessary communications to the Provincial and the

Vicar instructing them of the necessary steps that had to be taken to prepare the Vicariate giving special consideration to religious life in the communities, vocation promotion, seminary formation, care of the recently ordained priests as well as other matters that may be deemed necessary.

In his report, Fr. General writes: *"the process of the transformation of the Vicariate of the Philippines into a province has followed a satisfactory religious course up to now and has moved forward calmly and peacefully. This is noticeable both in those most directly interested, the members of the Vicariate and in the rest of the provincial community and even of the Order. It is safe to say that we are all in favor of the erection of a new province."*

The provincehood is indeed a great gift. But it is also a responsibility. We must therefore summon ourselves to rally behind the moral and spiritual preparation ensuring that the new province will have its solid and vigorous structure and beginning. ❄

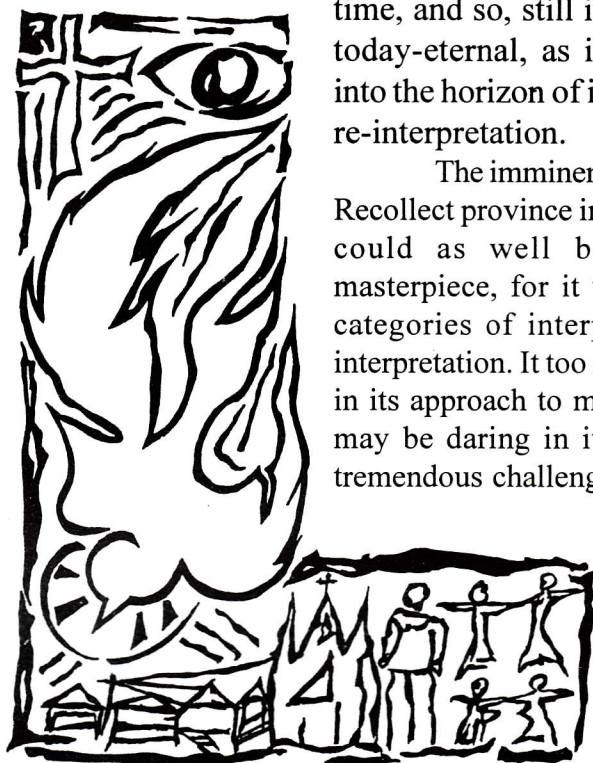


No Less Than the Spirit's Work

It is not for nothing that His Holiness Pope John Paul II has invoked the Holy Spirit at the threshold of the third millennium. Such a move gives substance to the claim that indeed the overwhelming presence of the divine is no accident in the shaping of the world's history which is always God's history.

Contemporary society, for all its avowed claims of having created a global village through the 'democratization' of technology and the 'absolutization' of human potentials, still faces the tremendous challenge of finding a sense of direction, meaning and purpose. This is the arresting question of life, one that lies in its inmost core.

Yet the groundwork has already been laid bare before us, slowly but surely. What Hans-Georg Gadamer calls, *Wirkungsgeschichte*, is nothing more than the virtual history that every work of man effects. For instance, a piece of art or any creative work for that matter stands beyond the vagaries of culture and



time, and so, still it can speak to us today-eternal, as it were. It enters into the horizon of interpretation and re-interpretation.

The imminent creation of a new Recollect province in this Asian region could as well be considered a masterpiece, for it too may defy the categories of interpretation and re-interpretation. It too may be innovative in its approach to management. It too may be daring in its ideals. But the tremendous challenge of religious life

transcends the establishment of a global village through maximization of technology and human

potentials. Religious life has to be like a shaft of light offering to contemporary society a sense of direction, meaning and purpose. And this is the Holy Spirit's work. No less. After all, human history is God's history too. If that is so, then amidst the vigorous efforts of preparing ourselves for the creation of a new Philippine province—God has to be at the center. No less. ♣



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" (Vicariate Circular Letter, July 3, 1989).

