



# RECOLETOS RESPIRER

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Vicariate of the Philippines and China

OCT. - DEC., 1995

## Recoletos Formation Center is 10 years old, Celebrates First Alumni Homecoming

**November 25, 1996 -  
RFC Foundation Day.**

For the first time in the Recoletos Formation Center (RFC) compound, after a decade of *silentium magnum*, at the first streak of dawn, the entire house seemed to be in pandemonium: cymbals clanging; drums thumping; bells ringing; tin and trash cans banging; theologians yelling and calling out sing-songs, and Fr. Prefect showering coins along the corridors. The revelers went through the pathways outside the seminary, the Bulwagang Recoletos and the Church patio. Indeed it was a surprise noise barrage for our neighbors, who are not accustomed to hear such unholy sounds at the break of day.

After the exhilarating noise calisthenics, they all silently prepared for their regular spiritual exercises with the highlight of a concelebrated mass in honor of the seminary patron, St. Thomas of Villanova. The main celebrant and homilist was Fr. Hubert Decena, OAR, Dean of Student Affairs.

The day was marked with several prepared activities: a symposium on the life, works and contributions of St. Thomas of Villanova given by Rev. Edwin Macmac, a familiar basketball tourney between former OAR seminarians and the joint forces of theologians and novices, a tight basketball match between Marcilla (Spain) products and the locally (RFC) made priests. A bonfire capped the day's affair with the RFC band taking the lead in "KANTAHON TA KARON".

This was just an opening salvo of a much bigger celebration - the First Homecoming of the RFC alumni, the first



locally produced Filipino Recollect priests and religious (35). It was slated November 27 through December 1 with the running theme: "BUHAY REKOLETO. . . PANIBAGONG SIGLA." This was coined by the ad hoc committee chaired by Fr. Raul Buhay whose members were: Frs. Francisco "Ons" Antonio, Arnz Visitacion, Paul Dacanay; together with Revs. Nonie Morillo, Jojo Opalda and Yang Saavedra. The team took several months of structural and technical preparations via conferences, meetings and surveys conducted on participants to ensure that the entire affair would be of the general pulse and temperature of the alumni body. On the day of the gathering itself, a group of facilitators was created composed of Frs. Arnz Visitacion, Jun de Mesa, Popoy Estioko, Jason Omecillo and Soysoy "Provo" Hernando.

A warm welcome was accorded to the Alumni by their former Prefect, now the Prior of the House, Fr. Diony Selma. Opening Mass was held at Our Lady of Consolation Parish with Fr. Rene F. Paglinawan - another former Prefect, now Vicar Provincial - as the main celebrant and homilist. In his sermon, he gave

