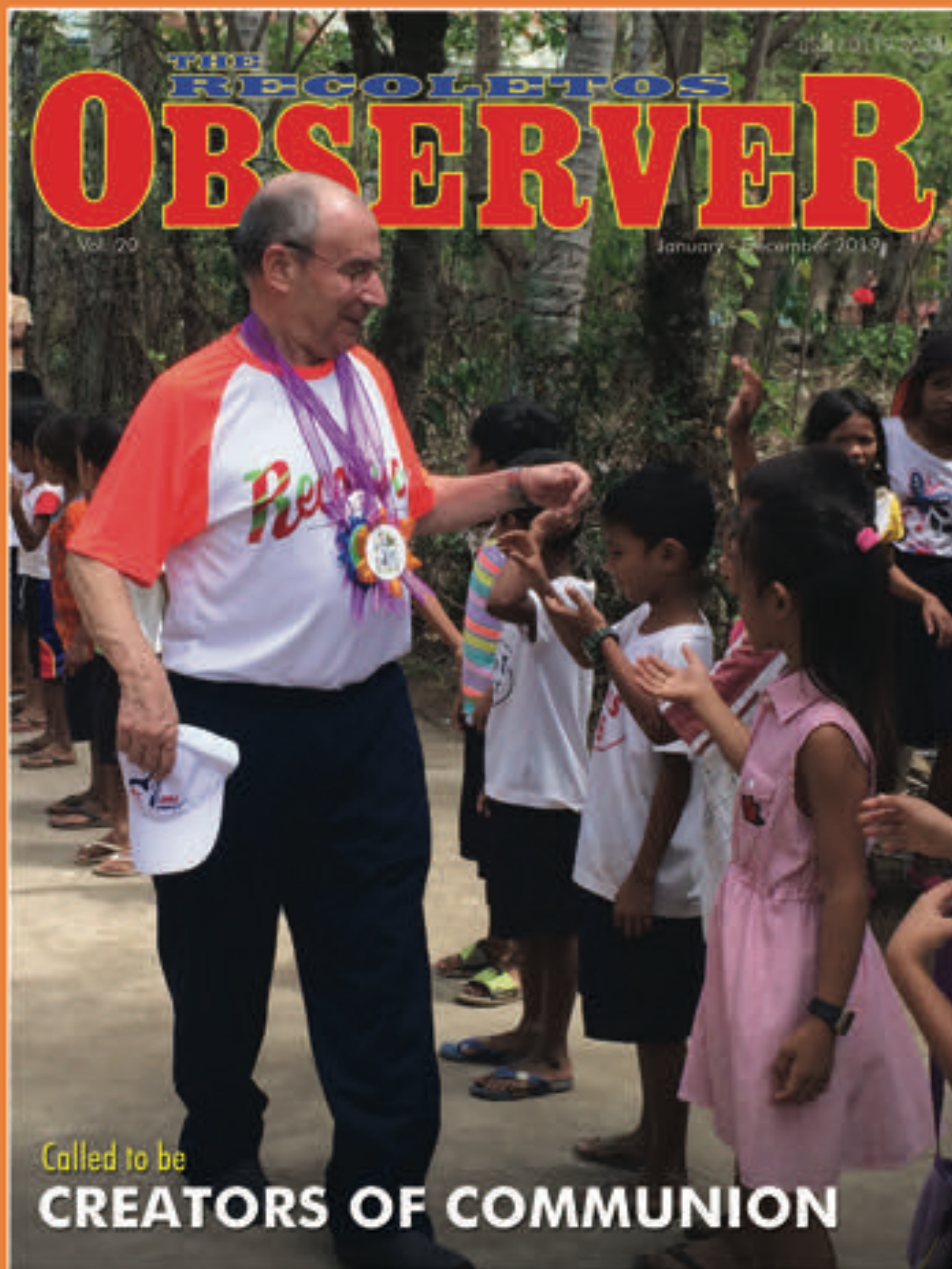


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Called to be

**CREATORS OF COMMUNION**

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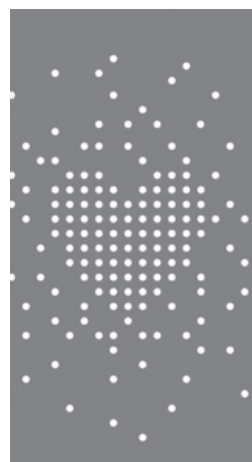
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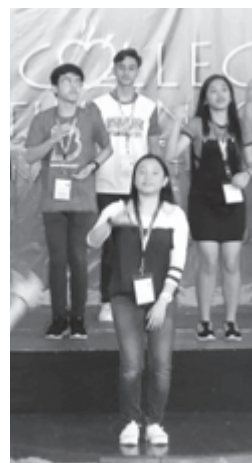
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# Featured News



[ feature ]

## New Structure of the Order of Augustinian Recollects: Four new Provinces

By Agustinos Recoletos

*General Curia, ROME*—THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS FACE FROM THE past year a new panorama. The union of provinces has renewed the configuration of the Order in the world: four new provinces with different challenges. With the restructuring of provinces and the reorganization of ministries, the Augustinian Recollects seek to strengthen evangelization, youth and vocation ministry, community life of religious and social works with the poor. In short, an update of the Augustinian Recollection is intended.

In May of 2018, the San Nicolás de Tolentino and San Agustín provinces were the first two provinces that carried out their union, within the restructuring process that the Order began in 2016. Subsequently, they were followed by the San José and Santa Rita Provinces, to that of Santo Tomás de Villanueva; and the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, to that of Our Lady of the Candelaria. The Province of San Ezequiel Moreno, the most recent one, does not join another province, but it does have the commitment to expand and to internationalize its presence throughout Asia.





### PROVINCE OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE

It is formed by 316 religious present in eight countries: Spain, England, England and Rome, China, United States, Mexico, Costa Rica and Brazil. Spain has the largest number of religious. Most religious work in pastoral ministry in parishes and schools.

They have presence and commitment in significant social projects, among them is the City of Children in Costa Rica and CARDI in Mexico.



### PROVINCE OF ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA

It is present in five countries: Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Peru, configured by 300 religious and 50 communities. It has formation houses, schools, Ministerial Apostolate, parishes and missions. Currently, the province lives the reality of Venezuela, which affects all the religious who work there and indirectly affects the entire province.



### PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF CANDELARIA

After the union, the province is present in Spain, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia and Chile. It consists of approximately 200 religious who continue with the same ministries at the level of parishes and schools. They have two mission territories, one in Panama in Kankintú (Bocas del Toro) and another in Colombia in Trinidad (Casanare).



### PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO

It is the only province that has no other province attached to it. It is made up of 179 members, with their houses in the Philippines (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). They also have houses in Taiwan, Sierra Leone (Africa), Saipan (Northern Mariana Islands) and Indonesia. Under the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno are two universities, two colleges, and four basic education schools. All stages of formation, from the Minor Seminary up to the Theologate, are present in the province.