FR. REGINO BANGCAYA, OAR
FR. LARRY GARCES, OAR
FR. FERDINAND HERNANDO, OAR
Editorial Board

FR. VICTOR L. LLUCH, OAR
Moderator

SCHOOLS

Cebu City

USJ-R Inaugurates New Retreat House

At the dawn of the Recollect Vicariate in the Philippines transforming itself to become a new province and on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the University of San Jose-Recoletos, a new retreat house in Cebu was opened and was dedicated to the memory of Talavera, the cradle of the Recollection last May 30, 1998. Talavera House of Prayer rests atop the hill of Quiot, Pardo,



Cebu City. The three-story retreat house includes two dormitories, thirty-five private bedrooms, four conference rooms, a chapel, etc. House of Prayer welcomes any person, broken by sin or simply tired of the secular world, to rest and commune with God.

The USJ-R Community, headed by its President, Fr. Buñao, OAR, initiated the construction of the retreat house. ♣

Bacolod City

UNO-R sails through School Year 1997-98

The University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos witnessed another transition this S.Y. 1997-1998 with the reporting to office of the

new set of administrators, headed by its president, Fr. Hermenegildo Ceniza, OAR. Fr. Ceniza is the 10th Recollect to lead this institution.

UNO-R earned once again national recognition when it fared very well in different licensure examinations. The College of Criminology took pride in its 83.33% passing, while the Electrical Engineering Department had 88.89% as against the 38.43% of the national passing percentage. Civil Engineering Department produced this year another batch of board toppers with Gernie S. Melizo placing 9th, Christopher B. Perez, 18th, and Rommel C. Soriano, 20th. UNO-R has ranked number 5 among the top engineering schools in the Philippines. In the Medical Technology Board Exam given last March 6-7, Noel Castillon brought home honors for his alma mater by placing second among the more than a thousand examinees.

The whole of the region had eyes set on UNO-R when Mrs. Adelaida Sobremesana, part time instructor in the Graduate School, was awarded "Research Exemplar in Region VI" by the Philippine Association of Graduate Studies. Meanwhile, the Commission on Higher Education put confidence in UNO-R by choosing this university as Nodal Station for the Private Higher Education Institution Computerization Program in this region.

The College of Law was animated with the inauguration of its new College Library last April 20, 1998. The event was graced by the presence of Fr. Jose Antonio Rodrigalvarez, OAR, who did the honor of blessing the new facility.

Coinciding with the canonical visit of Rev. Fr. Javier Pipaon, Prior General of the Order, UNO-R inaugurated on April 12 its new chapel dedicated to the patronage of St. Nicholas of Tolentine. His Excellency Camilo Gregorio, D.D., Bishop of Bacolod, presided the ceremony. ♣

Cavite City

SSC-Cavite Enters Wired World

The SSC-Cavite has set up an internet facility to cope with the overwhelming demand for information, knowledge and opportunities. Through the school library, the school is now equipped with a potent information tool of the 21st century.

To give students ample knowledge regarding this new facility, the head of internet services, Fr. Reynaldo Jaranilla, OAR, together with Mr. Emmanuel Lim introduced to students the near limitless possibilities of the worldwide web. In a visual display of facts, Fr. Jaranilla explained the mechanics and the progress of this new technology. Demonstrations on the how's and why's of the basic internet services like the e-mail were also conducted.

In a related development, Mr. Emmanuel Lim of Webtop Phil., a well-known computer hardware company, expounded on the plans of making the first ever internet annual for class '98. He pointed out key benefits of having an annual posted in the web. What is to be done is to have the graduate's credentials, abilities and other informations posted which would enable possible employers to pick out a student who fits the qualifications an employer company is looking for. ♣

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

UNO-R Talisay Garners Awards

Chris Alson R. Bejemino

Second Runner-up

Augustinian Schools Math Quiz Competition

John Benn Fetalvero

Semi-Final Champion

Bronze Medalist

NOPSSCEA '97 Literary Contest

Bacolod City

FORMATION

Antipolo

Pre-Novitiate Program Hails Its Pioneering Batch

The final evaluation of the Pre-novitiate Program and the Pre-novices held in Recoletos Formation Center, Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City last March 5, 1998 marked the culmination of the maiden voyage of the long-dreamt psycho-spiritual formation stage of the Order.

The ten (10) members of the pioneering batch had their taste of a day-long grueling final evaluation before the presence of the President of the Secretariat on Formation, Fr. Joseph Philip Trayvilla, OAR, together with Frs. Lauro Larlar, OAR, Rector of RecoForCe, Enrico Silab, OAR, Prior of St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate, Regino Bangcaya, OAR, in-charge of the program, Larry Garces, OAR, Gaudencio de Mesa and Federico Gregorio.

