

MESSAGE . . . (Cont. from page 1)

that this message demands our fidelity to Jesus Christ, to His Gospel and to His church, the kind of fidelity lived according to the Augustinian Recollect charism so that with our efforts we may contribute to the building of a more just society based on truth and on fraternal solidarity.

The Figure of St. Ezekiel Moreno

St. Ezekiel Moreno, religious and pastor, man of prayer, and preacher of the Word, restorer of common life and servant of the neighbor, is our model and inspiration. Thus, the Pope proposed to us in the Mass of Canonization: "Before anything else the new saint is presented to us as a model evangelizer, whose indefatigable desire to preach Christ guided all the steps of his life" generous in his willingness to go where there might be someone waiting for the consolation of Christ; intrepid in defending the freedom and right of the faithful to teach and celebrate their faith; pillar of the Church in times of persecution and discouragement. In a certain manner his presence has been tangible, thanks to the invitation of Msgr. Arturo Salazar, OAR, we had the opportunity to travel to the See of Pasto and feel in the affection that the people showed us--an attraction so that we too might trace his steps.

First General Chapter in America

For reasons of celebrating the V Centenary of the Evangelization of America and the Philippines, the General Chapter of the Order was for the first time celebrated outside Europe, and the chosen venue was Colombia. Moreover, this gesture is a recognition that more than half of our ministries are in this continent, which is acquiring place and importance within the Order unknown in the first three centuries of its existence. The celebration of the Chapter in this country allowed us to travel to the "Desierto de la Candelaria," cradle of our Recollection in America. Thus we affirm that every projection toward the future and every authentic renewal is an exercise of fidelity to our origins.

Fraternal Hospitality

The brothers of the Convent of Suba accommodated us during our days of work. The religious of the Province of La Candelaria took pride and were pleased to give us lodging and succeeded in making our stay pleasant thereby making our work fruitful and community life fraternal. To them, our gratitude.

2. Proposed Guideline

Antecedents of the New Evangelization

Twenty-four years have now passed since that first special Chapter wherein the order took the task of its own renewal. The succeed-

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by Spanish donors, namely, the Manos Unidas and the Gobierno de Navarra.

A barangay center and another center for skills development, literacy programs, health education, and religious services will be constructed to cater to the needs not only of the housing beneficiaries but also of the close to four thousand families of Barangay Handumanan, Bacolod City.

Aside from the housing project for the poor, UCDO, UNO-R has already facilitated a low-cost housing scheme for the University faculty members and other employees. The project has three phases: lot acquisition, site development and house construction. A two-hectare lot in Bakyas, Mansilingan is its prospective development site. The land has already been purchased by the UNO-R Homeowners Association. The funding agency of this project is the home Insurance Guaranty Corp., Inc.

SSC-R, MANILA CITED BY AIM

The country's leading management institution showed interest in the management program of San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila.

This was disclosed by SSC-R President, Fr. Lauro Larlar, OAR after he received pertinent communications from representatives of the Asian Institute of Management. Late last year the AIM researchers conducted studies on the SSC-R Staff-Determined Salary Scale and discovered that the participative style of management showed strong influence of the OAR mission and religious life. Studying the OAR Con-

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Happy Easter . . .

JOURNEYING WITH THE CHURCH

by Rev. Fr. Ferdinand T. Hernando, OAR

Peace: A Call to be Poor

Part of its strategies to attain political stability and create an economic climate favorable to both foreign and local investors, the Ramos government formed the National Unification Commission. Its avowed objective is to bring all forces together--leftist, centrist and rightist--to the negotiating table and talk about nothing else but peace. Noticing its apparent or real helplessness, the government calls on the Church to participate in the peace process.

However, many have expressed concerns that more than just "calling on the Church," the government is too willing to exploit the Church if only to serve the administration's political and economic interests. Example: on the one hand, the government wants the Church to participate in the peace negotiations because political stability is at stake, but on the other, it wants the Church out of the picture when it comes to programs such as population control and safe sex (reduced to condom use) against AIDS, a program which, by the way, receives a handsome funding from both foreign and local entities. This only shows the inconsistency of the government in its relationship with the Church. Conversely, it is a proof of the Church's critical collaboration with the State.

Even then, still the Church has chosen to participate in peace-building. After all, it sums up the Good News of Christ: "Peace be with you." Besides, it remains to be the most credible institution yet in a graft-ridden bureaucracy and in a crime-battered society.

Reflecting on the outlook of the national peace process, it is just as pressing to heed what the Church has to say and do. Here are some of the things we need to ponder if we are to entertain our vision of peace:

--"Peace is God's gift to us even before it is our task" (CBCP Statement on Peace-Building, 25 January 1993). Hence, we have to turn to God--the very essence of conversion--"for in God's will is our peace" (Ibid.). Our prayers and acts of penance are of utmost value.

--"Development is the new name for peace" (Pope John Paul II *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, no. 10). Therefore, working for development is working for peace. Certainly, the Kingdom of God is not to be identified with any temporal advancement but it is not an excuse for our lack of concern for concrete situations of today (SRS, No. 48).