The province also administers parishes and quasi-parishes in the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Saipan, and Taiwan. **RD**

*THE CHIEFS. The Priors Provincial of the four "new" provinces posing for a photo together with the Prior General. From left to right: Fray Albeiro Arenas Molina, OAR (Province of Our Lady of Candelaria), Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR (Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno), Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR (Prior General), Fray Sergio Sánchez Moreno, OAR (Province of St. Nicholas of Tolentine), and Fray Miguel Ángel Hernández, OAR (Province of St. Thomas of Villanova)*



# “I was fearful when I started painting Saint Augustine”

By Agustinos Recoletos

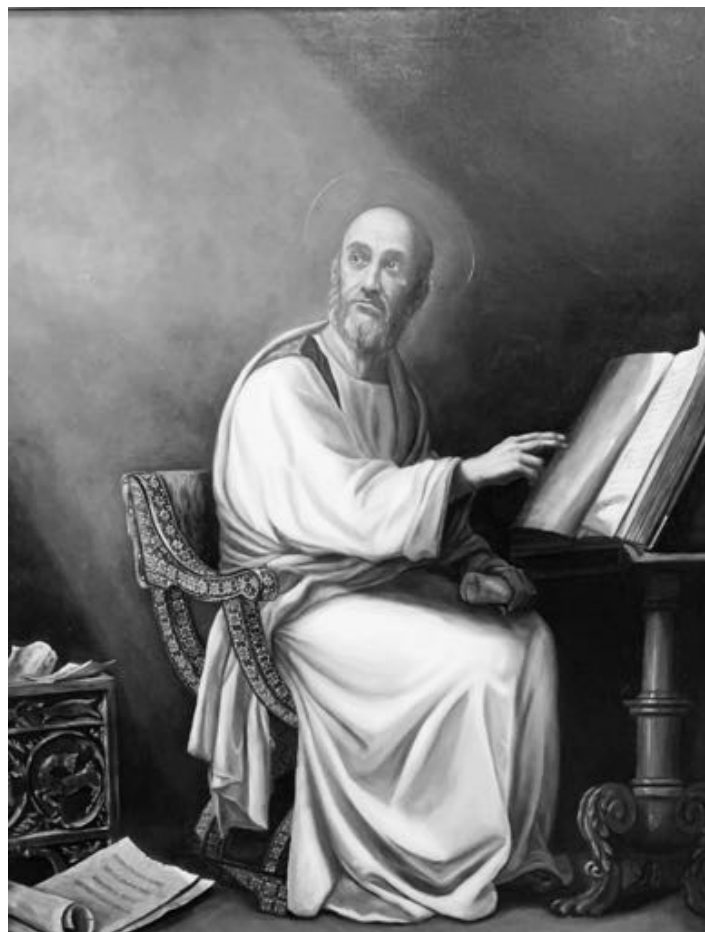
*Madrid, SPAIN*—THE AUGUSTINIAN Recollect David Conejo is the artist responsible of the new painting of St. Augustine which was presented and blessed this April 29, at the Formation House of Las Rozas (Madrid, Spain). It is inspired by the first known representation of the bishop of Hippo.

Facing a blank canvas is a challenge. For the Augustinian Recollect David Conejo, the challenge was twofold: he had to fill in the space of 162x130 centimeters representing St. Augustine, father and doctor of the Church. For this reason, the artist born in Cartago (Costa Rica), affirms that he felt “fear” for all of this and because the image, which was presented and blessed at the Casa de Formación San Agustín de Las Rozas (Madrid, Spain), will be an image of worship and veneration.

The challenge of representing St. Augustine began a long time ago. “When I started classes five years ago, it was one of the projects I imagined I would do someday,” he says. However, David Conejo began this new work on behalf of the community, which wanted an image of St. Augustine, the patron saint of the house. “On my own I wouldn’t have undertaken it because I know it’s very difficult,” he confesses.

The initial fear has turned with the progress of the process into satisfaction; the same that he felt when he unveiled the canvas that covered the new work. “He is a great saint who has been painted by the best artists of all history.”

David Conejo has taken reference to the oldest known representation of St. Augustine: the sixth century fresco of the Lateran Palace



*IMAGE OF THE FIRST IMAGE. The artist’s inspiration for his work is the first image of St. Augustine.*

**“When I started classes five years ago, it was one of the projects I imagined I would do someday.”**

FRAY DAVID CONEJO, OAR

in Rome. “My intention is that we remember, on seeing this painting, the first image we have of St. Augustine. The new painting re-edits the fresco, giving it more realism.

It was the Augustinian Recollect Enrique Eguiarte who suggested that he approach and take this fresco as the basis for a painting of the bishop of Hippo. “He told me that when I paint our father, I should take as a reference the oldest image of St. Augustine.” And why? “No one has looked at this representation and it is the closest testimony to his death—almost 100 years after his death; it can be more or less faithful to how Augustine was,” he says.

### St. Augustine, contemplative next to the Word of God

The artist explains that the painting in which the figure of the saint is surprising. "We can see a man of a certain age. He is not young; he is entering his old age," he says. Everything in this painting reminds us of the Lateran fresco, the elements are the same. "The dress is a toga, the garment of the free Roman citizen, with a purple stripe alluding to his episcopal dignity. He also wears a robe, the toga of the senators," he explains. All this "represents its importance for the one who embodied it in Lateran in the 6<sup>th</sup> century".

The axis of the painting is the Word of God: "He is contemplative, pointing to the word of God; we see a bishop speaking and interpreting the word. With his right hand, he points to the Holy Scriptures; with his left hand he holds a scroll that represents his extensive work."

St. Augustine is barefoot in the painting. This is how it appears in the original fresco, although David Conejo wanted to give it another meaning: "It is associated with the Recollection and its barefoot."

In the lower left part, another detail. "There is the phrase that accompanies the Lateran fresco: many parents said many things, but this one said it all in the language of the Romans. This makes the spiritual sense resound.

### "An Approach" to St. Augustine

For the author, this painting "has meant a more experiential approach to how he is, to his way of thinking..." With Saint Augustine, as with any work, David has had to carry out a closer study of his figure in order to familiarise himself and represent exactly what he wants.

In order to paint St. Augustine, one must always be up to the task. "Something is always expected

**St. Augustine is barefoot in the painting. This is how it appears in the original fresco, although David Conejo wanted to give it another meaning: "It is associated with the Recollection and its barefoot."**



PAINTED WITH FEAR. Fray David Conejo, OAR, (left) unveils his painting of St. Augustine in the presence of the community of Las Rozas, Madrid.

from a painting of Saint Augustine. He has a personality, a testimony, a written work, his whole spirituality... It is difficult."

The spectacular work, oil on canvas, realistic and baroque, is already in what will be its definitive place: the chapel of the House of Formation where it was blessed. There he will receive appreciation and, for many, he will clarify the image of St. Augustine.

RD



[ feature ]

# A young community with 400 years of history in Rome

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Rome, ITALY*—THE COMMUNITY OF Sistina, founded in 1619 for the residence of the procurator of the Augustinian Recollects, celebrates its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It was the first community in Rome and is currently made up of young Augustinian Recollects who are doing their specialization studies in Roman universities. It is an intercultural and interprovincial community. Here is the universality of the Church.

The apparent modernity of the current San Ildefonso y Santo Tomás de Villanueva International School conceals its 400 years of history. Its walls are century-old yet one can breathe vitality and youth. The first community of the Augustinian Recollects in Rome, created in 1619, is today formed by young religious who carry out their specialization studies in Roman universities. That is why the Augustinian Recollect Juan Pablo Martínez, who has lived in the house until a few months ago, recognizes that “it is a youthful spirit that is lived in spite of its ancient walls.”

>

*BEHIND THE ANTIQUE WALLS. Young Augustinian Recollect friars who carry out their specialization studies in Roman universities comprise the current community in Sistina which was founded 400 years ago.*

Currently made up of young people, the community of Sistina celebrates its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, 2019. At the beginning of the Augustinian Recollection, “there was a desire to have a house in Rome that would serve as a union with the Holy See,” says the Augustinian Recollect Ángel Martínez Cuesta, a church historian. The need for this community increases because the presence of the procurator of the Augustinian Recollects before the Holy See was important. “It was decided to found in Rome a hospice where a friar – the procurator – and some religious would live with his company,” points out Tomás Ortega, an Augustinian Recollect who knew the history of the centenary community.