The evaluation proper was divided into two parts. The first part, in panel discussion form, focused on assessment, review and positive critique on the program itself, particularly eliciting from the candidates vital experiential recommendations to improve and enhance the program. The second part was individual evaluation in the three particular areas: Human Maturity, Religious Orientation and Vocation Awareness. In this part, the pre-novices were evaluated by the three-member panel appointed by Fr. Vicar, namely, Frs. Rex, Lauro and Eric.

The pioneering batch was composed of the following: Balagtas, Mark from Valencia, Negros Oriental; Esler, Jose Ma. Francis from Patnongon, Antique; Estacio, Randy Sylvester from San Carlos City, Negros Occidental; Gamboa, Clint from Talisay, Negros Occidental; Hamo, Roweno Eugenio from Mabini, Bohol; Lee, Casimiro (Sangwon) from Seoul, South Korea; Pancho, Mardonio Jr. from San Carlos, Negros Occidental; Potencio, Romeo Ben Jr. from Iriga City, Camarines Sur; Salarza, Jermaine from Jordan, Guimaras; and Sta. Romana, Agapito from Quezon City. ♣

Mira-Nila, Quezon City

RECOFORCE, still visioning

The year-end evaluation led to a clearer vision for the seminary year 1998-1999. As of summer 1998, the membership of the Local Chapter has been increased to eight. Six of the members work full-time in the seminary. The incoming community of formandi will now have a Master of the Professed, a Spiritual Director and Companion in the formation for pastoral ministry, a Prefect of Studies, a Procurator and Personnel Manager, a Seminary Librarian and Registrar, two Companions in the Parish Exposure, and a Prior. The Local Chapter maintains and strengthens assistance to the two members assigned to the parish ministry. The OAR community at Mira-Nila is grateful to the major superiors for adding brother companions to the formation house.

A more beautiful scenario is in view as the members of the Local Chapter favor the proposal to return to the practice of "common residence" for both those assigned in the parish and those working in the formation house. This can help build us into an *apostolic community*. We want to be more than just a *group of apostles*.

The vista is encouraging. The chapel which is undergoing the needed renovation, will also house the signs and symbols of the Order. We believe these concrete "presences" of God in history can help the professed brothers integrate the multi-faceted gem of the Recollection in our personal and community living. The recreos, the reading and consultation rooms of the fathers and the theology students will also undergo a face-lift. This is intended to reveal the **bene vivere** and the **bene studere** principles of our formation.

The scene will be more complete as the visitor feels the difference, from the moment he enters the main door of the seminary and moves to the Bulwagang Recoletos or to the OLCP Church through the chapel and the recreo. The vision is realized when the passage would invite him to remain and urge him tell others to "come and see."

We are thankful, we can still dream...and more grateful for they come to life. ♣

PARISH

San Nicolas Parish

Talisay, Negros Occidental

The Diocesan Council for Tertio Millennio Adveniente (TMA), upon the request of Fr. Paul Dacanay, Parish Priest of Talisay, Negros Occidental, has organized a weekly bibilical faith sharing among the parish organizations.

Last February 3, 1998, the Monstrance with a consecrated host was stolen from the Adoration Chapel. The church was temporarily closed for four days. The parish had a three-night penitential service.

PUBLICATION

EAST OF PINATUBO

Former Recollect Missions in Tarlac and Pampanga
(1712-1898)

by
Lino L. Dizon
1998

Prof. Lino L. Dizon explores in detail the history of the missions of the East of Pinatubo (1712-1998) comprising the proto-missions of Alupay, Talimarin, and Dinalupian and the Misiones Vivas of Mabalacat, Bamban, Capas, O'Donnell and Moriones.

With a very lucid and yet scholarly presentation, Prof. Dizon portrays the Recollect missionaries with indefatigable zeal despite the strangeness, inhospitable terrain and poverty of the environment.

Fr.V.L. Lluch, OAR. from the *Foreword*.

Commemorating the 410th anniversary of the Birth of the Augustinian Recollect entity, 1588-1998, we cannot but look back with burning emotion to the energies invested by the Recollects on these shining islands. "East of Pinatubo" is one splendid toast to that commemoration! ...For the Recollect and Philippine History, "East of Pinatubo" is, in many ways, a novelty. A glance on the painstaking list of the revered missionaries of Alta Pampanga is abundant proof. The "Lingering Recoleta Traditions" can, for the first time, bring the common folk to a happy understanding of the cycles of everyday life.