--"Peace is the fruit of justice" (cf. Isaiah 32:17). If private property has a "social mortgage" (SRS, No. 42), then "to work for

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INSCAPE

Fr. Rex Z. Bangcaya, OAR

Drinking from our wells

Resolution Number 24 of the Order's recent General Chapter opens with an affirmation: "The vitality of the Order is manifested in the strength of its interior life . . ." It is entitled "*Proyecto provincia Filipina*" translated roughly as "A project for a new Province in the Philippines"

Happily, the representative body of our Order recognizes this basic fact. The real force of a community is measured by the deep spiritual life of its members. It has linked the hope of a new religious province to the depth of interior life. And so it must. The future Philippine province, and any new province for that matter, will depend on the quality of its people. The quality of its people means the quality of religious life. And religious life implies its capacity for a holy life.

The same Resolution speaks of strengthening the "structures so that the new province will have a strong beginning." Then it is time to look inward and ask: can we do it? how are we to do it?

For a long time it seems we could hardly tap any source of energy from within the structure of the vicarial community. This is true especially with spiritual energies. Yet there is no such thing as a spiritual structure, much less a holy structure. There are only spiritual and holy persons within the structure.

The source of strength remains the same. It is self-transformation brought about by the discovery of the springs of energy in the depths of one's own self. Where one touches the divine presence, the power and the beauty that St. Augustine discovered as "you were within while I was outside." (Confessions, Bk. 10; chap. 27, no. 38).

Then we do not need to look outward. The well of interior life is in us. It is the origin of the community's vigor. We only have to drink from our own wells.

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ing Chapters were deeply concerned with rediscovering the authenticity of their charismatic roots and searching for a renewed vigor in its life of faith. Products of this effort were the Constitutions and Additional Code, where our century-rooted charism is expressed in a new manner; the Plan of Formation, which offers directions that allow us to form the young among us and to foster among our senior members the vigor and richness of our charism; the Ritual, which regulates our communitarian celebrations. We believe that this effort of the past years established the basis of the New Evangelization, inasmuch as it affects our interior life both personal and communitarian. The task has begun and it must continue.

Foundation of the new Evangelization

But in this Chapter the preferred course that was taken was outward-looking in nature, to renew our own evangelizing activity with the purpose of offering to the world a clearer testimony of what we are, in what we do. Our charism is that of living out the Gospel as bequeathed to us in the experience of faith of St. Augustine and the desires of renewal and observance of the Recollect movement of the XVI century, as expressed in the Forma de Vivir. Therefore, fidelity to our charism is fidelity to Jesus Christ; he is the fountain which we offer to the men and women of today from where springs the recreating freshness of the Spirit. But God also urges us to be loyal to them, for whom the Lord Jesus died and resurrected. This twofold fidelity is the foundation of the New Evangelization. We believe that our charism continues to be an effective inspiration in living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus in the present world. We accept the words of the Pope as directed to us even as he addressed them to the religious in Sto. Domingo: the religious life "must always be evangelizing so that those who need the light of faith may accept with joy the Word of salvation; so that the poor and the most forgotten may feel the warmth of fraternal solidarity; so that the mar-

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PEACE . . . (Cont. from page 3)

peace, we must seek justice by working towards effective land reform" (CBCP Pastoral Letter, 26 February, 1987), which is almost impossible to be pursued in a legislative institution so full of landowners. It is ironical, even scandalous, that many are landless and homeless in their own fatherland. Peace still remains to be seen because the harvest of peace is sown in justice. And justice is far from being achieved yet.

It was exactly in this context of working for justice that Pope John Paul II declared: "If you want peace, reach out to the poor" (Message on the World Day of Peace, 1 January 1993). But all our concern for development, justice and peace, even our reaching out to the poor, will only be in vain if we do not work and live in solidarity with them. Our reaching out will restore the dignity of the poor only if we ourselves put on Jesus Christ, whose poverty in fact and in spirit,

SSC-R . . . (Cont. from page 2)

stitutions, Provincial Directory, Plan of Formation and other pertinent documents, the AIM researchers found out that religious principles are effective even in financial management.

The AIM earlier asked the SSC-R officials to permit them to use the SSC-R Management Model for academic purposes and present it as an example of an innovative management approach at the International Conference on Management at Penang, Malaysia in January of this year.

OAR BAKERY?

The pioneering community of the Augustinian Recollect Conventual Nuns here inaugurated its newly acquired bakery equipment with Father Provincial Carlos Imas as main guest last February 22.

M^o. Lourdes Eizapuirre, AR Conv., local superior, led the community in welcoming and attending to several visitors, among them were Fr. Victor Lluch and the Recollect Fathers from Bacolod and Talisay communities.

The bakery is complete with utensils and modern facilities courtesy of Mrs. Cindy Locsin, a close friend of the nuns.

brought credibility to His mission.

Indeed, the call to peace is a call to be in solidarity with the poor, with the poverty of Christ, who is Himself our peace (Eph. 2:14). If we listen very intently to that call, we will surely respond. We will respond. It is encouraging to see that many religious are in fact already responding to it with prayer, generosity and commitment. It is definitely a challenge for all who live in complacency.