This is the main reason why the so-called community of Sistina was founded in 1619 due to





its location in Via Sistina. For years it played an important role. For several decades it was even the seat of the General Curia of the Order, until the construction of the new building in the EUR slum. From four decades ago until today, it is the International School San Ildefonso y Santo Tomás de Villanueva. For Pablo Panedas, an Augustinian Recollect historian, “Sistina is a key house, not only in the history of the Order.” It is the third oldest community preserved by the Augustinian Recollects.

Panedas assures that it is key for history and for the religious who currently live in the community. “Since it is a house of studies, it is a key community because it is the place where formators are formed”, and he adds that “it is unique.” Living in this house is a unique experience. Bruno D’Andrea, Augustinian Recollect, studies in Rome and lives in the community: “Thank God we are a few young people whom the Order has allowed to study and deepen our knowledge.”

At present, Sistina is inhabited by young people from the four provinces of the Augustinian Recollects and from various nationalities. It is these two particularities that Juan Pablo Martínez highlights the most: “Here, there is no difference of provinces at all; simply all those who live in this house are Augustinian Recollects and it is what marks the identity of everything they do.” This multiculturalism allows this house to be “a showcase of what the Order is,” says Pablo Panedas.

The Prior General, Miguel Miró, assures that in this house the revitalization of the charism is already being lived since “it contains elements that must encourage us to revitalize the Order.” The memory stands out – the centenary history of this place – the life in community between the provinces and with the Church, and the hope that the study of young religious implies.

If one can summarize in some way the past, the present and the future of this community, perhaps the phrase of Pablo Panedas could serve: “Here is the universality of the Church.” **RD**

## newsbits

### AUGUSTINIAN PRIORS GENERAL RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE BY POPE FRANCIS

By Agustinos Recoletos



Vatican City, ROME—The Holy Father received in audience the superiors of the Augustinians, Augustinian Recollects, and Discalced Augustinians to deal with, among other topics, the process of declaring St. Thomas of Villanova as Doctor of the Church.

The three Priors General—of the Orders of St. Augustine (OSA), Augustinian Recollects (OAR), and Discalced Augustinians (OAD)—were received in audience April 4, 2019, by Pope Francis. The superiors transmitted to the Holy Father first of all the unity of the Augustinian Family in prayer for him and his intentions.

The main reason for the audience was to promote the process of declaring St. Thomas of Villanova as Doctor of the Church for his eminent and relevant doctrine. The Priors General explained to the Holy Father the influence of the thought of the Augustinian saint, his doctrine and example of life given to the poor and the needy.

Reverend Fathers Alejandro Moral OSA, Miguel Miró OAR, and Dorian Ceteroni, OAD presented the complete works of St. Thomas of Villanova as a gift to Pope Francis.

Pope Francis also wanted to know the work of the different branches of the Augustinian Family throughout the world. They also talked about the challenges of the Church and consecrated life.

# Talavera House of Prayer culminates its 20<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary celebration

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

*Cebu City, CEBU*—THE LONG HISTORY OF TALAVERA HOUSE OF PRAYER – Recoletos (THP-R) was revisited by both incumbent and former administrators of the retreat house together with the Josenian community earlier today, May 30.

THP-R is a facility located on a hill in Barangay Quiot, Cebu City. It is primarily used for group retreats and other religious events.

A Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Fray Vicente Ramon, OAR, together with Fray Domingo Saladaga Jr, OAR, and Fray Emeterio Buñao, OAR.

Fray Buñao was the university president when THP-R was inaugurated on May 30, 1998. He was also the first director of the retreat house.

Today marks the culmination of the 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration of THP-R as well as the start of its 21st year.

An outreach activity was also led through the university's Institute for Non-Formal Education and Community Outreach Program (INFECOP). Games and treats were prepared for the children in Barangay Quiot as one way of sharing the blessings received by the Josenian community in the past two decades.

A cultural show which highlighted a look back on how the Talavera Project began concluded today's celebration.

In a written account, Fray Buñao recalled the events which led to the construction of the facility. He said it started with "a felt need."

He narrated that he was appointed President of USJ-R in August 1988. Upon assumption into office, the academic community of the University shared with him their expectations and concerns. The Campus Ministry Office (CMO) and the Center for Religious Education (CRE) expressed the desire to have a retreat house.

"They said that to effectively carry out the evangelization program for the students and the rest of USJ-R personnel, the university should have some off-campus facilities to support and complement their class activities," he told USJ-R.

## Talavera through the looking glass

The prayer house was named after Talavera de la

Reina, a city in Spain which is home to a monastery for Augustinian Recollect friars who live a contemplative life.

The structure stands on a lot which measures 22,152 square meters. It was bought by USJ-R on October 24, 1990.

The project was launched on December 5, 1996. The construction of the edifice in Cebu started in March 1997. It was inaugurated in 1998 which marked the 50<sup>th</sup> year of USJ-R as an institution. After three months, its operation commenced.

Before the efforts of the administration came to fruition, challenges were also met along the way.

"We learned also that the past administration had the interest to acquire the said property but the plan was abandoned for some reasons," Fray Buñao recalled.

He continued that the road right-of-way was a problem and there was no access road leading towards the property. The configuration of the property also called for costly and massive development activities. Moreover, the place was known as the killing fields during the early 1980's because from time to time human bodies (believed to be victims of salvaging) were thrown into that unpopulated and isolated place.

As the years went by, the obstacles were gradually addressed. Integrated in the deed of sale was the contract of perpetual use of the road right-of-way. Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan also allocated P4 million from his pork barrel for road improvement projects through the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

"To all those who dreamed for a retreat house... the efforts and the money invested in Talavera are now returning and paying off with the thought that something beautiful has been done for the greater glory of God," Fray Buñao concluded. **RD**



# Recoletos Presence in Rome: its history, present, future

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Rome, ITALY*—FOR SEVERAL DECADES, THE CURRENT COLLEGIO INTERNAZIONALE Sant’Ildefonso e San Tommaso da Villanueva was the General Curia of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. At the moment it is the residence of the community of Augustinian Recollect religious who pursue further studies in Rome. This year 2019, it celebrates its 400<sup>th</sup> year. The main event took place last Sunday, April 7.

Like the great majority of the buildings in Rome, the edifice of the Recoletos friars located in downtown Via Sistina has witnessed the course of history. Although its simple façade cannot seem to show it, the aforementioned Collegio celebrates its Fourth Centenary. It was in 1619 when, with the approval of Pope Paul V, the residence of the Procurator General of the erstwhile Congregation of the Augustinian Recollects was established in this place, around 30 years after the Provincial Chapter of Castile in 1588.

In 1930, the so-called community of Sistina became the General Curia of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. From then until 1959, it housed the general government of the Order that had been approved in 1912 by St. Pius X, as well as the residence for the Augustinian Recollect students who would come to Rome to do their specializations.

Between Piazza di Spagna and Piazza Barberini, the small Church of San Ildefonso and Santo Tomás de Villanueva remains unnoticed. It is the external face of this piece of history of the Augustinian Recollects in Rome and that keeps, among other jewels, the first image of the Virgin of Guadalupe that arrived in the Eternal City, or the spectacular marble altarpiece of the adoration of the shepherds of the Baroque sculptor Franco Siciliano.

For the Augustinian Recollect Fray Tomás Ortega, a student of this house for several years, “the chapel as a whole has a lot of artistic value, there are great details.” He explains that in its beginnings the church was dedicated to the Virgin of Copacabana, whose image presided over the altar until it was replaced by the painting of San Ildefonso and Santo Tomás de Villanueva.

Celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary

On its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the small church of the Augustinian Recollects in Rome is recovering all its splendor. The main celebration of this event took

place last Sunday, April 7, with the dedication of the new marble altar. Bp. Giuseppe Sciacca, Secretary of the Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, presided over the Eucharist. The Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Fray Miguel Miró, was present as well as some of the Priors Provincial. In addition, the church will soon host the original painting of the Augustinian Recollect Martyrs of Japan (Pedro, Agustín, and Lorenzo).

The presence of the Provincial Superiors in this historic event symbolized the interculturality of the community that currently consists of young religious from the four provinces of the Order of Augustinian Recollects and who carry out their specialized studies in Rome. “We are ten young Augustinian Recollects from many countries and to whom the Order has given the opportunity to be here to study,” says Fray Bruno D’Andrea, OAR.

A “key” community for the Augustinian Recollects

Fray Pablo Panedas, OAR, has lived in this community twice. For him, the house in Via Sistina is a “key” because “in this house those who will be formators of the religious are formed” and for its history. And to live in this community is unique. For Fray Javier Monroy, Prior of the community and a General Councilor, being in this Collegio “signifies pride because you are in a legendary place.”

During its 400 years, the historic community has witnessed transcendental events such as the one in 1809, when the Napoleonic troops who had occupied Rome expelled the Augustinian Recollects from the house and the annexed church. The period had lasted for five years, until 1814, when they regained the community, thanks to the intervention of King Charles IV of Spain and the Spanish ambassador to Rome, since the Hospice was under the protection of the Crown. From 1942 to 1949, the house was without tenants as a result of the Second World War. **RO**

## AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT JOINS COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR



San Juan, ARGENTINA—As the whole Church celebrates the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 22, 2019, Pope Francis named the new Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of San Juan de Cuyo, Argentina in the person of Fray Carlos María Domínguez, OAR. Fray Carlos is currently the Vicar Provincial of Spain under the Province of Santo Tomas de Villanueva.

The Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR, in his letter to the brothers of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, said: “*Damos gracias al Santo Padre por este nombramiento y agradecemos a Fray Carlos María su disponibilidad por aceptar este nuevo servicio a la Iglesia. Este acontecimiento es para toda la Orden un motivo de alegría y un estímulo para ser creadores de comunión.*” (“We thank the Holy Father for this appointment and we thank Fray Carlos María for his willingness to accept this new service to the Church. This event is for the entire Order a reason for joy and an encouragement to be creators of communion.”)

>

*JUST LIKE THE SAINT.* Like St. Thomas of Villanova (background), Fray Carlos María Domínguez, OAR, was a prior provincial (Province of Santo Tomas de Villanueva) before becoming a bishop.

[ feature ]

# Bishop Carlos María Domínguez celebrates his first Mass as Auxiliary Bishop

By Agustinos Recoletos

San Juan, ARGENTINA—THE NEW AUGUSTINIAN Recollect bishop celebrated his first Eucharist as Auxiliary Bishop of San Juan de Cuyo in the Cathedral of San Juan Bautista, accompanied by Augustinian Recollects and religious Bishops.

Without having completed 24 hours of his episcopal ordination, Monsignor Carlos María Domínguez was ‘premiered’ as Auxiliary Bishop of San Juan de Cuyo 30 June. The new Augustinian Recollect bishop presided over his first Eucharist accompanied by bishops and religious, and attended by dozens of people who crowded the metropolitan cathedral.

The first words of the auxiliary bishop were addressed, in a familiar and humorous tone, to the Archbishop of San Juan de Cuyo, Jorge Eduardo Lozano, whom he thanked at the first day of his succession as Auxiliary Bishop. And this situation is not normal. Before him and before all present, he showed his happiness for living this special moment there. “The Lord is taking us on a lot of sides and the time has come to come to San Juan,” he said.

Bp. Carlos María Domínguez, OAR, dedicated a part of his first homily to the Gospel, which, on the first Sunday in Ordinary Time, commented on the meeting of Jesus with several people who received the offer to follow him. The new bishop affirmed that “Jesus teaches us that we must go out to meet the will of the Father.” **RO**





In this encounter there may be “apparently” failures in carrying out the work of evangelization. Quoting Cardinal Pironio, he said: “Even if we apparently fail, in the name of God we never fail because that apparent failure is within the plans of God.” Therefore, he indicated that “Jesus teaches us not to be discouraged but to rethink our strategy.”

He finished his commentary on the Gospel with a motivating message: “As disciples, we can not live from the past but look forward and fill ourselves with hope.”

The new bishop later took the opportunity to thank the bishops and religious present who, both in his ordination and in his first Mass, were with him and said goodbye to them. Dominguez recalled the 11 Augustinian Recollect bishops, as well as the Prior General of the

**“I am always going to be an Augustinian Recollect; I was not born as a friar but I want to die as a friar and now also as a bishop.”**

BISHOP CARLOS MARÍA DOMÍNGUEZ, OAR, DD

Order of Augustinian Recollects.

He was especially emotional when he addressed the Prior Provincial of the Province of Santo Tomás de Villanueva, Fray Miguel Ángel Hernández, OAR. He recalled a farewell publication that the Prior Provincial had recently made in a social network and told him: “When Jesus joins one another, the roads can be distanced, but they never separate because with Jesus we always remain united.”

To all the Augustinian Recollect religious, Domínguez sent a clear message: “I am always going to be an Augustinian Recollect; I was not born as a friar but I want to die as a friar and now also a bishop.” He had previously stated that “it is not easy when the Church asks a religious to be a bishop because being a bishop implies leaving religious life.” However, he showed his joy at having references of good bishops who also lived this charism, like Saint Ezekiel Moreno and Saint Thomas of Villanueva.

He did not hide his happiness for the work entrusted to him by Pope Francis. He told the laity that “we have lived so many strong things in the name of Jesus, that living what we lived yesterday (episcopal ordination) seems a dream.” He also remembered with affection the Augustinian Recollect Missionaries and the Augustinian Recollects, especially the Blessed Cari and Esther, the two Augustinian Missionary Sisters killed in Algiers in 1994, to whom she asked for her intercession.

To all, at the end of his first homily, Carlos María Domínguez asked that they continue to accompany them through prayer. **RO**

**“When Jesus joins one another, the roads can be distanced, but they never separate because with Jesus we always remain united.”**

FAREWELL MESSAGE OF FRAY MIGUEL ÁNGEL HERNÁNDEZ, OAR, TO BISHOP CARLOS MARÍA DOMÍNGUEZ, OAR, DD





[ feature ]

# Bishop Ángel San Casimiro receives the keys to the City of Alajuela

By Agustinos Recoletos

**COSTA RICA**—THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT BISHOP HAS BEEN DISTINGUISHED with this recognition after eleven years of pastoral service in the diocese of Alajuela.

The Augustinian Recollect Bishop Ángel San Casimiro received the keys of the city of Alajuela (Costa Rica) on Thursday, July 18 in a symbolic way. The municipality of the city recognized in this way the pastoral work that the Bishop-Emeritus performed during the eleven years of pastoral service in the diocese of the capital of the country.

Alajuela gives this recognition for its “significant spiritual, social and cultural work in favor of all, especially the most needy”, without distinction of beliefs, as indicated in the diploma given to the Augustinian Recollect religious. The president of the Municipal Council, Luis Alfredo Guillén, and the municipal mayor, Laura María Chaves, granted this distinction.