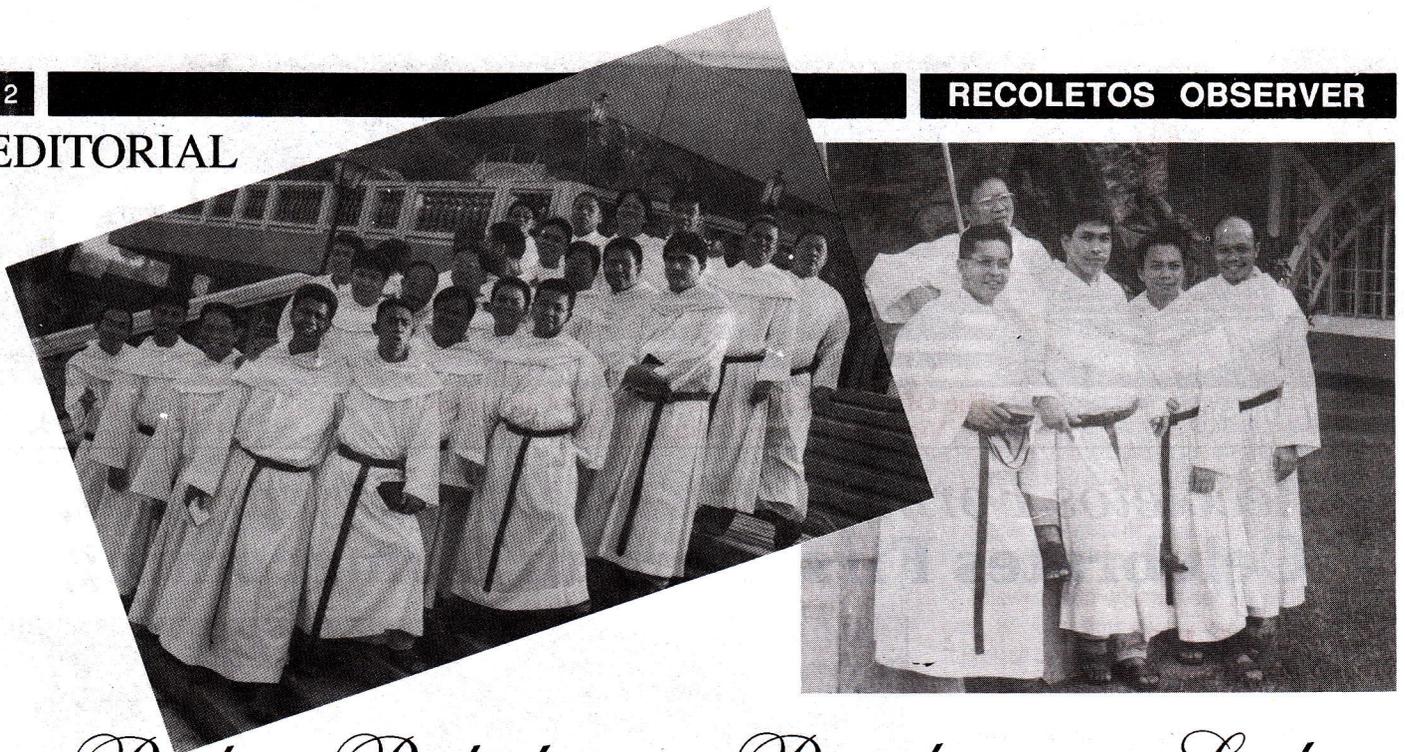
some impetus on the punctuation marks that accompanied the theme: "BUHAY REKOLETO. . . PANIBAGONG SIGLA !?! "These punctuation marks which he noticed in the streamer, either by mistake of the painter or not, providentially point to the Fact (!) and the Challenge (?) of the Recollect lifestyle of today - with renewed vigor.

Invited speakers for the homecoming were: Fr. Linus Nicasio, SVD - Rector Divine Word Theologate (on Formation Apostolate); Fr. Roderick Salazar, SVD - President, CEAP (on Education); and, Fr. Daniel Santamaria, Parish Priest, San Roque Parish, Mandaluyong City (on Pastoral Ministry).

As a culminating event of their esprit de corps, they went to Calaca, Batangas with Fr. Emeterio Buñao, OAR, the first Rector of RFC (1985-1987). From there they called the week-long celebration off for another decade (?).

Indeed, it was a week full of great enthusiasm and a moment of rejuvenation to be with the warmth of your brothers' embrace and affection. This is community life - BUHAY REKOLETO. . . PANIBAGONG SIGLA! □

## EDITORIAL



## *Buhay Rekoleta... Panibagong Sigla*

Ten years ago or so the Recollect Theologate was inaugurated. The plan of constructing three parallel buildings spelled the vision of the Order in this part of the world. Preparations for its inauguration were made in a relatively short span. But woven seamlessly into these busy preparations were anxious questions, all of which had to do with the sustainability of the theologate house: "Is this the right time to build a theological center in the Far East?" "The Philippine economic and political life considered, what are the risks in establishing a theological school in Metro Manila?" "Is the increase in the number of vocations in the Philippines a passing phenomenon?" "Is the vocation boom in Asia capable of complementing the European vocation crisis?" "How big should a theological seminary be to produce this or that number of religious and priests?" "What about budgetary allocations?" "What is the official name of our seminary?" "What is the official seminary seal?"

Some of these questions might have been rendered moot and academic as they now rest unperturbed in the dust bin of history. Whatever issues were raised, at least there were earnest efforts at resolving them.

But history is not only about the significant questions and answers, issues and resolutions, or problems and challenges of a given epoch. For indeed, people do count.

Founded in 1985, the Recoletos Formation Center now stands proud of its people: formators, professors, formands and the non-academic staff. It is now home to more than thirty religious and priests.

All that, in only ten years !

A reason enough to thank the Lord for, a reason enough to celebrate. November 27 - December 1, 1995 — the Recoletos Formation Center Alumni Homecoming became the most viable form where one could experience more deeply the warmth of community living owed to a common origin and a shared vision. The occasion was meant to foster a revitalized commitment to the OAR *Charism and Life*. Serving as the inspirational slogan was "Buhay Rekoleta... Panibagong Sigla. . ." ("Recollect Life. . . Renewed Enthusiasm. . .").