It was Fr. Matthew Weber, SC who wisely said: "When you talk of poverty you will get into friction of some kind." So let me end here, before I get into whatever trouble there is. Peace!

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ginalized and the abandoned may experience the call of Christ; so that the voiceless may feel listened to; so that those who are treated unjustly may find help and protection" (Homily in the Cathedral of Sto. Domingo, 10 October 1992).

Interiority and Humanism

We are witnesses of the God who made us in His image and whom we know through the path of our own interiority, and through which we also know ourselves as persons and sons of God. This is the distinctive characteristic of Augustinian contemplation. Therefore, we reach our neighbor that he may recognize himself in his personal dignity so that he may come to know and love his Creator, and we commit ourselves in every effort of human promotion, in the fight against depersonalizing hatred and to proclaim that God is the beginning and end of the human being.

Community and the Church

We live in a community of brothers, united in the Church of Jesus Christ. We affirm with our way of life that with fraternity and Christian solidarity it is possible to overcome the injustices and discriminations created by ethnic, cultural or social differences typical of this world. Therefore, in the face of situations of insolidarity, of alienating individualism and of marginalization, we have the moral authority to call on all our fellowmen in the name of Jesus Christ to live a new humanity gathered in the Spirit of God.

Apostolate and Availability

We know that the love of God urges us to submit ourselves generously to the task of evangelization. According to the theme of the Mission Congress, we go where the Church needs us. This apostolic availability manifests itself in the willingness to serve the poorest and in the commitment to a renewed apostolic creativity which makes us present wherever somebody suffers and expects us. It is necessary that we learn to respond to the new apostolic challenges arising from the problems of urbanization, secularized culture, economic imbalances among nations, migrations, violence, racism and mass poverty. It is apostolic charity that sends us to the difficult, risky, and thankless mission for there we will surely encounter the most needy neighbor. It is our way of "selling everything and giving all to the poor," even giving ourselves, to become witnesses of the Kingdom.

3. Central Themes of the Chapter

In the light of these reflections with which we wish to clarify the meaning of the New Evangelization for our life and our work, we go over the themes for study of the Chapter. (Cont. on page 6)

BAGUIO CITY**SM-R REPAIRS**

Our college seminary, Seminario Mayor-Recoletos, in Baguio City underwent major

renovations late last year and early this year which consisted in roof, ceiling and wall repairs. Also renovated were

**SAN CARLOS CITY,
NEGROS OCC.:****CITY LAUDS CST-R**

The Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos was given due appreciation and recognition by the San Carlos City Sangguniang Panlungsod for its successful participation in the "Sinulog Festival '93" held in Cebu City last January 17.

Honorable Tolcidas and Santillan, who authored SP Resolution No. 11, cited the school's very talented and accomplished 3rd place representation in the free interpretation category of the annual festivities in honor of the Holy Child.

The local officials gave a plaque of recognition to CST-R and presented certificates to every member of the delegation.

CAVITE CITY, CAVITE:**SSC-R, CAVITE PASSES
PAASCU**

The High School Department of San Sebastian College-Recoletos in this city passed the preliminary survey conducted by PAASCU officials last year.

The results of the PAASCU Preliminary Survey were formally communicated to the school administration last January 9. The SSC-R High School Department now drives beyond first gear in its preparation for the formal evaluation by the PAASCU Accrediting Team.

the pipe leaks in the individual rooms and comfort rooms. A new kitchen was also constructed and was blessed by Fr. Regino Bangcaya, OAR last January 31. Over-all cost of repairs reached a little over P400,000.



Fr. Carlos Imas, OAR cuts the ceremonial ribbons at the inaugural rites of UNO-R, Talisay's latest school building.

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Consolidation of the Charism

During the past sexennium we have celebrated the IV centenary of our foundation. The anniversary was an occasion when publications and celebrations clarified still more our history and our spirituality and gave an impetus to our Order and above all encouraged us to go forward with enthusiasm. Great part of this job is due to the institutes of the Order; to the work of the religious of the institute is attributed so much clarification of our charism, history and spirituality. We are grateful for their effort, we support them in their task and we have provided means that would make their labor more efficient.

The Augustinian Recollect family

The recent decision of the Apostolic Signature to recognize the right of the monasteries of the Augustinian Recollect nuns to associate themselves with us confirms us in our juridical identity and imposes on us the moral obligation to lend them our fraternal support. We celebrate the fact that the bonds with the sisters of the apostolic life have been strengthened; we are happy that they have joined us in the courses of formation, in the Mission Congress, in the Pastoral Week and in other initiatives. The Secular Fraternity has been founded in many of our ministries and has received a push with the publication of the Manual of the Secular Fraternity and the Ritual: we rejoice that so many lay people share our charism according to their state and, gaining inspiration from it, strive to introduce to the secular world the witness of the Gospel. We invite all our religious to exert effort to spread our spirit in this manner.

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TALISAY, NEGROS OCC.:

IMAS BLESSES UNO-R BUILDING

Provincial Prior Carlos Imas, OAR led the school community of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in this town in inaugurating its latest school building on February 22.