Bishop Ángel San Casimiro was Bishop of Alajuela from October 2007 until 2018, when his resignation became effective after his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Previously, he held his episcopal ministry in Ciudad Quesada, being the first bishop of this diocese. In an interview on [agustinosrecoletos.com](http://agustinosrecoletos.com) after his resignation, he stated, among other things, that “the bishop must accompany the people: by going

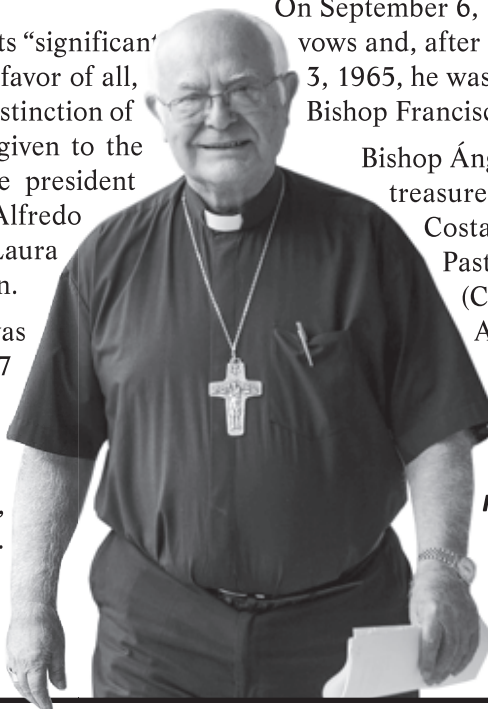
behind to push them when they need it; going ahead to show them the way or going together to share life with them.”

Born in La Rioja (Spain), he studied humanities in Lodosa (1952-56) and Fuenterrabía (1956-60), and wore the Augustinian Recollect habit in Monteagudo.

On September 6, 1961, he pronounced the religious vows and, after the theological term, on October 3, 1965, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Francisco Javier Ochoa.

Bishop Ángel San Casimiro has been treasurer of the Episcopal Conference of Costa Rica and president of its Social Pastoral Commission; In the CELAM (Conference of Bishops of Latin America) he was responsible for the section in charge of dialogue with non-believers and general secretary of SEDAC (Episcopal Secretariat of Central America).

RO



*Bishop Ángel San Casimiro, OAR, DD*

## newsbits

### FRAY ESTIOKO AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF NOHS

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

Bacolod City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—Fray Leopoldo Estioko, OAR, Prior of Recoletos de Cebu, was given an award as Distinguished Alumnus by Negros Occidental High School. This took place during the NOHS 59<sup>th</sup> Grand Alumni Homecoming last April 27, 2019.

Fray Estioko belongs to Class 69 and their batch celebrated their Golden Anniversary. To open the celebration of

their Golden Years, he and his batchmates started their fellowship on April 25, 2019 with the Holy Eucharist presided by Fray Estioko. After the Holy Mass, the President of the Alumni Class 69 welcomed them. On the following day, April 26, the batch spent the day with the Missionaries of Charity in Cebu City to share with them the blessings they received through works of mercy.

During the 59<sup>th</sup> Grand Alumni

Homecoming of NOHS, Fray Leopoldo and his classmate Ms. Cynthia Aranas were honored to be given the Distinguished Award from NOHS Alumni Association, Inc. for their valuable contributions: Ms. Aranas for Public Service, while Fray Estioko for Religion. Among the Class 69, they were the only recipients of the award.

Congratulations Fray Estioko!

## BISHOP VILLAROJO APPOINTED AS 5<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP OF MALOLOS

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR



CEBU CITY—The Auxiliary Bishop of Cebu, Most Rev. Dennis Villarojo, DD, was appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis as the new bishop of the Diocese of Malolos. He is now the fifth bishop who will shepherd the flock of the Diocese of Malolos that comprises the whole Province of Bulacan and the City of Valenzuela.

The Augustinian Recollects in the Philippines are proud to announce the appointment of Bishop Dennis in the ecclesiastical hierarchy of Bulacan for he is an alumnus of University of San Jose—Recoletos in Cebu City.

Congratulations! Adelante!

## Cardinal Lacunza is conferred with Order of Vasco Núñez de Balboa

By Agustinos Recoletos

PANAMA—THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT CARDINAL received the highest recognition of the country for his social and religious work from the president of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela, especially with the celebration of WYD.

Augustinian Recollect José Luis Cardinal Lacunza was conferred last Friday, May 31, 2019, with the Order Vasco Núñez de Balboa, in Grado de Gran Cruz. The President of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela, gave the highest recognition of the country to the bishop of David and the bishop of Panama, the Augustinian Bishop Jose Domingo Ulloa, in a simple ceremony in the Presidential Palace of the Herons.

Panama gave homage in this way to the two bishops of the Augustinian family for their work in the social and religious field. Among other things, these bishops have been important figures in the organization of the World Youth Day (WYD) that took place last January in Panama. In addition to this, Lacunza and Ulloa are two references for the Panamanian Church and society.

The President conferred this honor to the two bishops “in the name of the Government of the Republic and the Panamanian people.” He

also said, “Today, we distinguish with the award Vasco Núñez de Balboa to two extraordinary priests and missionaries for their valuable service to the country and for their contributions to the Nation in the social, religious, humanitarian field and for their recognized public trajectories at the service of the community and the progress of our country.”

Cardinal Lacunza assured that the award affirms that all his work has been for the benefit of Panama and renews his commitment to continue doing the best for the country, according to the newspaper La Prensa.

The Order of Vasco Núñez de Balboa received by Cardinal José Luis Lacunza was previously given to the Order of Augustinian Recollects and to the Augustinian Recollect Benjamin Ayechu, founder of the San Agustín School and the San María la Antigua Catholic University (USMA). **RO**



>  
*GRATEFUL NATION. Panama's president, Juan Carlos Varela, confers the Order of Vasco Núñez de Balboa, the country's highest recognition, to Cardinal José Luis Lacunza, OAR, DD.*



[ feature ]

## Prior General meets Priors Provincial, gifts them with icon of sleeping St. Joseph

By Agustinos Recoletos

ROME—DURING THIS WEEK (APRIL 1-4), THE PRIOR GENERAL and his Council meet at the General Curia with the four Priors Provincial, for the first time after the union of Provinces.

Pope Francis sleeps every day next to a small image of St. Joseph asleep. It is the last thing he sees at the end of the day. “Sleeping he cares for the Church. Yes, he can. We don’t. And when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a piece of paper and put it under St. Joseph so that he can dream it. This means to pray for that problem. This is what he told us during his trip to the Philippines in 2015.

The Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Miguel Miró, has fixed himself on this image at the beginning of the meeting he will hold with the General Council and the provincial priors. It is a historic meeting, since it is the first after the culmination of the process of union of provinces carried out in 2018. For this reason, taking St. Joseph asleep and dreaming, the Prior General has asked the superiors

of the provinces “not to lose the capacity to dream the future.” He said so asking for faith “to see what the Lord is doing in the Church, in the Order and in each of the four provinces”, as well as in the life of the Augustinian Recollect religious.

At the conclusion of the opening Eucharist of the meeting, the Prior General gave to all the members of the General Council and to the provincial priors a small but beautiful gift: a replica of the image of St. Joseph asleep which was placed on the altar during the celebration. In this way the meeting with the provincial priors has begun, which will be extended throughout the week and in which the present and nearest future of the Order of Augustinian Recollects will be evaluated. During these days different aspects of the secretariats and sections will be analyzed.

“To maintain with renewed spirit the dream of St. Augustine”

The Prior General has also asked “to maintain with renewed spirit the dream of St. Augustine to live as brothers with one heart and one soul”. The Augustinian Recollect religious, he said, must reflect “the ideal of the first Christians and be a living prophecy of communion in this world.