In featuring that momentous event, this issue of **Recoletos Observer** tries to capture the renewed and renewing (renewable?) enthusiasm of the RFC Alumni!

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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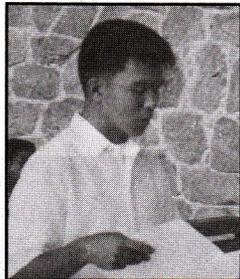
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## FORMATION

*Antipolo, Rizal*

### October Profession

On the afternoon of October 25, 1995, Fray Joel Dequilla, OAR, made his Profession of Simple Vows within the Mass, before the Vicar Provincial, Rev. Fr. Rene Paglinawan, OAR. Witnessing the event were formators and "coristas" from RFC, Augustinian Recollect Sisters, AR Tertiaries, and of course, Fary Joel's mother and sister who came all the way from Mindanao, and some other relatives and friends. A simple merienda-cena was served after the Mass. After a brief vacation with his family, he immediately moved to the theologate house on time for the second semester.



Congratulations and welcome!

### Instant "Evacuation" Center

The Novitiate became a temporary shelter for some neighbors during the super-typhoon Rosing last November 3. The roofs of their shanties were blown away and the children were exposed to the cold wind and rain. The formators and Novices welcomed the first wave of evacuees to one classroom which became an instant evacuation center. More families came before noon. The evacuees were very grateful for the warm lunch and accommodation given them. They did not pray for more typhoons, however.

### Big Day '95

It was the awaited annual gathering of male Novices from Metro Manila and Luzon. Last December 10, the Novices' Big



OAR Novices at Big Day '95

Day was held at the Angelicum participated in by about 145 Novices coming from 16 different religious institutes. The Dominican Provincial (Philippine Province) was the invited speaker on the day's theme which was: "Panday Relihiyoso, Panday Pamayanan." The games, presentations and sharing added to the day's fun and friendly atmosphere. The OAR Novices, known for their artistic skills, took charge of the stage decoration and physical arrangement.

### Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary, Baguio City Conferences

October 23-24 - Mr. Ramon Avelino, a veteran speaker who

was a former dean of the Liberal Arts Department of San Sebastian College, Manila, conducted an intensive seminar workshop on the "Dynamics of Communication".

November 8 - A seminar on the plight of Migrant Filipino Workers all over the world was conducted by Fr. Paulo Prigol, a Scalabrini priest from Brazil.

December 2 - A symposium on mass media awareness was conducted. Discussed were the technicalities of productions in comics, television, radio and advertisements. Guest speaker was Mr. Nick Melgar, a Mass Communication professor at San Sebastian College, Manila.

### CARES Youth Day

In response to the Church's Call for Pastoral Care for Vocation, the Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary organized the first CARES YOUTH DAY last December 3, 1995. The said activity was spearheaded and facilitated by the Vocation Club of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary. The mass catechetical instruction highlighted the youth gathering with Fr. Larlar as speaker.

## SCHOOLS

### Cebu City

### USJ-R High School students garner National Awards

On two separate occasions, two USJ-R High School students garner National Awards. Scout Francis Belciña, a fourth year High School student of the University of San Jose-Recoletos, was adjudged one of the Ten Most Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He was awarded last October, 1995 in Manila.

In the recently concluded National Secondary Press Conference held at Malolos, Bulacan, Mr. Elmer Montejo, another fourth year USJ-R High School student, won first place in Copyreading and Headline Writing Contest. He bested other contestants from the other regions.

### Josenian Engineering student places sixth in Civil Board Exams

Edmund Ang, a Josenian Civil Engineering graduate, placed 6th in the November 1995 Civil Engineering Board Examinations. In the Civil Engineering Licensure Examinations in 1995, USJ-R garnered 70.00% passing percentage. In other Engineering Licensure Examinations in 1995, USJ-R had 80.00% passing percentage in Electronics Communications Engineering, 50% in Chemical Engineering, 50.74% in Mechanical Engineering, and 97.4% in Electrical Engineering.

In the April 1995 Mechanical Engineering Licensure Examinations, Roy Albert A. Soler placed 11th while Edwin B. Siason, placed 16th.