Fr. Rex Bangcaya, OAR from the *Introduction*.

assignments

Fr. Emilio A. Quilatan, OAR

Recoletos Formation Center
Mira-Nila Homes, Tandang Sora
Quezon City

Fr. Jorge D. Peligro, OAR

Province of St. Augustine
California, USA

Fr. Gaudencio de Mesa, OAR

Spiritual Director
Mira-Nila Homes, Tandang Sora
Quezon City

Fr. Alberto Avanzado, OAR

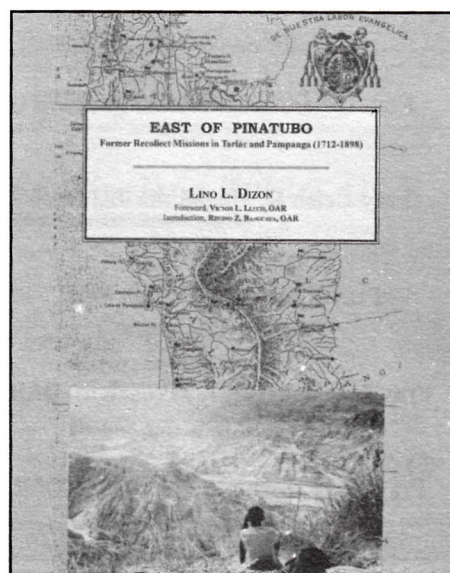
In-Charge of Pre-Novices
Recoletos Novitiate House
Antipolo, Rizal

Fr. Delfin Castillo, OAR

Our Lady of Consolation Parish
Laray, San Roque, Talisay, Cebu

Fr. Paulino Dacanay, OAR

Parish Priest
St. Vincent Parish
Baguio City



MISSIONS

Taiwan Missions

Apostolate with the Overseas Filipino Workers

As unemployment surges in the Philippines, Filipinos try their luck in other countries. According to latest statistics, in Taiwan alone, there are at least 102,261 legal Filipino workers. Kaohsiung has an estimated number of 7,338 Filipino workers. Thus, the need to look after the spiritual needs of these Filipinos.

Efforts are exerted by the Recollect Fathers in Taiwan to reach out to these migrant workers particularly in the Diocese of Kaohsiung. Fr. Rouel Sia, OAR, since his arrival in Ching-Tao, had started attending to the spiritual needs of the Filipinos around Hsia-Kang. The three Pinoy Recollects who have recently arrived in Taiwan are taking charge of the Filipinos in the parishes of Yung-Fang (Talia), Fan-Hwa (Ping-Tung District) and Lin-Yuan- a huge pastoral endeavor indeed for the new volunteers. ❀

congratulations!!!

SOLEMN PROFESSION

June 13, 1998

Fray Joel A. Alve, OAR
Calubian, Leyte

Fray Urbano L. Galanido Jr., OAR
Jagna, Bohol

Fray Celso G. Magbanua Jr., OAR
Roxas, Palawan

Fray Renie C. Villalino, OAR
Tacolban City, Leyte

Fray Jose Jaazeal D. Jakosalem, OAR
San Carlos City, Neg. Occ.

Fray Mark Rochelle F. Renacia, OAR
Bayawan, Neg. Or.