Miró also recalled the words of Pope Francis to the Augustinian Recollects at the 2016 General Chapter and some of the indications of the final document of the Youth Synod held in October 2018. In line with the process of restructuring, he cited point 118 of the document which states that “to be credible we must live a reform of the Church which implies purification of the heart and changes of style.” **RO**



# Pope Francis names new Augustinian Recollect bishop

By Agustinos Recoletos

ARGENTINA—AN ARGENTINE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT, FRAY DARÍO RUBÉN Quintana, OAR, is appointed by Pope Francis as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Mar del Plata (Argentina). From 2012 to 2018 he was Vicar Provincial in Argentina.

He has also been assigned the head office of Bavagaliana. The Holy See has made the appointment public on Tuesday, November 5, in its daily press release.

Fray Darío Rubén Quintana becomes the twentieth Augustinian Recollect Bishop in the world. The religious, of Argentine origin, was a provincial Vicar in Argentina and at the moment he was doing his pastoral work in the parish of Our Lady of Luján, in San Martín (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

Darío Rubén Quintana was born in Buenos Aires in February 1971. He studied at the Colegio Monseñor Sabelli. In 1978 his family moved to the city of Mar del Plata, where he completed his primary and secondary studies at the Colegio de la Obra Don Orione.

At age 18 he entered the San Ezequiel Moreno Postulancy of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, and studied philosophical and theological studies at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, Santa María de los Buenos Aires.

After completing his novitiate formation in Burgos (Spain), he professed his the vows in Buenos Aires on August 28, 1993, Solemnity of St. Augustine. He was ordained a deacon in Buenos Aires on October 31, 1996 by Most Rev. Héctor Aguer, DD, and ordained a priest on May 17, 1997 in the parish of Our Lady of Consolation, by the Augustinian Recollect Bishop of Marajó (Brazil), Most Rev. José Luis Azcona, DD.

From 1996 to 2003 he was legal representative and director of Colegio San José in the town of San Martín (Buenos Aires). From 2003 to 2009 he served as prior and pastor of Our Lady of Consolation in Buenos Aires; From 2009 to 2012 he was prior and pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Mar del Plata.



^  
TWENTIETH  
OAR BISHOP.  
The coat of  
arms of Bishop  
Darío Rubén  
Quintana,  
OAR, DD  
features  
Augustinian  
iconography.

Between 2012 and 2018, Darío Rubén Quintana was Vicar Provincial of the Order of Augustinian Recollects in Argentina, performing the service as Major Superior in the country. From October 2018 until now, the new bishop-elect is pastor of Ntra. Sra. De Luján, Villa Maipú, in San Martín and prior of the community of the San Ezequiel Moreno Seminary in San Andrés Gulf.

The Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, has expressed his joy at the appointment of Fray Darío Rubén Quintana, from whom he hopes that “he can contribute his knowledge and experience of fraternal life to the Diocese of Mar del Plata”. Fray Miró wishes the new bishop-elect to look at St. Augustine and St. Thomas of Villanova, two models of shepherds, “who journey with the people.” **RD**

BROTHERS FOREVER. Bishop Darío Rubén Quintana, OAR, DD (third from left) with his brothers in the Augustinian Recollection.



# Dungaw 2019: Meeting of King and Queen of Quiapo

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

*Quiapo, MANILA*—THE ANNUAL TRASLACIÓN OF THE image of Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno showcased the fervent faith of the Filipino devotees to Jesus Christ. Traslación was a commemoration of the transfer of the image of the Black Nazarene from the Augustinian Recollect church of San Nicolas de Tolentino in Intramuros, Manila to its present shrine in Quiapo, Manila. This year, the procession of the Black Nazarene passed through Basilica Minore de San Sebastian where the venerated image of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian is enshrined and made a “dungaw,” Tagalog word for “looking from above.” For the devotees, the image of the Black Nazarene is the King of Quiapo while the Virgen del Carmen is the Queen of Quiapo.

## “Dungaw” not “encuentro”

In an interview with Fray Rommel Rubia, OAR, former Parish Priest and Rector of San Sebastian Basilica, he said that the Dungaw was not based on the biblical event of the encounter of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary. Instead, it was an age-old



THE KING AND THE QUEEN MOTHER. Residents of Quiapo District have a fervent devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and the Black Nazarene (“Jesus Nazareno”).

## tidbits

### DID YOU KNOW?

The original images of both the Nazareno and the Virgen del Carmen were brought to the Philippines by Augustinian Recollect missionaries during the 1600's.

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The annual Traslación is a commemoration of the transfer of the image of the Black Nazarene from the Augustinian Recollect church of San Nicolas de Tolentino in Intramuros, Manila to its present shrine in Quiapo, Manila.

\* \* \*

The Dungaw is not based on the biblical narrative of the encounter of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary. It is instead an age old religious tradition where the venerated image of Virgen del Carmen de San Sebastian gives religious courtesy to the image of the Nazareno as it passes by her shrine.

\* \* \*

Before the image of Mt. Carmel is vested, prayers and veneration are said; afterwards, all male present are asked to leave. Only the official camarera and some AR sisters are allowed to stay for the vesting of the Queen.

religious tradition where the venerated image of Virgen del Carmen de San Sebastian gives religious courtesy to the image of the Nazareno as it passes by her shrine. This tradition was also practiced in the provinces whenever a procession passes by houses and families open their windows so that an image cared by the family may give courtesy to the image in procession.

Dungaw was part of the activities of the Traslación. However, for an unknown reason, there were years when the Dungaw was not included in the procession of the Nazareno. Since 2013, it was re-introduced and included again in the route of the Traslación. It was also a chance to let the devotees see the two oldest images brought by the Augustinian Recollects that are now enshrined in Quiapo district. Since then, many devotees of the Nazareno and the Virgen del Carmen flocked to Plaza del Carmen to witness this religious activity.

### Preparation of the Mother

Before the much-awaited Dungaw, the image of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian was prepared for her meeting with her Son, the Black Nazarene. At 2:00 PM, the image of the Virgen del Carmen was brought down from her altar to the camarín, a special room for the Lady where her vestments and jewelries are kept. After some prayers and veneration, all male present were asked to leave the room. Only the official camarera, the one who takes care of the image, and some members of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters were allowed to stay and change the vesting of the Virgen del Carmen.

The primera vestida was vested to the image. According to Fray Rubia, the vestment was made from precious metals. Vesting the Virgen del Carmen also took time. Sr. Ingrid



Gueriña, AR, the designated camarera of the del Carmen, said that sometimes it took them hours to vest the image. It was not an ordinary vesting of a doll or a mannequin because “it is a venerated and canonically crowned image and a proper religious ritual should be given,” said Fray Rubia.

Finally, after an hour of vesting the Queen of Quiapo, the doors of the camarín were opened and those who were waiting outside the room were given an opportunity to kiss and venerate the image. OAR pre-novices and novices, AR aspirants and some OAR and AR religious and other lay faithful present took turns in praying the Holy Rosary.

At 6:00 PM, the Carmel image was brought inside the basilica. The religious and faithful present inside the parish church silently prayed in front of the image while waiting for the arrival of the image of the Nazareno.

### Sea of People, Sea of Faith

The scenario outside the basilica was incredible. Thousands of people, both young and old, were anticipating for the arrival of the image of the Nazareno. While waiting for the Traslación, the holy rosary was also prayed and religious and Marian songs were sung. Constant updates of the whereabouts of the Nazareno and some announcements were delivered by Fr. Douglas Badong, Assistant

^  
*JAM-PACKED.  
Devotees flood the  
Plaza del Carmen,  
raising their hands  
as they sing the Our  
Father.*



Parish Priest of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene. Also, medical personnel were present at the Plaza to give medical assistance to devotees who fainted or got injured.