The newly constructed building houses several important facilities such as the library, Bio-Chem Laboratory, Physics and General Science Laboratory, Home Economics Center, Industrial Shop and two more classrooms.

RPDC of San Sebastian College, Manila

San Sebastian College of Manila has put up a Research, Planning and Development Center (RPDC) as an "effective instrument of . . . apostolate and as one means of diffusing the Augustinian Recollect Spirit of living communitarian faith." Number three of its five objectives aims to "disseminate research results for translation of the same into action in the form of projects and activity programs within the institution, and in close cooperation with other OAR schools and with other centers of education of the Church at the diocesan, national, and international levels as well as with other institutions designed to promote education." The Center is certainly an overdue need.



FLASH . FLASH . FLASH . FLASH . FLASH . FLASH . FLASH .

SIMPLE PROFESSION: APRIL 30, 1993



RETREAT FOR OAR PRIESTS AND
BROTHERS (First Group)
Date: May 31 - June 4, 1993
Venue: Seminario Mayor- Recoletos,
Baguio City
Retreat Master: Msgr. Camilo Gregorio, D.D.
Bishop of Bacolod
For more details, contact:
Fr. Jose Ma. Martinez, OAR
Secretariat of Spirituality

VOL. V NO. 1

The Official Bulletin of the OAR
Vicariate of the Philippines, Taiwan and China

JANUARY - MARCH 1993

MESSAGE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER TO THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT BROTHERS AND SISTERS*

1. Greetings and Introduction

Greeting

"To be witnesses of God for a brotherly humankind." This phrase synthesizes the spirit and preoccupation which have guided the deliberations of our 51st General Chapter. In concluding our endeavor, we are extending our greeting to all of you, our Augustinian Recollect brothers and sisters. You have supported us with your prayers; you have made your presence felt with your greetings and messages; to you our gratitude. Our words are also those of encouragement and hope in order to share with you our resolutions that all of us may undertake the way of living and announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ inspired by the teaching of Our Father St. Augustine.

The Chapter and Other Ecclesial Celebrations

The General Chapter was celebrated during the V Centenary of the Evangelization of America and the Philippines. It is therefore situated within the matrix of the diverse ecclesial events which characterize our times: the call of the Pope to launch a New Evangelization, the reunion of the Latin American bishops in Sto. Domingo which the members of the Spanish, Filipino and North American Episcopate attended as guests. The gospel itself enters the 2nd millennium of existence maintaining the hope of a humanity that longs for plenitude.

The New Evangelization

This Chapter renews its fidelity to the Pope. We therefore accept the invitation of his holiness to carry out a New Evangelization. The message which he sent us in a telegram makes it even more urgent. He asked us to be "living witnesses of the timelessness of the message of salvation which is manifested in the profound spiritual renewal, in generous service to the brothers in accordance with the Gospel, in an intimate communion with the pastors of the church, always following the decrees of the Magisterium." We understand

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* An unofficial translation from the Spanish original.

NEWS BRIEFS

UNO-R HOUSING PROJECT BLESSED

The University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R) took pride in having the Provincial of the Augustinian Recollects, Fr. Carlos Imas, as its distinguished guest during the inaugural ceremonies of the university housing project on February 22.

Father Imas laid the cornerstone and blessed the entire project in the early hours of the morning followed by the full-speed construction of the quadruplex houses. According to the architect and the project engineer, five units will have been finished in a month so that the first twenty families can soon avail themselves of this low-cost housing program.

Two years ago the University Community Development Office (UCDO) through its director, Josephine Esgana, and coordinator, Fr. Antonio Palacios, OAR, made arrangements with local and foreign donors and was granted a three-hectare lot as the relocation site for prospective beneficiaries. The Villasor family of Bacolod City donated two hectares and another hectare was procured using the received funds. The housing project is substantially funded

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Our illustrious brothers and sisters

The canonizations of Saint Magdalene of Nagasaki and of Saint Ezekiel Moreno, the beatification of the martyrs of Japan and the coming beatifications of the martyrs of Motril, of Mother Maria de San Jose, of Sor Monica de Jesus, as well as the processes of other brothers and sisters like Mother Mariana de San Jose, Mother Esperanza Ayerbe and Sister Cleusa Rodil Coelho, are testimonies that our way of life leads to sanctity and is a stimulus for us to follow in their footsteps. The holiness and martyrdom of these brothers in the past remind us that suffering and persecution are part of our witness of life. It is proper to express here our gratitude to the General Postulation of the Order and its collaborators for the enormous effort made to present to us models of men and women who have lived our charism in an exemplary way.

We remember with special affection and concern our missionaries in China who continue being witnesses of God of a fraternal humanity. We have prayed for them that the Lord may grant them the grace of perseverance, and for the Chinese people that the Lord may bless them.

Vocational promotion

We have seen that a change is being created in the vocational panorama of the Order. The proportion of Spanish candidates who profess in the Order is each time less in relation to the number of candidates who come from the other regions of the world, where a few years ago the Order has hardly a candidate. The Philippines merits special mention where today's vocations are the most numerous. In the Latin America, depending on regions and countries, the scene is encouraging and even hopeful, especially in Colombia.

