



RECOLETOS

OAR

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Vicariate of the Philippines and China

4th QUARTER, 1993/
1st QUARTER, 1994

Library - Museum Complex Inaugurated

It was the Vicariate's priority project in 1991. For the Recolects in this part of the world, it was a need and a dream. A need to consolidate the gains of the recent past, and a dream to forge an identity for the future. Library and Museum are the concrete names for the project which grew to be a complex "envisioned to serve and inspire, enlighten and build the hearts and spirits..." To give shape to this vision, the *Bulwagang Recoletos* was blessed and inaugurated on February 6, 1994 after one year and ten months of frenzied construction. The blessing affair was graced by Msgr. Teodoro Bacani of Manila and Fr. Carlos Imas, OAR, Prior Provincial. A 19-foot high monument of Outstanding Recolects who served the Philippines within the past 400 years was unveiled by honored guests led by Spain's ambassador, His Excellency Herminio Alvarez. The quick unveiling of the marker was done by Fr. Victor Lluch, OAR, Vicar Provincial and Fr. German



Staff of Inauguration Rites

Chicote, OAR, Fr. Procurotor while the memoriam and dedication were being read by Fr. Hubert Decena, OAR, and Fr. Melquiades Modequillo, OAR, respectively. Before the white door of the edifice was opened, the ribbon-cutting took place under the arched canopy. Mother Eufemia Lauzon, AR, representing the religious, Dra. Rizalina Poblete, SAR national president, representing the faithful and the wives of governors headed by Mrs. Gina de Venecia, representing the Filipino society, did the honor. The audio-visual hall was opened with a performance of a local Flamenco dance group. Not given due attention though was the expressive statue of St. Augustine in his "tolle, lege" conversion stance located at the green center of the complex. The proposed gallery was occupied by six major groups of exhibits including St. Ezekiel's section. The library, now named St. Augustine Library, hosted the first book-launching at Bulwagang Recoletos

1st Vicariate Congress, a success

Held finally in Baguio on April 11-15, 1994, this historic first Recoletos Congress of the OAR Vicariate of the Philippines and China was attended by 44 of the 48 convoked participants. Fr. General himself, Fr. Javier Pipaon, was present. Fruits of the Congress in the form of recommendations are now polished for publication. Other pertinent details will come out through the Congress' own publishing committee. Our own story properly belongs to the second quarter issue.

with three titles. And the planned canteen area served savory snacks to those who could not wait for the even more savory lunch. The freshly landscaped premises was dotted by doting usherettes and ushers in Maria Clara and barong tagalog attires.

Opening the guest book for Museo Recolecto at the end of the exhilarating day, it was Fr. Provincial who topped the list of signatures.

"Bulwagan" ... a spacious hall, a center for crucial activities. "Recoletos" ... for and of Recolects and Recolect-touched populace.



“A Living Landmark”

This issue combines the last quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year 1994. An end and a beginning. Not without its own significance. As if we join a past to a future. Yet, that is what we are doing as we feature the Bulwagang Recoletos in this issue. The Dedication of the complex mentions the “allegiance our forefathers found inspiring challenge to work, fight and die for” as well as the “youth of the generation yet unborn.” It is “our history and our dreams”, continues the same Dedication. It therefore, in the words of Fr. Vicar, Fr. Victor Lluch, OAR, “becomes for all of us a *living landmark* not only to give, to many a Recoletos of the Vicariate, the courage

to explore the implications of his Augustinian Recollect heritage but also to deepen his OAR identity ever more profoundly.” *

Although this Recoletos landmark signifies the Recollection in the Philippines, its implications go beyond the confines of the archipelago. We have hints of them in the following pages.

Landmarks are of the past, for the future and in the present. They are also for all men of all places.

* Message of Rev. Fr. Vicar, Fr. Victor Lluch, OAR for the “Recoletos Update”, Vol. VI No. 2, p. 3; emphasis mine.



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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FR. VICTOR LLUCH, OAR
Moderator

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LAST QUARTER (Oct.-Dec.) 1993

FORMATION

Mira-Nila, Q.C.