As the procession of the Black Nazarene came near Plaza del Carmen, more devotees arrived.

At 10:45 PM the image of the Nazareno arrived at Plaza del Carmen. White face towels were waved and shouts of “Viva Padre Jesus Nazareno” and “Viva Virgen del Carmen” made the emotions of the devotees more intense. As the Virgen del Carmen was carried on to the stage, the hymn “Bulaklak ng Carmelo” was sung by the choir.

From a noisy and “uncontrolled” crowd, the devotees became silent as the rite of the Dungaw was presided by Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, Parish Priest and Rector of Basilica Minore de San Sebastian. Hands were raised in prayer as the sea of faithful whole-heartedly sang the Lord’s Prayer. After the final blessing was given, acclamations of “Viva Jesus Nazareno” and “Viva Virgen del Carmen” were once again heard. Then, the Traslación continued towards Bilibid Viejo then to Quiapo Church. The image of Our Lady was also brought back to her camarín.

**“The fervent faith of the devotees of the Señor Nazareno and the Virgen del Carmen was again shown in the recently concluded Traslación and Dungaw. It was a faith untarnished by present tirades against the Catholic Church and her teachings.”**

The fervent faith of the devotees of the Señor Nazareno and the Virgen del Carmen was again shown in the recently concluded Traslación and Dungaw. It was a faith untarnished by present tirades against the Catholic Church and her teachings. As years passed by, more and more devotees join this religious event. Noticeable also was more young people join this event, a good sign that the tradition passed on by our predecessors will still

be continued up to the coming years and generations, and a sign of a living faith that goes beyond fanaticism.

Viva Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno!  
Viva! Viva Nuestra Señora del Carmen  
de San Sebastian! Guapa! **RD**

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*“QUEEN’S COURTIER.” The Rite of Dungaw is presided by Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, the parish priest and rector of San Sebastian Minor Basilica, together with other Recollect friars.*

## newsbits

### TWO RECOLLECTS CELEBRATE SILVER JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR



Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY— On April 24, 2019, feast of the Conversion of our father St. Augustine, two Augustinian Recollect friars celebrated their silver anniversary as religious. Fray Jonathan Caballero, OAR, Parish Priest of San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Quezon City, and Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, OAR, Provincial Councilor and Assistant Parish Priest of the same parish, renewed their consecration as Augustinian Recollects in the presence of the Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR. Together with the community of Recoletos de Provincialate and the parishioners of San Nicolas Parish, Fray Selma presided the Holy Mass.



# Notes on the “*Myths and Miracles of the Nazareno de Quiapo*” by Audrey B. Morallo, Lito B. Zulueta, published in the *Phillippine Daily Inquirer*<sup>1</sup>

By Prof. Emmanuel Luis Romanillos

What is a “myth”? The Oxford dictionary (1995<sup>th</sup> ed., p 900) defines it as “a widely held but false notion.” In these notes I do not just clarify the so-called myths declared by the Morallo-Zulueta article. We simply bring out the testimonies and facts based on reliable Augustinian Recollect contemporaries and historians and then make conclusions from their statements.

What we will further point out are the glaring historical blunders, conjectures and false conclusions occasioned probably by the failure of the two writers of the article to

**“...if we base the combined multitudes of devotees of the Black Nazarene... we can clearly observe the millions of Filipinos who profess deep devotion and firmly believe in Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno.”**

make use of primary sources at the Archivo Recoleta, Recollect libraries, chroniclers, historians or authors of the Augustinian Recollect Order and or by basing their article on authors who may not never set foot at the Recollect archives in Spain or Quezon City. Most probably, they never consulted primary sources whether manuscripts, published chronicles or historical accounts in those archives or in Recollect libraries. These corrections and clarifications have to

be done before their blunders and conjectures may in turn become myths themselves, as they may be quoted, copied and perpetuated

by other writers or even by historians in the future or even in the coming fiestas of the Black Nazarene every 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The authors Morallo and Zulueta contend that the Black Nazarene of Quiapo, Manila, whose feast is the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, is biggest Catholic devotion in the Philippines is nothing but a myth. They cited the late Dominican historian Fidel Villarroel who preferred the Santo Niño de Cebu of the Augustinians as the biggest devotion. But if we base the combined multitudes of devotees of the Black Nazarene at the Pahalik in Luneta, Dungaw at Plaza del Carmen and the Traslación from Luneta to the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, we can clearly observe the millions of Filipinos who profess deep devotion and firmly believe in Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno. It is noteworthy that the devotion to the Santo Niño includes the festivals in Iloilo, Cebu and Tondo as well as the parishes whose patron is the Divine Child.

It is safe to avoid the discussion on the magnitude of hugeness of the devotion to the Santo Niño or Black Nazarene as both refer to the same devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ whom we profess to be the Incarnate God and Second Person of the Holy Trinity. The two devotions manifest the Filipinos’ profound and solid Catholic Faith displayed in religious processions and reverent kissing the age-old icons. Both deepen the Filipinos’ complete confidence in God’s mercy and compassion and rely totally on Divine Providence at all times.

Cognizant of the Iconoclastic Controversy in the Byzantine Empire of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Church Fathers taught the doctrine

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/283887/myths-miracles-nazareno-de-quiapo/#ixzz53aBNRrMk>

that Catholics, both Roman and Orthodox, never worshipped graven images. Catholic theologians and priests further teach that Black Nazarene devotees do not worship the age-old image itself, but the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ represented by the blackened icon.

Theology professors often cite the usual example of a man or woman who kisses the photograph of a loved one. The person does not show affection for the photograph and pour out his or her love for it but on the beloved represented by the picture. In the same manner that government officials show reverence and honor by offering bouquets or wreaths to and bowing their heads before a life-size concrete or metal statue symbolizing a hero or heroine or before the Filipino flag symbolizing the country. Consequently, devotees do not worship nor adore the images of the Santo Niño or the Black Nazarene, they

adore and worship the Lord Jesus Christ, represented by the images. This is repeatedly and consistently taught in homilies, catechism classes, in theology courses and religious education courses in Catholic institutions of learning.

The Inquirer authors' second myth is that "Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno" is not the original icon now venerated by hundreds of thousands of Catholic devotees in the Basilica Minore of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo or along the streets of Manila every 9<sup>th</sup> January, Good Friday or 31<sup>st</sup> December, for centuries. Morallo and Zulueta claim that the original icon was totally destroyed "when World War II laid Intramuros to waste."

It is a fact that most of the Spanish churches, convents and other edifices in the Walled City were destroyed by American shelling. It is also true that San Nicolas Church, popularly known as Recoletos Church, lost its roofs and the grandiose retablos and icons inside the age-old temple during the Liberation of Manila, with only its walls left standing. The ruined church was eventually levelled to the ground in 1959. See Simbahan at Kumbento ng Recoletos marker installed at Recoletos Street corner Muralla Street in Intramuros by the National Historical Institute in December 2006. Of the four revered sacred images of Recoletos Church (Virgen de la Salud, Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno, San José and Santa Lucía), dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, solely the small Virgen de la Salud icon which arrived in Manila in 1634 was saved from shelling by US Army howitzers at the liberated University of Santo Tomas campus.

The Spanish Augustinian Recollect Fray Severino Cuesta (1925-2000), a San Sebastian Convent resident from 1947 until his demise, disclosed to this writer that a confrere narrated to him how a US Army officer positioned himself inside a belfry of San Sebastian Basilica with binoculars during the Liberation of Manila in 1945. The same officer directed the shelling by American howitzers stationed at the compound of the University of Santo Tomas at their targets in Intramuros where they believed Japanese troops were holed up.