Sierra Leone Missions West Africa

(excerpts from Fr. Buhay's Letter)
May 30, 1998

... The update from here may not be encouraging. It is now over three weeks that we are out of Kamabai. We are at the moment taking shelter in Makeni Pastoral Center. Last May 7 we pulled out from the place after the remnants of the Junta and the RUF forces attacked five nearby villages, just three miles north of Kamabai. They killed about 26, abducted 31 and had about 23 of the villagers mutilated. The attack happened early morning of May 7. I was then on my way to say mass in the shrine when I met plenty of people moving towards Makeni. The people asked me not to proceed to the town because the rebels were advancing. Then they asked me to fetch ECOMOG soldiers in Makeni. I did with all speed. But then the headquarters was itself undermanned and they could not send resistance troops. So I decided to return to Kamabai. Five miles before I could reach the mission house, I saw all the inhabitants of Kamabai and of the villages along the main line rushing out of the place. It was 9 A.M. At that time I sensed that there was real danger. And I trembled for Fr. Anthony whom I left in the chapel of the mission. But the people started yelling at me: "Fr. Anthony is behind us!" I picked him up and together we carefully drove back to the mission. We reached our place and were informed by some hunters that the rebels were heading towards the Loko district, i.e., the western side of the chiefdom. We stayed in the mission center so that people will not panic even more. We distributed food to the families who were taking rest along the tarred road. It was a real heartbreaking experience. We had already set the mission house for a lasting stay (fixed the broken doors, repaired the pump, had curtains sewed, etc.) and now we have to move away... again! ... the new development is the alleged intelligence report gathered that the rebels are up to kidnap foreigners, with the Bishop topping the list. The ECOMOG has stationed four Nigerian soldiers in the bishop's house and we are all warned not to expose ourselves too much. It seems the end to this unstable situation is still far from sight. Do help us pray to God that it be soon... ❀

Fr. Prior Provincial Visits the Philippine Vicariate

Fr. Miguel Miro, OAR, Prior Provincial, was in the Philippines for a fraternal visitation. He has gone through all the houses of the Vicariate discussing about the Project of the Philippine Province and was satisfied with the response of the communities. A new province is birthing and the real concern, according to the Prior Provincial, is that the birth must be as vigorous as possible.

Fr. Rene Paglinawan, OAR, Provincial Councilor, was with Fr. Provincial during the fraternal visit. ❀

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

GRADUATES '98

Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary
Baguio City

Bro. Kerwin N. Bayot
Bro. Winnem Bart R. Bravo
Bro. Vincent S. Cadeliña
Bro. Radney L. Caparas
Bro. Nathaniel P. Comahig
Bro. Dunstan Lamberto T. Decena
Bro. Glenn Michael M. Galope
Bro. Wilson S. Lanete
Bro. Joseph Dexter D. Palagtiosa
Bro. Ben Fredrick R. Rodriguez
Bro. Adonis N. Samson
Bro. Michael John O. Tambasen
Bro. Joseph Dennis G. Tenio
Bro. Allan I. Villa
Bro. Wilfredo M. Necesario
Bro. Casimiro S. Lee

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT



Fr. Constantino B. Real, OAR

Doctorate in Management
Major in Human Resources Management
University of San Jose-Recoletos
March 1998

Dissertation: THE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF OAR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE VICARIATE OF THE PHILIPPINES: BASIS FOR AN OAR RELIGIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Fr. Emilio A. Quilatan, OAR

Licentiate in Church History
Pontifical Gregorian University
Rome, Italy
December 1997

Thesis: A HISTORICAL STUDY ON THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT HACIENDA IN IMUS, CAVITE (1666-1903)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

OBITUARY * OBITUARY

Fr. Cipriano Zubiri, OAR

Lin-Yuan, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Death: January 17, 1998
Cause: Cardiac Arrest
Birth: September 26, 1923
Falces, Navarra, Spain
Assignments:
England 1947
Philippines 1948-1977
Taiwan 1977-1998

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

(as of May 1998)

There are currently **141** Augustinian Recollects affiliated with the Vicariate of the Philippines and China.

I. Of the 141:

- A] **28** are simple professed religious still under formation
 - 2 are simple professed religious who finished clerical studies
- B] **111** are solemn professed religious assigned to the different apostolates, consisting of:
 - 91 Filipinos (82 priests, 5 deacons, 4 lay brothers)
 - 12 Chinese (2 bishops, 10 priests)
 - 8 Spaniards (7 priests, 1 lay brother)

II. Of the 111 solemn professed religious assigned to the different apostolates

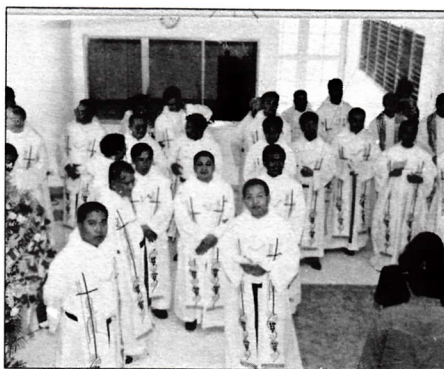
- A] **100** are currently working in the Vicariate of the Philippines and China
- B] **11** are engaged in extra-Vicarial assignments
 - 1 is in Spain serving his term as Provincial Councilor
 - 2 are in the United States, serving in the Province of St. Augustine
 - 2 are working as missionaries in Labrea, Brazil
 - 2 are pursuing advanced studies in Rome
 - 2 are working as missionaries in Sierra Leone, West Africa
 - 2 are working in Spain