Deacons of '93



In Christ's service forever

Most Rev. Francisco Claver, S.J., D.D., led the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the Ordination Rites of five Recollect Deacons at OLCF in the afternoon of October 16, 1993. The ordained were: Revs. Jose Marie Villena, Rouel Sia, Joel Villaruel, Hernan Omecillo and Bernabe Dosdos. In the service of the Church community!

Guests Professors

Recoletos Formation Center welcomed two Recollect professors who came to help the faculty of theology as well as polish their English. Fr. Pablo Panedas, OAR, hails from Valladolid, Spain and teaches Theological Anthropology while Fr. Ignacio Jimenez, OAR, from Jalisco, Mexico handles Johannine literature. Enjoy your stay!

Evangelization seminar

For the first time in RFC, CLAYE or Catholic Lay Evangelization Program offered a seminar for the theologians and some priests last Oct. 15-23, 1993. The deeply effective program was capped by the commissioning of

The Vicariate of the Philippines and China heartily congratulates the new Recollect Bishops:

1. **Most Rev. Emiliano Cisneros Martinez, OAR, D.D.** - consecrated on January 6, 1994 as Bishop of our missions in Chota, Peru.

2. **Most. Rev. Jesus Moraza Ruiz de Azua, OAR, D.D.** - consecrated on April 19, 1994 as Bishop of the Recollect missions in Labrea, Brazil.

Warm prayers for our missions and missionaries!



Modern Evangelists

32 graduates as the new evangelists of the Archdiocese of Manila. Congratulations!

Antipolo

Seminar Season

The excited Novices were wrapping up their last days of novice-training through test and seminars. On Sept. 5 and 12, 1993, they undertook psychological tests at St. Joseph College, Q.C. On Oct. 18-20, they joined the workshop-seminar on prayer and personal growth at St. Rita College under Fr. Bill Schock, S.J. And on Nov. 15-19, in a five-day live-in seminar on human sexuality, again at St. Rita College, together with the Junior 6 of the AR Sisters. No, they did not live in Sta. Rita, but in San Sebastian convent.



Strength in unity — for God

Baguio City

First Anniversary of St. Ezekiel Moreno's Canonization

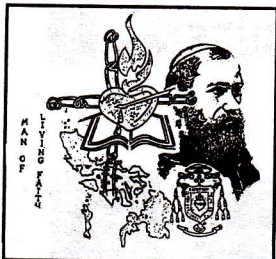
The college seminarians did not forget the day St. Ezekiel was elevated to the altars, this first Recoleta Saint who in many ways is "Philippine-made." To commemorate the anniversary, the different years held an Interband competition featuring the best musicians of each level. Surprisingly, the Freshmen took the honors! It was not a hometown decision for the judges came from Musar, an independent Music School in Baguio.

PARISHES

Valencia, Negros Or.

Parish Convention, Part II

In November, 1993, the Our Lady of the Abandoned parish held its second parish convention to "refocus its vision, re-orient its mission, re-structure its foundation and restrengthen its organization" along the line of PCP II and the Synod of the Dumaguete Diocese. Close to 90 participants from the parish council, organizations and devotions joined in. All to rally "towards a living and responsive church."



ST. EZEKIEL MORENO CORNER

(Note: St. Ezekiel Moreno Center at RFC, Mira-Nila, Q.C., now accepts reports of any favor received through the intercession of St. Ezekiel for filing and publication purposes).

A BABY NAMED EXEKIEL

Mrs. Sybille Budzovzki Esperí was set to deliver her child by caesarian operation on February 17, 1993. The x-ray at Düblinger Privat Klinik in Vienna, Austria, showed her baby in an abnormal position, that is with a "foot presentation." On January 22, the mother of Sybille, Barbara Budzovzki, a nurse by profession, confided to her friends her anxieties about the operation as her daughter wanted to have more children in the future. Quickly, some filipina nurses working with her, gave her a "stampita" and triduum prayers to St. Ezekiel Moreno, instructing her to lay the Saint's picture on her daughter's belly while praying. As Polish Catholics, Barbara and her daughter gladly complied. Next

day, January 23, the pregnant mother went for routine mother-child check-up. To the amazement of the physicians, the fetus was found in a normal presentation, i.e., "head presentation." By medical standards, a month before the delivery, this change in position is impossible without any direct intervention. Even a manual massage at this stage would just damage the baby. On February 19, 1993, the baby was born in a normal way and "without complications." It was the first child of Mrs. Sybille B. Esperí. Without second thoughts, the mother registered the baby with the name Exekiel - his full name, SAM EXEKIEL BUDZOVZKI ESPERI.