Formation

For the first time, courses of formation for Formators were celebrated in 1989 and 1992 in Franca, Brazil. The encounters, at which the Augustinian Recollect Missionary Sisters and the Augustinian Recollect Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus also assisted, made them compare experiences, deepen the study of some problems, give strength in the task. With concern, we note however that sometimes the vocational flourishing of which we have talked does not bear fruit in perseverance; also we are preoccupied about the deficiencies in the formation teams of some seminaries.

Importance of the apostolate

Due to the emphasis placed on the task of evangelization, the apostolate received special attention. We have even indicated the importance of giving our seminarians such formation that would show how the apostolic activity springs from the religious consecration. As we have already said, we assume the call of the new evangelization to carry out the apostolate in its methods and in its expression. As to the methods, we stress the invitation we make toward a greater

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Month of Special Preparation 1993

Nine theologians will join the Month of Special Preparation in connection with their proximate solemn profession as Augustinian Recollects. Once again, Recoletos-Baguio will host this month-long community experience from April 26 to May 22. PCP-II's demands and implications on religious life will bring color to this special encounter. Frs. Rex Bangcaya, Rene Paglinawan and Bernard Amparado are directing this year's program.

**PRAY FOR
THE SOUL OF
FR. JOSEPH REUTTER,
OAR (+ Jan. 3, 1993)**

**Recoletos Formation Center
Creates Centers**

Aware of the common needs of our religious communities, the student body of RFC under Fr. Rex Bangcaya has tentatively organized a "Recoletos Center for Augustinian Studies" (ReCAS) and a "St. Ezekiel Moreno Center" (SEM C). The main aims of these centers are to promote studies on both saints, diffuse information and deepen devotion to them. In their infant stage, the Centers badly need suggestions and contributions from all concerned brothers and sisters. Address all communications to:

ReCAS/SEM C
Recoletos Formation Center
Mira-Nila Homes,
Tandang Sora Ave.
U.P. P.O. Box 206, Diliman
1107 Quezon City

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presence and use of the means of social communication. As to the expression, we commend the efforts of inculturation, especially those of our missionaries: in a broader sense, we wish that our community life and our experience of interiority be translated into an apostolic ardor for the formation of communities, for human promotion and the undeniable testimony of the fact that God is the reason and ground of man's existence.

Missionary thrust and pastoral renewal in the Order

The celebration of the Mission Congress and the Pastoral Week gave evidence that our religious work with dedication and pastoral creativity in our ministries, even in the most difficult ones. The documents of the Magisterium in favor of the renewal of the missionary pastoral, especially the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* have stimulated the missionary thrust of the Order. In the whole Church the missionary commitment grows thereby helping us revitalize our own missionary history and tradition.

We share in the life and the dynamics of the local churches in which we find ourselves and this is a cause for pride and hope of the future. The success achieved in the Congress and the Pastoral-Week made us see that the interchange of experiences, the reflection on the reports, are an adequate means for the on-going formation in the missional, ministerial and educational apostolate. For this reason we have urged the general council to organize them once again during the next sexennium and we have asked for the foundation of an institute of Pastoral.

Necessity of continuing the internal renewal

We admit however that our evangelizing task is rooted and founded in our own life of personal and communitarian faith. Through contemplation we know the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and, under the action of the Spirit, we learn to possess the Gospel attitudes and so see the world according to the dynamics of the kingdom. As the Pope said, we also have to renew our fervor. The Order has already carried out this task many years ago when it urged us to a greater life of prayer, to meditation on the Scriptures with more assiduity, to utilize the proper means like the courses of renewal, the days of monthly recollection and the yearly spiritual exercises. We have verified and we lament that the chapter of renewal does not have full acceptance in our communities. There has been a great improvement in these points during the past sexennium and it is reasonable to believe that the vigorous and fresh apostolic impulse with which we begin to project ourselves may find in that internal renewal its principal basis.

The provinces of the order

The interprovincial collaboration continues to be necessary in order to help other provinces that rely on meager personnel especially in the task of formation. We are pleased to announce however that the circumstances seem to lead to the proximate creation of the province of the Philippines and China. The general council has

The Taiwanese connection:

We might want to recall that to the 4 old mission stations in Taiwan, 3 others were added three years ago, namely: Machia, Shantimen and Wu tae.

WU TAE:

The Paschal Vigil of last year was held in one of the farthest towns, in the sports field of the school, assisted by the whole parish and calmly unfolded under "the light of the stars." The novelty gave the celebration a special solemnity. During the whole summer, there was a series of activities that culminated in a Vocations Day sponsored by the Diocese. Christmas day was celebrated by Fr. Senio Escabusa in a farther town where it was never done before. Numerous attendance of parishioners made it possible to add to the Misa de Gallo dances of the region and an overnight camping up to the Mass the next morning.