III. Other Information

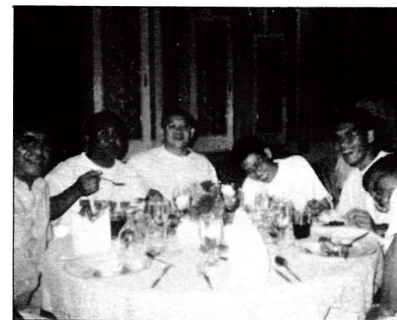
- A] Age
 - The oldest solemn professed religious in the Vicariate is 90.00 years old
 - The youngest solemn professed religious in the Vicariate is 25 years old
 - The average age of all solemn professed religious is 44.56 years old
- B] Citizenship
 - 2 Spanish nationals are currently Filipino citizens (Fr. Clemente, Fr. Rodrigalvarez)
- C] Obituaries
 - Fr. Antonio Ausejo, OAR
 - Fr. Cirilo Durana, OAR
 - Fr. Pastor Paloma, OAR
 - Bishop Gregorio Espiga, OAR
 - Fr. Cipriano Zubiri, OAR



Senator Fernan with Fr. Vicar in intense contemplation at Talavera.



Vamos a Talavera!



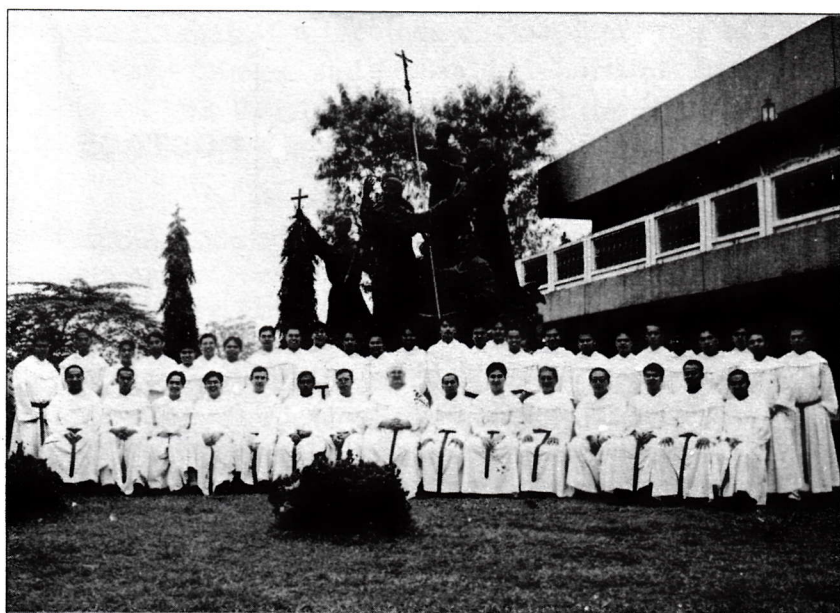
AMBOY J. Peligro with confreres



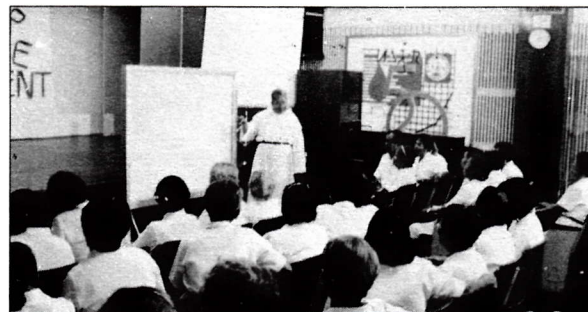
Solemn Profession '98



*Cutting of the Ribbon
(Talavera House of Prayer)*



Fr. General with the OAR Formands



SAR Seminar on Change Management



The Eight Martyrs of Motril (1936)

RECOLETOS OBSERVER

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