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

08 - Fr. Lucas Wang
12 - Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla
17 - Fray Corvin Maturan
19 - Fr. Andres Rodante Gotera
21 - Fr. Felizardo Daganta
26 - Fray Christopher Maspara
27 - Fray Crisostomo Buno
30 - Fray Jonathan Caballero

FEBRUARY

03 - Mons. Nicolas She
- Fr. Jose Wang
04 - Fr. Bernard Amparado
06 - Fr. Ronel Gealon
07 - Fray Joven Saavedra
10 - Fr. Loreto Dacanay
12 - Fr. Domingo Saladaga
14 - Fr. Jose Antonio Rodrigalvarez
19 - Fr. Dunstan Huberto Decena

MARCH

01 - Rev. Jose Marie Villena
03 - Fr. Emeterio Buñao
06 - Fray Randolph Castulo Castillo
15 - Fr. Lauro Larlar
30 - Fr. Oscar de la Rosa

APRIL

02 - Fr. Cirilo Durana
- Fray Yvonn Tonogbanua
06 - Fr. Celestino Cachapero
09 - Fr. Walthrode Conde
13 - Fr. Hermenegildo Ceniza
18 - Fr. Amadeo Lucero
20 - Fr. Adonis Wagas
26 - Fr. Sotero Macabudbud

MAY

01 - Fr. Victor Lluch
07 - Fr. Federico de la Rosa
- Fr. Demetrio Peñascoza
- Fr. Leopoldo Estioko

08 - Fr. Dionisio Cachero
10 - Fray Jose Florizel Dabalos
11 - Fr. Alberto Avanzado
12 - Fr. Joseph Granada
14 - Fr. Philip de la Dolorosa Liu
15 - Fray Joe Gabriel Rios
16 - Fr. Carmelo Borces
19 - Fr. Clemente Jubera
20 - Bro. Felipe Jaranilla
23 - Fray Celedonio Lamprea

JUNE

01 - Fr. Raul Buhay
02 - Fr. Constantino Real
10 - Fr. Antonio Ramon Palacios
- Rev. Joel Villaruel
11 - Rev. Bernabe Dosdos
15 - Fr. Cornelio Moral
22 - Fr. Paulino Rommel Dacanay
- Fray Romeo Bersaluna
25 - Fr. William Emelito Villafior
26 - Fray Julius Marcos
28 - Fr. Enrico Silab
- Fr. Samson Silloriquuez

FIRST QUARTER (Jan.-Mar.) 1994

FORMATION

Mira-Nila, Q. C.

New Lectors and Acolytes

This year's conferment of the ministries of Lector and Acolyte will go down in history as a first, having been done by the OAR Prior General himself last March 5, 1994. Ministry of Lector was conferred to: Bros. Genaro Monzon, Joseph Girasol, Joe Gabriel Rios, Joel Alve, Charlito Orobia, Randolph Castulo Castillo and Jose Ernil Almayo, and that of Acolyte to: Bros. Crisostomo Buno, Jovito Moral, Edwin Macmac, Corvin Maturan, Julius Marcos, Jose Opalda Jr., Anthony Morillo, Vicente Ramon Jr., Ferdinand Fornilos and Cristopher Maspara. Congratulations!

Antipolo

Operation: Big Stones for Peace

Overlooking the Novitiate house is a promontory where a radar stands but which has also become a favorite spot of endless, noisy "pot sessions" on weekends. To stop this public nuisance, the Novices, on Feb. 17, led by Fr. Joel Naranja, volunteered to transport big rocks to block the driveway leading to the place. That would temporarily drive the acidheads away and bring some peace to the subdivision.

Baguio City

Computerization ahead

On January 16, 1994, the seminarians were given the neces-

sary orientation-seminar on the proper use and/or "misuse" of the newly acquired computer units. Bracing themselves for the year 2000, it is never too late to learn.

Trophy haul

SM-R was one of the coveted participants in the Mini Olympics sponsored by the Inter-Seminary Forum of Baguio last February 25, 1994. The event was held in the city's famous Athletic Bowl as the culminating activity for the school year. The Recollects garnered eight of the ten first-prize trophies. Congrats and keep up the habit!