MACHIA:

The mission district of Machia is the most organized among the "three of the mountains". Gladly for Fr. Jun Macabudbud there is a strong cooperation among the faithful, the catechists, the secular assistants and the priest. During summer vacation, 2 groups availed themselves of the catechetical week. The first was composed of children of the primary-one level, 46 of them. The other group was attended by middle school youth and other young laborers totalling 52 boys and girls. The chapels of Peye and of Paewan had been demolished to give way to a better, bigger construction of which half the ex-

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received pertinent suggestions to guide the manner of proceeding. On the other hand, due to the changes that are happening in the demographic composition of the Order as well as the other factors, the general council is being asked to make the necessary studies with the aim of making our community prepare to adapt itself to new situations. In this job, the cooperation of all religious would be precious to indicate the courses that would benefit the Order and the spread of the Gospel.

Conclusion: Looking toward the future

For the next sexennium, the Order will have the opportunity to be gladdened by some anniversaries that mark its development and consolidation: the centenary of the creation of the Vicariate of Casanare and the 50 years of existence of the province of Saint Augustine. These are signs of hope.

We now place in the hands of all of you, beloved brothers, the Resolutions of this Chapter. Some of them are concerned directly with the general government or with provincial governments; all, however, are incumbent upon us inasmuch as its realization demands our collaboration.

In the capitular hall, dedicated to Saint Ezekiel Moreno, the images of Our Lady of Candelaria and of our Father Saint Augustine have presided over our sessions. St. Augustine is the main inspirer of our reflections. St. Ezekiel Moreno is our intercessor and model. The image of the Virgin represents Mary who carries on one arm the Child Jesus and with the other hand brightens us with a lighted candle. It is the mother of Jesus who offers us his Son and teaches us to walk guided by his light.

At the end of our deliberations, we have a message of hope for all of you. It is the season of lent and the liturgy reminds us constantly that we are on the way to the fulness of the kingdom of Christ. For this reason we are witnesses of God for a brotherly humanity. We have a great wealth to offer: the good news of Jesus that announces the love of God to the poor, the reconciliation of sinners and the renewal of the world. Our pledge continues to be the proclamation with renewed fervor that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and always, that he is the measure of all human promotion and that he is the foundation of christian culture. With joy and optimism let us look ahead.

We do not ignore our mistakes nor our sins but rather we ask pardon for them and we commend ourselves to the grace of God who regenerates us and heals us so that together with men and women whom we serve, we may come to reign with Christ.

Santafe de Bogota, 12th of Dec. 1992
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

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LIN YUAN:

At the southern end of the district of Kaoshiung is this town in full industrial progress. On Sundays the faithful

who come to Mass are mostly immigrants in search for a job. The newly renovated nursery rooms are now attractive even if they remain small.

The Taiwanese . . . (Cont. from page 8)

penses will be shouldered by the Diocese.

SHANTIMEN:

For health reasons, Fr. Pierola left this station and Fr. Tenie Cachapero took over. It is not easy for the latter to serve the parish and go to language classes at the same time. Seeing the enthusiasm of the new parish priest, however, and his initiatives to organize summer catechism, the faithful gave Fr. Tenie a typical mountain costume during the patronal fiesta celebration, a precious gift indeed.

TALIAO:

In this district, we have 2 mission stations and a central house where the Recoletos community meet weekly every Wednesday. In January, the community had its first retreat directed by a Spanish Jesuit. Fr. Melecio Ho organized two other exercises, one for the faithful of the mission and another for the "cursillistas". Almost part of the liturgical cycle was the yearly pilgrimage to the shrine of the "Mountain of Mary" located at a certain peak north of the island. It is notable that last year the image of the Blessed Virgin made a visit to every family of the faithful, house after house.

In another mission at Taliao under Fr. Pedro Tung, we make mention of the kindergarten founded 27 years ago which now is literally improved with the latest addition of a third floor for the physical education of the children.



A New Metro Manila Parish dedicated to St. Ezekiel Moreno

The official Bulletin of the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Manila, dated January 1993 published a Decree of the establishment of the Parish of St. Ezekiel Moreno, at Dagat-Dagatan, Kalookan City. Its territorial boundaries are as follows:

North: C-4 Rd., East:
Dagat-Dagatan Rd.
South: C-3 Rd., West:
Navotas-Malabon civil
boundaries.

His eminence Jaime Cardinal L. Sin signed the decree on the 23rd of December 1992. There were previous rumors expressing the OAR's interest in handling the parish.

FAVORS THROUGH ST. EZEKIEL

St. Ezekiel Moreno Center at RFC, Mira-Nila, Q.C., is now accepting reports of favors received through the intercession of this very Filipino Recoleta saint -- for filing purposes and for the edification of the people of God in the Philippines and abroad. Here are early arrivals:

Speedy Recovery

Sister Leonila C. Pesado, AR, 60 years old and resident of St. Rita College, Manila, was operated on to remove her gall bladder that had 15 stones in it, on October 30, 1990. "The next day, less than twenty-four hours after operation", she was on her feet to the surprise of her surgeon, Dr. Romeo Gutierrez of the Manila Doctors' Hospital. Three days later, she was sent home and fourteen days further, the wound was pronounced dry

with the bandage changed only once. Sister Leonila had been invoking St. Ezekiel since 1975, the year of his beatification. She was also drinking of the water taken from the "balon ng pari" (well of the Father) said to have been dug by St. Ezekiel at Inagawan, Palawan. Sister believes that her "speedy physical recovery" is a result of St. Ezekiel Moreno's intercession.