The USJ-R College of Engineering team garnered the first runner-up place during the 15th IECEP National Quiz Show sponsored by the IECEP Inc. held at Wesleyan University, Cabanatuan City last November 18, 1995.

*Bacolod City***UNO-RECOLETOS**

Congratulations to the 1995 PRC Board Placers:

**Dwight Alyn M. Demafilez**

(University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos)  
7th Placer

PRC Electrical Engineering Board Exam  
National Passing Percentage : 33.6%  
UNO-R Passing Percentage : 83.87%

UNO-R is ranked Third by the Professional Regulation Commission among the best performing engineering schools in the Philippines for 1995 in the Electrical Engineering Licensure Examination and Fifth in the Mechanical Engineering Licensure Examination.

**Daniel Colmenares**

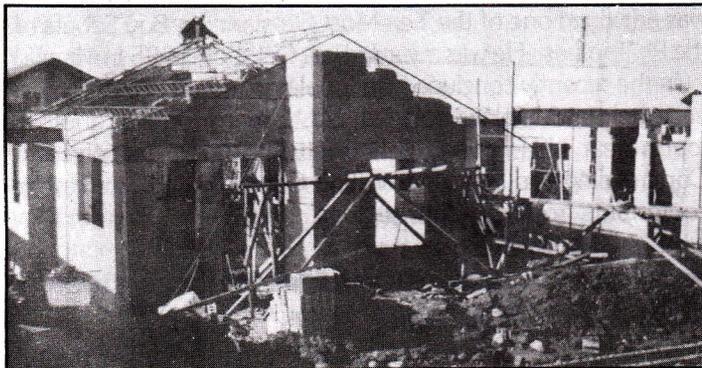
Fifth Year Civil Engineering student of UNO-R for topping the national Civil Engineering Student Quiz Bee held at the PICC during the 21st National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE).

**SPO3 Hermilo M. Pacigado**

(University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos)  
1st Placer

Licensure Examinations for Criminologists, Board of Criminology of the Professional Regulation Commission.

UNO-Recoletos College of Criminology ranks second among Criminology Schools in the Philippines for 1995.

**UNO-R Employees' Housing Project**

*The steeled-truss house*

Fr. Rene F. Paglinawan, OAR Vicar Provincial, through the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-), has granted a soft loan for the Housing Project of UNO-R Homeowners Association Inc., a registered Cooperative Association of the faculty and employees of UNO-Recoletos, Bacolod City.

The construction of the 30 housing units was officially started last September, 1995. The Negros Economic Development Foundation, a non-government organization, acts as Co-Developer.

To date, some houses are partially complete, others are at the rate of 75% completion, while the site development is almost 85% complete.

*Manila***SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-RECOLETOS**

Fr. Moral attends IFBE ASIA-PACIFIC RIM REGION CONFERENCE



Fr. Cornelio Moral, OAR, Vice-President of San Sebastian College-Manila attended the International Meeting of Business Educators held in Singapore on November 1995. Discussed in the meeting were the accreditation of business programs in the Pacific Rim countries and the formation of a Pacific Rim Regional Council to handle the accreditation of business programs

in the region. The meeting was sponsored by the International Federation for Business Education. Created in 1991 by Dr. John L. Green, the federation serves six regional areas of the world, namely; North America Region, European Region, Central and South America Region, Asia-Pacific Rim Region, Mid East and Central Asia Region, and African Region.

**SAN SEBASTIAN revised Law Curriculum**

Law Dean Rufus B. Rodriguez presents its Revised Curriculum, which will prepare economic and business lawyers for the 21st century, to Dr. Angel Alcala, Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Looking on, from left, are SSC Law Assistant Bar Review Director Xavier Javier, CHED Legal Affairs Director Joel Voltaire Mayo and SSC Law Secretary Ronaldo Flores.

The new subjects in the revised curriculum are International Trade Law (GATT/WTO, APEC, AFTA and EAGA), Philippine Investment Law, Computers and Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, International Commercial Arbitration, Banking Laws, Intellectual Property Law, Law and Economics and ASEAN Comparative Law.

*From the AR Sisters*

**Silver Jubilee Celebration of the  
Congregation of the  
AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT SISTERS  
of Pontifical Rights**

The Augustinian Recollect Sisters as a pontifically recognized Congregation turned twenty-five on November 20, 1995.