SCHOOLS

Cavite City

28th Foundation Anniversary

February 15-18, 1994 marked the celebrations. Although every year is another anniversary, this time Fr. Lino Agunod became an awardee for his 20th year of service to the school. Kudos! Fr. Nemesio Tolentin headed the executive committee that made the cultural night even more heart-throbbing with the special participation of the Alvarez brood celebrities — Gio, Guila and Luigi of the famed "Ang TV" program.

Cebu City

Basak Campus Ministers

New campus ministers were appointed by the university president, Fr. Emie Buñao, for the elementary and high school departments. Frs. Leander Barrot and

Adonis Wagas, both assistant priests at Consolacion Parish, Laray, Cebu, quickly buckled down to work scheduling recollections and arranging for the sacrament of reconciliation for the studentry. Welcome and enjoy your job.

PARISHES

Laray, San Roque, Talisay, Cebu

International Year of the Family in action

On time for this Year of the Family, the Consolacion Parish-Recoletos welcomed the Couples for Christ movement in its midst with a very significant attendance. In the same line, the Confraternity of our Mother of Perpetual Help is strongly campaigning for sacramental marriage among the "live-in" parishioners converting these summer days into "marriage months."

Manila

Coro de San Sebastian in concert

Only more than a year old, this group, launched as the official wedding choir of San Sebastian parish, held its first major concert on Feb. 18 and 19, 1994 at its home base, the San Sebastian Basilica. Backed by the parish priest, Fr. Hermie Ceniza, OAR, it recruited most of its young and fresh talents from the Association of Working Scholars of San Sebastian College. "An Evening with Coro de San Sebastian" was a heavenly evening affair for the captive audience.

INSCAPE

(This column gives way to a letter-reflection by our Filipino students in Rome).

Of Rome and Home: Back to Basics

(Drafted by: Fr. Soysoy Hernando, OAR)

There are times when all we have to do is entertain ourselves with fundamental issues which we normally presume to have already been settled at one time or another. At times, we do not even remember them at all, what with their ordinariness. Distance creates silence. And silence has its values, in fact religious values. Yet, for all the wisdom related to the cultivation of silence, there is also its shadow side: silence alienates. Distance uproots people. In the case of our Filipino Recollect students in Rome, their dying for news (but not only news) seems to be confirmation of all thoughts about distance, silence, alienation, uprootedness. Yes, these are ordinary experiences of people separated by lands and seas, yet united by stars and constellations, if not by dreams and vision. This article is a humble attempt to keep in touch with dear Philippines and to touch the ground of brotherhood.

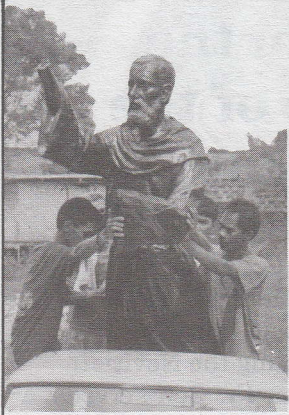
Yet, it is not for nothing that we are sown and, then, uprooted. We are, after all, transplanted. Of course, the process is not all that smooth. Nor should it always be smooth. But neither should it be unnecessarily harsh. Do we not at times, stumble upon rocky ground only to find water in the end? Then we realize, sooner or later, that we really do not have to strike the stone twice with shades of doubt and bitterness everytime we go thirsty. Moreover, in the process of growth, we normally find in the plants of our life weeds, insects and worms, all of them quite determined to suck the sap of our initial gains. Then they leave us just about the same time we are beginning to draw our last straw of resistance. The other plants though just wither away. Sadly, silently.