Cancer of the throat

It happened in 1979. Lilia Sirios of Urbasa, Escalante, Negros Occidental, was diagnosed to have cancer of the throat by the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City. Because of her poverty, she could not undergo surgery and her condition grew worse. One day she received a tiny medal from the father of an Augustinian Recollect minor seminarian. "Everyday she would pray three Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory be, until she dreamed and was told to pray for nine days at 3:00 in the morning, 9 Our Fathers, 9 Hail Marys and 9 Glory be. On the third morning, just before three o'clock, she was awakened by a hand gently touching her side. She could not identify the man but said she was certain it was a priest in black habit. . . Then came the ninth day after receiving the body of Christ, she noticed that the swelling in her neck had subsided." Later when shown a picture of Bishop Ezekiel Moreno, she recognized him as the "priest in her dreams who told her to pray." Although "she took no medicine and had given up all hopes", Lilia was declared completely cured. (From: William G. Yulores, "Lamigas Magazine" Special Supplement, Bacolod City).

QUEZON CITY

OPERATION DAY CARE

The Parish of San Nicolas de Tolentino (SNDT) has recently opened two Day Care Centers in collaboration with the Christian Family Movement and the President of the Carmel II Subd. Homeowners Association and the DSWD.

With an initial working staff of two very dedicated social workers, these pre-school centers are also eyed as a prospective livelihood training centers for urban poor mothers in the community. This plan was disclosed by Recoletos Observer local correspondent, Fr. Domingo Saladaga, OAR, who is concurrently the parochial vicar of San Nicolas Parish.

USJ-R ON PAASCU RECOMMENDATIONS

Rev. Fr. Emeterio Bunao, OAR, USJ-R President, created the PAASCU '92 Recommendations Implementing Task Force (PRITF) to ensure that the observations, guidelines and recommendations of the PAASCU are met with expedition.

Named Chairman of the Task Force was Fr. Constantino Real, OAR with the following members: Fr. Dionisio Cachero, OAR, Fr. Rodante Gotera, OAR, Dr. Milagros Espina, Dr. Victoria Gabison and Dr. Mariano Lerin. The PRITF met the University President and the School Chapter last February 5 to report on the implementation activities.

OAR NOVICES ATTEND BIGGEST DAY

Our Recollect novices attended the Novices' Biggest Day '93 held last January 23 at St. Paul's College in Quezon City along with hundreds of

(Cont. on page 11)

A.R. SISTERS. . .**AMSWRP Convention**

Mother Ma. Eufemia Lauzon, A.R., attended the convention for the members of the Association of Major Superiors of Women Religious in the Philippines (AMSWRP) for five days from January 25-29, held in Tagaytay City.

General Council visit to Hierarchy

Mother General and the members of the General Council greeted Most Rev. Gian Vincenzo Moreni, D.D., Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines and Jaime Cardinal Sin, D.D., Archbishop of Manila last December. Cardinal Sin gave each Sister a christmas token. The Apostolic Nuncio, on his part, encouraged mother General and Council to open an apostolate in Rome. He even promised to help look for an appropriate opening.

Silver Jubilarians

Sisters Placida Patrimonio, Ma. Ruth Gulane, Justina de Leon, Ma. Noemi Manzo and Zosima Tambanillo celebrated their Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession last January 16th at San Sebastian Basilica, Manila. Officiating minister was Bishop Nestor C. Cariño, D.D., Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. After the ceremony, reception was given at the St. Rita College Arcade for relatives, benefactors, friends and visitors.

BEC Seminars

Sr. Andrea Cabunilas, AR and Sr. Mary Ann Lumactao, AR, who finished their two-year studies at the Collegio Missionario "Mater Ecclesiae" in Rome, are giving seminars on Basic Ecclesial Communities to groups of sisters as well as to teachers of AR schools in Metro Manila.

Third Centenary Celebration of AR's Foundresses

In compliance with Mother General's memorandum to celebrate the 3rd centenary of the death of Mother Cecilia Rosa, the teachers of St. Rita College, Manila, presented "Liwanag na Walang Hanggan", a play on the pre-convent life of Mothers Dionisia and Cecilia Rosa Talampas, and early years of the Congregation as a Beaterio. The presentation, held last December 19, certainly sparked interest among the viewers.

AR PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

Sr. Elvira Vergara, AR, is finishing her doctoral degree in Educational management at USJ-Recoletos, Cebu City. Her dissertation: "The Proposed Faculty Development Program for the Integration of Values in the Augustinian Recollect Sisters' Schools in the Visayas and Mindanao Regions."

Sr. Amada de Ramos, AR, doctoral degree in Education at National Teachers' College, Manila. Dissertation: "Work Values and Performance of the Secondary Administrators and Teachers in the Augustinian Recollect Schools in the National Capital Region: An Analysis."