With the guidance of the Augustinian Friars, the Congregation was canonically established on August 19, 1929. Again, with concerned assistance of the Augustinian Fathers, forty-one years later, on November 20, 1970, the AR Sisters received, with affectionate gratitude, the Papal Decree of Praise (Decretum Laudis) granted by Pope Paul VI by virtue of his apostolic authority. Hence, November 29, 1995 marks the 25th year of the Congregation of Pontifical Rights.

In praises to the merciful goodness of God, the AR sisters had a Triduum of Thanksgiving Masses. Highlighting the celebration was a solemn concelebrated mass with Jaime Cardinal Sin, D.D., Archbishop of Manila, as the main celebrant and preacher. Six bishops, several monsignori, diocesan priests, OAR fathers headed the Vicar Provincial, Fr. Rene F. Paglinawan, OAR concelebrated with His Eminence.

Incidentally, a three-day leadership seminar was organized for the Augustinian Recollect Student Crusaders (ARSC) on November 17, 18 and 19. The venue was Tahanang Talangpaz in Tagaytay City. It was attended by almost three hundred students from the different parts of the country.

Let us offer our prayers for the AR Sisters that they make the peace and joy of Christ be more seen in them and those who live and work with them.

**BIRTHDAYS**

**OCTOBER**

- 02 - Fr. Leonardo Pauligue
- 12 - Fr. Nicolas Salvatiera
- 15 - Fr. Danilo Diana
- 20 - Fr. Jose Fortuno Garces
- 22 - Fr. Alejandro Ramirez
- 23 - Fr. Hernando Coja
- 24 - Fr. Rafael Cabarles
- 25 - Fr. Manuel Pierola
- 26 - Fr. Dionisio Selma
- 27 - Fr. Antonio Limchaypo
- 30 - Fr. Cristituto Palomar
- 31 - Fr. Nemesio Tolentin

- 15 - Fr. Pedro Ko
- 17 - Fr. Pedro Tung
- 23 - Fr. E. Capacillo

**DECEMBER**

- 06 - Fr. Manuel Lipardo
- 08 - Fr. Juan Garde
- 10 - Fr. Melquiades Modequillo
- 14 - Fray Charlito Orobia
- 16 - Fray Hernan Cañete
- 19 - Bro. Severino Cuesta
- 28 - Bro. Santos Serato
- Fr. Joel Naranja
- 30 - Fr. Marcelino Mayor
- Fray Joseph Girasol
- 31 - Fr. Antonio Zabala

**NOVEMBER**

- 09 - Fr. Emilio Jaruda
- 11 - Fray Edwin Macmac

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS**

**Baclayon Parish**, located at the South-western part of Bohol, marked its 400 years of Christianity last December 8, 1995. This parish was first evangelized by the Jesuit missionaries on the later part of 1595. In the 18th century, the Augustinian Recollects took over the Jesuits' mission and completed the Church's structure- now acclaimed as one of the oldest stone churches in the country. The Recollects administered the parish for 130 years.

The **Parish of San Carlos Borromeo** in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental celebrated the first centenary of its foundation on November 1995. Since 1895, the parish was under the care of the Recollect Fathers until its transfer to diocesan administration in 1975.

On the occasion of its foundation anniversary, the Vicariate of the Philippines published a book entitled San Carlos Parish in the Recollect Annals, authored by Emmanuel Romanillos, U.P. professor.

**MILESTONES**

**Ordained**

- Priesthood:** Dec. 5, 1995, OLCF
- Fr. Antonio Zabala, Jr., OAR  
(*Parañaque, MM*)
- Fr. Reynaldo Jaranilla, OAR  
(*San Carlos City, Negros Occ.*)
- Fr. Florizel Dabalos, OAR  
(*Baclayon, Bohol*)

**Present Assignments:**

- Fr. Antonio Zabala, Jr.  
*San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila*
- Fr. Reynaldo Jaranilla  
*San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Cavite City*
- Fr. Florizel Dabalos  
*Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage  
Del Pan St., Tondo, Manila*

**Simple Profession**

- Fray Joel Dequilla, OAR  
Oct. 25, 1995  
*Novitiate House, Antipolo*

**OBITUARY**

**+ SOTERO MACABUDBUD, SR.**  
(*Father of Fr. Jun Macabudbud, OAR - presently assigned in TAIWAN as a Missionary*)

# TOWARDS ONE HEART AND ONE SOUL



Fr. Nicasio on "Formation Apostolate"



... at the Eucharistic Celebration



Opening Mass at OLCP



Exorcism...