It was talking of initial gains, if gains they are. In the case of the Filipino Recollect students in Rome, they have already taken roots of faith in solid theological ground. All are growing. And learning fast. Father Edwin de la Torre has just finished his paperwork on "Carita Pastorale nel Documento Pastores dabo Vobis," Casa di Accoglienza: Pastorale Giovanile e Pastorale Vocazionale." Father Bebot Penascoza, for his part, takes pride in his patristic roots and has recorded his scholarly discoveries in his early works, "The Anthropological Views of Augustine the Pastor in Epist. ad

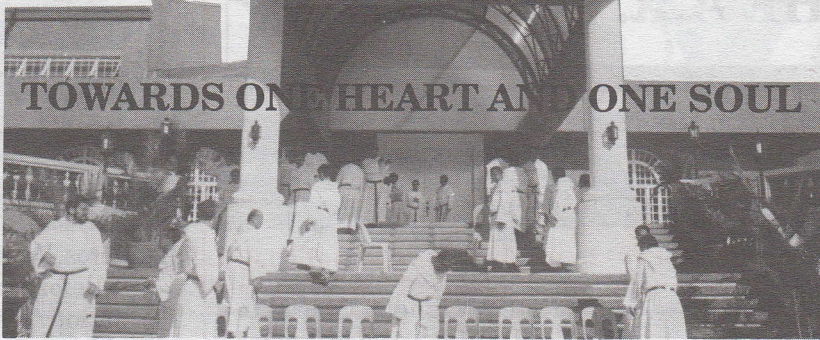
Iulianam, 188," "The Rescripts on the Slave's Initiation in the Apostolic Tradition," "St. Augustine and the Pelagian Controversy," and "The Role of the House Church in the Early Christianity." Father Jorge Peligro has immersed himself with the biblical world and is interested in entering the Johannine world. Lately, however, he has written amply on "The Synagogue in Judaism and Early Christianity," and "Paul on Teaching." Meanwhile Father Soysoy Hernando is busy with his Trinity (still a mystery, he says). He has written articles on the "Starting Points for a Theology of Human Suffering," "In Search of a God-Image: An Experiment in Doing Theology," and "From Image to Wisdom; St. Augustine's De Trinitate Revisited." And Father Eric Silab is doing a yearlong refresher course in Religious Life. He has just attended a week of intensive exposure to the dynamics of religious life.

As I was saying, just when we stretch out our branches and leaves in full growth, weeds, insects, and worms are also conspiring to suck hard-earned energies. In community living, this thing can and is, in fact, happening. Over here, instant meetings can become centuries-long. Heated discussions can become unreasonable and are often cut by hasty decisions which are equally unreasonable. Not without causing domestic tension reminiscent of the Spanish conquistadores and the Katipuneros in the battleground of struggling Philippines. Quite a sad metaphor, but true. In historical hermeneutics, however, events alone do not make up the whole context. For then, the socio-cultural milieu also conditions our questions, problems and issues, and the varying perspectives can, indeed, determine our differing perceptions.

In the long run, the most fundamental thing of all is not about counting feast and wounds but the desire to communicate where communication is the bridge that conquers seas and lands, and the star that brightens the night amidst the deafening silence of distance. If we can only bring back the basics of life, then, even in the distance that spans from East to West, we can still cherish one "memory, presence and promise."



St. Ezekiel to his new place



"A truly Recollect work"



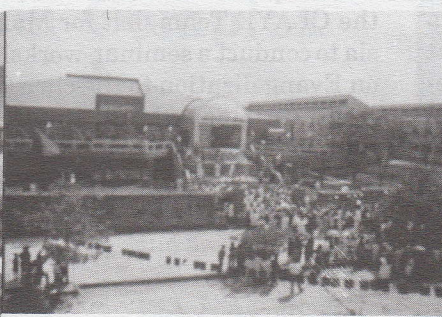
St. Augustine's conversion at Bulwagang Recoletos