Sr. Marcela de la Cruz, AR, Masteral degree from St. Joseph College, Cavite City. Her thesis: "Teachers Morale among selected Luzon-based Augustinian Recollect Schools and its Implication to Educational Management, School Year 1992-1993."

OAR NOVICES . . . (from page 10)
other novices from male and female congregations all over Metro Manila.

This year's theme for the Novices' Get-Together is "KAPATIRAN NG MGA

NOVICES: ISANG SAMASAMANG PAGLALAKBAY."

The whole-day gathering was spent in prayer, lecture, group sharing, parlor games and was capped with a concelebrated Mass.

Our Recollect novices were accompanied by Fr. Joel Naranja, OAR, the Novitiate Community Procurator.

BAGUIO CITY**BIBLE ON THE AIR**

Reaching out to the Mountain Provinces via the airwaves, Rev. Fr. Larry Garces, OAR has been conducting a Catholic Bible School on the Air over DZWT 540 Khz. for more than a year now.

This bible program is done regularly on Sundays 9:30-10:00 A.M. in cooperation with the Daughters of St. Paul in Baguio City. Although Father Garces calls it a "side" apostolate considering its temporary status, still it is a welcome development in the OAR evangelization efforts.



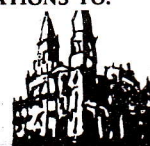
The Recoletos Observer is a quarterly publication of the OAR Vicariate of the Philippines, Taiwan and China which aims "to provide the religious a regular, updated and systematic information. . . in the various apostolates" (Vicarial Circular Letter, July 3, 1989).

Editor: Fr. Ferdinand Hernandez, OAR. Associate Editor: Fr. Regino Bangcaya, OAR. Moderator: Fr. Victor Lluch, OAR.

Staff Correspondents: Seminaries - Fr. William Villafior, OAR. Fr. Fortunato Garces, OAR. Fr. Enrico Silab, OAR. Bro. Agapito Sta. Romana, OAR. Schools - Fr. Francisco Antonio, OAR. Fr. Leopoldo Estioko, OAR. Fr. Jose Tamayo, OAR. Fr. Nemesio Tolentin, OAR. Fr. Delfin Castillo, OAR. Fr. Danilo Diana, OAR. Parishes - Fr. Samson Silloriquiz, OAR. Fr. Leander Barrot, OAR. Fr. Domingo Saladaga, OAR. Fr. Carmelo Borces, OAR. Fr. Oscar de la Rosa, OAR. Fr. Ferdinand Hernandez, OAR. Fr. Arnie Visitacion, OAR. Religious Communities - All Local Religious Superiors. Missions - Fr. Sotero Macabudbud, OAR. A.R. Sisters - Sr. Flora Silvero, AR.



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO:
The Editorial Staff
RECOLETOS OBSERVER
San Sebastian Convent,
Plaza del Carmen
P.O. Box 3173, Quiapo
Manila, Philippines



Publications Update

Emmanuel Romanillos, *Bishop Ezekiel Moreno: An Augustinian Recollect Saint Among Filipinos*. 1992, 350pp.

Nick Melgar. *Footprints of a Humble Servant: A Compilation of Press Releases and Short Articles About the Life of St. Ezekiel Moreno*. 1992, 35pp.

Liberio Cortez. *The Life of St. Ezekiel (Comics)*. Communication Foundation for Asia Media Group. Dec. 1992 - Jan. 1993, (Available in English and in Filipino).

Novena to St. Ezekiel Moreno, (Initial 20,000 copies).

SERIOUSLY SPEAKING. . .

by: Rev. Fr. Emilio Quilatan, OAR

This column is a humble attempt at finding our rootedness in the OAR history and in the prominent figures thereof whose lives need to be seriously read and pondered upon.

The initial topic for this column deals with the life and the times of our newly canonized Saint, St. Ezekiel Moreno, OAR.

DATELINE: Philippines, Taiwan & China – A new Province?

The vitality of the order consists primarily in the strength of its interior life, but it is also reflected in the increase of the number of its members and in the importance and the achievements in the ministries entrusted to it.

The General Chapter observes with joy how the Vicariate of the Philippines and China progresses towards its transformation into a new Province of the order in the future. The General Chapter requests the General Council that it conduct the necessary studies and conferences during its six-year term, taking into account No. 377 of the OAR Constitutions, so that the General Chapter of 1998 could establish the new Province, if it seems proper.

The General Council, together with the Provincial Council of the Province of Saint Nicholas of Tolentino and the Vicariate of the Philippines and China, is requested to exert special effort to secure and strengthen the necessary structures with the end that the future province may have a strong beginning.

No. 24, Acts of the 1992 General Chapter

Saint Ezekiel Moreno, OAR (1848-1906)

He was born on April 9, 1848 in the agricultural town of Alfaro, La Rioja, Spain. He was baptized the following day. His parents were Felix Moreno, a tailor by profession, and Josefa Diaz.

Reflection

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,

Before you were born, I dedicated you,

a prophet to the nations I appointed you. . ."

(NAB Jer. 1:5)



San Sebastian Convent, Plaza del Carmen
P.O. Box 3173, Quiapo
Manila, Philippines

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