Batch '92



The healing power of love...

Fraternal correction!?



"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live in unity." (Ps. 133:1)



Two-gether again!

RECOLETOS FORMATION CENTER ALUMNI

**ORDAINED RECOLLECT  
PRIESTS (1989-1995)**

1989  
September 10  
Fr. Francisco L. Antonio, OAR  
Fr. Amadeo C. Lucero, OAR

1990  
May 25  
Fr. Arnie Visitacion, OAR

September 9  
Fr. Alberto Avanzado, OAR

1991  
August 25  
Fr. Leopoldo Estioko, OAR  
Fr. Carmelo Borces, OAR  
Fr. Jose Tamayo, OAR  
Fr. Edcel Celiz, OAR  
Fr. Danilo Diana, OAR  
Fr. Jose Fortunato Garces, OAR  
Fr. Nemesio Tolentin, OAR  
Fr. Gaudencio de Mesa, Jr., OAR



Batch '89



To constantly search for truth and wisdom...



To adhere to the communitarian spirit...

1992  
April  
Fr. Antonio Limchaypo, OAR  
Fr. Emilio Quilatan, OAR  
Fr. Joel Naranja, OAR

September 12  
Fr. Leander Barrot, OAR  
Fr. Nicolas Salamanca, OAR  
Fr. Paulino Rommel Dacanay, OAR  
Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, OAR

1993  
April 11  
Fr. Ronel Gealon, OAR

September 4  
Fr. Emilio Jaruda, OAR  
Fr. Adonis Wagas, OAR

1994  
April 3  
Fr. Remo Rendora, OAR  
Fr. Cirilo Andan, OAR

December 3  
Fr. Jose Marie Villena, OAR  
Fr. Rouel Sia, OAR  
Fr. Joel Villaruel, OAR  
Fr. Hernan Omecillo, OAR  
Fr. Bernabe Dosdos, OAR

1995  
December 5  
Fr. Antonio Zabala, OAR  
Fr. Reynaldo Jaranilla, OAR  
Fr. Florizel Dabalos, OAR

**BROTHERHOOD**  
(Solemn Professed)

1989  
Bro. Agustin Culaton, OAR

1993  
Bro. Felipe Jaranilla, Jr., OAR

*"The past, the present  
and the future are really  
one. They are today."*

**RFC FORMATORS**

(1985-1995)

Fr. Emeterio Buñao, OAR  
Fr. Hubert Decena, OAR  
Fr. Rene Paglinawan, OAR  
Fr. Cornelio Moral, OAR  
Fr. Samson Silloriquuez, OAR  
Fr. Pastor Paloma, OAR  
Fr. Crisostomo Garnica, OAR  
Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR  
Fr. Rodante Gotera, OAR  
Fr. Melquiades Modequillo, OAR  
Fr. Felizardo Daganta, OAR  
Fr. Raul Buhay, OAR  
Fr. Pablo Panedas, OAR  
Fr. Ignacio Jimenez, OAR  
Fr. Antonio Limchaypo, OAR  
Fr. Joel Naranja, OAR  
Fr. Pedro Escanillas, OAR  
Fr. Federico Gregorio, OAR  
Fr. Regino Bangcaya, OAR  
Fr. Demetrio Peñascoza, OAR  
Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, OAR  
Fr. Hermenegildo Ceniza, OAR

**RFC PROFESSORS**

(1985-1995)

Fr. Hubert Decena, OAR  
Fr. Cornelio Moral, OAR  
Fr. Rene Paglinawan, OAR  
Fr. Samson Silloriquuez, OAR  
Fr. Pastor Paloma, OAR  
Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR  
Fr. Raul Buhay, OAR  
Fr. Felizardo Daganta, OAR  
Fr. Regino Bangcaya, OAR  
Fr. Federico Gregorio, OAR  
Fr. Pablo Panedas, OAR  
Fr. Jose Ignacio Jimenez, OAR  
Fr. Jorge Peligro, OAR  
Fr. German Chicote, OAR  
Fr. Lauro Larlar, OAR  
Fr. Demetrio Peñascoza, OAR  
Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, OAR  
Msgr. Edgardo Bayani, OSJ  
Msgr. Moises Andrade Jr.  
Fr. Braulio Peña, OP  
Fr. Roman Carter, OP  
Fr. Rene Ruelos, CM  
Fr. Linus Nicasio, SVD  
Fr. Pompeo de Mesa, OP  
Fr. Gerry Tapiador  
Sr. Lucina Sarmiento, FSP  
Dra. Florentina Gorospe  
Dra. Josefina Uson-Parentela  
Dra. Guadalupe Carbonell  
Mrs. Caroline de Leon  
Ms. Vicky Reyes