The building of a monument



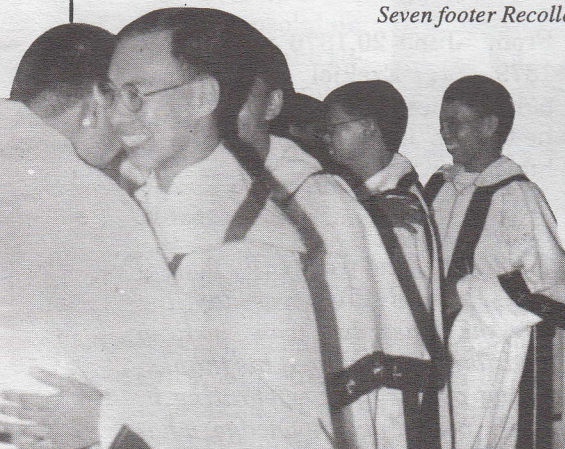
Seven footer Recollects



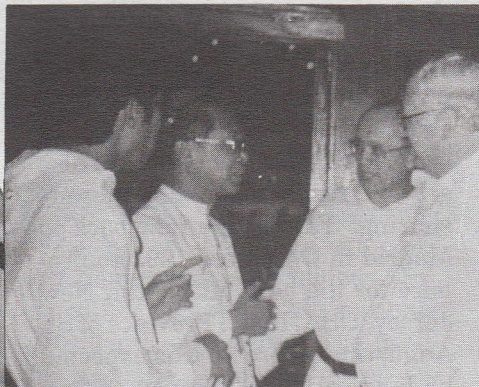
Bulwagang Recoletos, before the blessing



Recoletos remembered forever in bronze



Brotherly greetings, new Deacons



Big people at Vicariate's Congress Baguio



The joy of CLAYE



Moments before Inauguration



Ribbon — cutting of the unique Bulwagan



Bulwagang Recoletos for God and country



Ushers and Usherettes gracing the hot inaugural day

FROM THE A.R. SISTERS . . .

Cause for Beatification

On October 13, 1993, the Congregation made the initial steps of introducing the Cause for Beatification of the Foundresses, Mother Dionisia and Cecilia Rosa Talampas. In the ceremony held at San Sebastian Basilica and presided by Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, the Decree was announced and the life of the two Sisters read. May God bring this noble Cause to a successful end!

Evangelists abroad

Sister Miguela Obera together with Mrs. Helen Lastra, teacher of St. Rita College, Parañaque, and Tita Cerdeño of the CLAYE Team, left for Malaysia to conduct a seminar-workshop on Evangelization to the christian communities which included filipino catholics working in this neighbor-country. More success!

Fr. Paloma's Vacation Agenda of Sharing



After his triennium in Madrid as Prior of

Casa Augustinus, Fr. Pastor Paloma, OAR, spent a month and a half of a well-deserved vacation in the Philippines. Vacation for him, however, as he put it, "is just a matter of rhythm of work in another venue." True to this idea, he spent most of his time doing what he knows best: giving lectures and recollections. Beneficiaries of his whirlwind stint were our own formation centers in Mira-Nila, Antipolo, Baguio and San Carlos City. Our Augustinian Recollect

Sisters both in active and contemplative lives had a taste of this sharing too. Faculty members of our OAR and AR schools were also grateful recipients of his generous sharing. Fr. Paloma flew back to Madrid in December 1993 to prepare for his next mission in New Jersey, USA, in the Province of St. Augustine where he was expected by January 1994. This new assignment he sees as just "another venue for sharing" and should not be an obstacle to his returning to our Philippine scenario of the 2000s. We are looking forward to another "whirlwind sharing" with you, Father Pastor!

MILESTONES

Ordained: Diaconate, Oct. 16, 1993, OLCP - Revs. Jose Marie R. Villena, OAR (Mansilingan, Bacolod City), Rouel M. Sia, OAR (Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte),

Joel G. Villaruel, OAR (Alangilan, Bacolod City), Hernan B. Omecillo, OAR (San Carlos City, Negros Occ.), Bernabe M. Dosdos, OAR (Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur).

From the office of the Fr. Vicar . . .

Assigned: October 15, 1993 - Fr. Euben Clemente C. Capacillo, OAR, to St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos, Antipolo, Rizal.

Before joining the Novitiate Formation Team, Fr. Ben served in the Recollect missions, six years in South America (Casanare and Bogota, Colombia) and five and a half years in England.

SERIOUSLY SPEAKING . . .

by Fr. Emil Quilatan, OAR

ST. EZEKIEL MORENO

From June 20, 1876 until July 1879 St. Ezekiel became the parish priest of Las Piñas. There he was an indefatigable pastor of his flock.

Reflection:

"Father Ezekiel was really fond of God. He said Mass everyday. Before the Mass, he was in deep meditation and offered his thanksgiving prayer after celebrating it. To the best of my knowledge, what he always sought in his prayers were hardships, tribulations. He seemed to emulate the trials of Jesus Christ".

(Testimony of Mrs. Tomasa Camantigue of Las Piñas)

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