## ST. AUGUSTINE on "The Distribution of Temporal Goods"

If there is an objective goodness in temporal things, and if the right attitude is needed in order to make proper use of these goods, then why is it that God does not distribute these goods to all those who have the correct attitude? The bottom line of this question is clearly about God's design in the distribution of the world's goods.

According to St. Augustine, God's design extends beyond the span of our present existence. It is there in heaven where we all receive the ultimate reward of our present labors. However, in presenting this eschatological view of God's design, it begins to work. It is here where we begin to anticipate the foretaste of our salvation or even our own condemnation. Here is one example on how this design is presently at work:

*And do you want to see how just a judge gold and silver are the property of? They bring torment to the soul of the miser, they are a great help to the plans of the kindhearted. As the divine justice distributes its property, good deeds are thereby publicized and sins are thereby punished. Gold and silver, you see, and every kind of earthly possession are both a means of exercising humanity and punishing greed. When God bestows such things on good people, he shows by their example how many things are thought lightly of by the mind whose real wealth is the one who bestowed them. After all, it can only be obvious that you think lightly of something if it has come into your possession. Of course, even people who didn't have had such things can think lightly of them. But whether they are pretending, or really are uninterested, only God, who is the inspector of hearts, can see. People, on the other hand, if they are to imitate such virtue, can only observe the spirit of genuine indifference to wealth in the hands*

*that are giving it away.*

*When, on the other hand, God concedes such things to bad people, he shows by their example how even the actual good things that God lavishes on us may cause agonies to the mind, to which the giver of such largesse has grown cheap. The good he provides with opportunities to do good; the bad he torments with fear of possible losses. And that's why, if either sort lose their gold and silver, the first will retain their heavenly wealth with a light heart, while the latter will find both their houses empty of temporal goods, and of eternal goods their conscience emptier still.*

So God distributes the goods of this earth wisely: the temporal goods in the hands of the just manifest the goodness of God through the multiplication of works of mercy; in the hands of the bad, the condemnation of God, which is at work in the agony of the mind.

But the more persistent question would surely come from the abandoned Christian. To answer their complaint, St. Augustine draws inspiration from the story of the poor man Lazarus and the unnamed rich man (Lk. 16, 19-31). The lesson he learned from this story was that the pious poor man will take the place of the wicked rich man in heaven. This is even made more significant by the fact that the name of the rich man is not mentioned in the Gospel. And so he says,

*God is just in his retributions at the end, and that he now gives some people temporal good fortune while keeping in store for them at the end everlasting misfortune, and that in the present life he is subjecting some decent people to the rogors of misfortune, while saving up for them eternal good fortune in the next.*

It is therefore to these last things that St.

Augustine wishes to direct the gaze of the poor Christian. Here are his last words in one of his sermons about Lazarus and the rich man:

*I want you to see yourself there, Christian, because the final ends of these two are reported. God of course is powerful enough, even in this life, to give well-being and remove destitution, and grant the Christian enough to live on. And yet, if even this were not to be the case, which would you choose? To be as that poor man, or to be as that rich man? Don't be taken in by appearances. Listen to the end, and observe what a wrong choice means.*

Having thus oriented our life to its ultimate goal, St. Augustine gives the dejected Christian this piece of advice, based on the exemplary life of Job:

*If you want to be upright of heart, do not be displeased, over anything at all, with God. Either you see the reason for his doing what he does, and so observing the reason you do not find fault with him; or else if the reason escapes you, understand that the thing is done by one with whom it does not make any sense at all to be displeased.*

And in another place, St. Augustine also tells us that God's refusal to grant us the trifle things we ask of Him is his way of curing us from desiring false things. By drawing us away from the vanity of riches, he tells us that the ultimate reason for our becoming Christians is not to have it so good in this life, but in the life to come.

*\*Excerpt from an article,  
"ON RAGS and RICHES: AN  
AUGUSTINIAN PASTORAL REFLECTION"  
by Fr. Demetrio S. Peñascoza, OAR*



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