Fray Emil A. Quilatan, Church History



ANTIQUÉ. *The image of the Nazareno of San Nicolas de Tolentino in Intramuros.*



professor in various theology schools and Archivo Recoleta Administrator for years, informed this writer that there exists an oral tradition claiming that there used to be two images of Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno in the Recoletos Church of Intramuros: one was in the lateral chapel and another in the sacristy of the church. The same tradition contends that the second image was handed over to Saint John the Baptist Church in Quiapo in 1787 by the Recollect friars upon orders of Archbishop Basilio Tomas Sancho de Santos Justa y Rufina, Archbishop of Manila (1767-1787).

Among Recollect historians, it is an accepted fact that the Black Nazarene devotion is, definitely, not 413 years old today. The first group of thirteen Augustinian Recollects had left Cebu where they had landed on 12 May 1606 brought with them the images of Virgen de la Correa [Nuestra Señora de la Consolación, Our Lady of Consolation] and of San Nicolás de Tolentino. After a couple of weeks, the pioneers proceeded to Manila and arrived at the capital on 31 May.

Since the Recollect sources were silent on the exact date of arrival of the Black Nazarene icon, we can only deduce from undeniable facts: the eyewitness account written by the Recollect contemporary chronicler Fray Andres del Espiritu Santo (1585-1657) on their first Recollect mission. This chronicle was published in 1965 in pages 174-179, no. 600, of Boletín Oficial de la Provincia de San Nicolás [BSNP, Official Bulletin of the Province of Saint Nicholas of Tolentino]. Fray Andrés del Espíritu Santo in 1647 made no mention of the Black Nazarene in his list of divine images found in Recoletos Church in Intramuros. Father Rafael Garcia, BPSN editor, puts the year 1645 as the date of this early contemporary account. In this early chronicle, only three sacred images and their year of arrival were mentioned by Fray Andres del Espiritu Santo: Virgen de la Correa (1606), San Nicolas de Tolentino (1606) and Virgen de la Salud (1634). The image of Virgen del Carmen in San Sebastian Church which was brought by the third mission led by Father Rodrigo de San Miguel to the Philippines, a gift of the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Mexico City, was left unmentioned by Fray Andres

de Espiritu Santo because the 400-year old Marian icon which arrived in 1618, was later enshrined in 1621 at the small church located at San Sebastian de Calumpang outside the walled city of colonial Manila.

There was indeed a big doubt that cast upon the fourth centenary of the Black Nazarene icon in Quiapo in 2006. It was intended by its organizers to coincide with the Recoletos 400 or the commemoration of the 400 years of uninterrupted presence of Augustinian Recollect missionaries in the Philippines and Asia. However, the Recollect archival sources and history did not categorically confirm the arrival of the Black Nazarene in 1606. Just the same, the "Quiapo clergy who mounted the fiesta in 2006 had billed the celebration as the 'fourth centenary' of the icon," as noted by the Inquirer writers Audrey Morallo and Lito Zulueta.

Recollect historians, obviously, were not consulted on the commemoration by Quiapo Shrine authorities. During the liturgical rites at the Basilica Minore of Quiapo in 2006, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, then Archbishop of Manila, had invited Fray Lauro Larlar OAR, then Prior Provincial of the Province of Saint Ezekiel Moreno, informed the Recollect superior why they were celebrating the fourth centenary of the Black Nazarene. The fourth centennial had been earlier recommended by the members of Quiapo historical committee. Since there was a quandary with respect to the exact year of the arrival of the Black Nazarene, Cardinal Rosales informed the prior provincial that the historical committee suggested the dual celebration of Nazareno 400 and Recoletos 400. The corrected celebration of the Black Nazarene arrival is to be done if further archival research would unearth in the future the exact arrival date.

Going back to the alleged ranking or

**"...ranking or competition of popular devotion to Jesus, to Mary under her various invocations, or to the saints, is simply out of place in Catholic tradition and belief."**

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competition between the Black Nazarene or the Santo Niño as the biggest Catholic devotion in the country, I think such ranking or competition of popular devotion to Jesus,

to Mary under her various invocations, or to the saints, is simply out of place in Catholic tradition and belief. I personally believe that it is exceedingly difficult to quantify any Catholic devotion by the name of physical and numerical presence of devotees during the celebration of their fiestas. The criterion or gauge of popularity or hugeness

of a devotion cannot be quantified or made by the number of devotees in attendance at a religious procession or Traslación event.

Now if we count the number of parishes devoted to Santo Niño in the Philippine dioceses like those of Calapan, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Talibon, or in the provinces of Rizal, Benguet, Eastern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Oriental, etc., or if we count the number of replicas and parishes of the Black Nazarene in Cavite City, Cagayan de Oro City, Bohol, Pangasinan, Camarines Sur, Masbate, should we count as well the number of parishioners who are devotees of the Santo Nino or the Black Nazarene in those curacies? This quantification is next to impossible, the data being unavailable or may be increasing by leaps and bounds as the years pass by.

Citing the Dominican Fr. Fidel Villarroel, the authors state that “the biggest is that of, ironically, the diminutive Santo Niño, either the original icon in Cebu or its various replications in the Visayas and elsewhere, notably in Pandacan and Tondo in Manila.” They further declare: “Tondo’s Fiesta de Santo Niño even rivals in pomp and pageantry that of Quiapo’s. Incidentally, both feasts are celebrated on the same month.” Well and good. And we may add that both icons were brought to the Philippines by Augustinian and Augustinian Recollect missionary confreres who followed the same Rule of Saint

Augustine of Hippo and who up to now share the same Augustinian ideals and spirituality: the first group, the Calced Augustinians came in 1565 and the second group, the Discalced or Recollect Augustinians, in 1606.

Historians are at odds as to when the image of the Black Nazarene arrived in the country. But they agree that the original icon did not arrive with the first “barcada” or boatload of original Augustinian Recollect missionaries in 1606, as virtually claimed by the “quadricentenary” celebration in 2006.

It is noteworthy that “Fernando Nakpil Zialcita of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of Ateneo—himself a Quiapense—said he had yet to see documents relating to the exact date of arrival of the Black Nazarene. Augusto de Viana of the Department of History of the University of Santo Tomas noted the ‘conflict in the documents’ regarding the arrival of the image.”

The Morallo-Zulueta Philippine Daily Inquirer article claims that “even the account of the first mission of the Augustinian Recollects to the country bore no record of any black image resembling the Señor. The account was written by Fray San Jeronimo (1593-1610), one of the 10 priests and four brothers of the inaugural Recollect mission.” This is a huge blunder and bereft of truth to affirm that Fray Juan de San Jerónimo, superior of the first Recollect mission to the Philippines, authored an account of the inaugural missionary expedition. The superior never wrote any chronicle at all.

We only have two contemporary accounts. As we wrote earlier, the first accounts were authored by Fray Andrés del Espíritu Santo (1585-1658) and Fray Rodrigo de San Miguel (1584-1625). A probable source, attributed by Morallo-Zulueta to Fray Andrés del Espíritu Santo, is the first volume of *Historia general de los Religiosos Descalzos del Orden de los Ermitaños del gran Padre y Doctor de la Iglesia S. Agustín de la Congregación de España y de las Indias* [General history of the Discalced Religious of the Order of the Hermits of the great Father and Doctor of the Church Saint Augustine of the Congregation of Spain and the Indies], written by the first Recollect chronicler and native of Colombia,

Fr. Andrés de San Nicolás (1617-1666).

Fray Andrés de San Nicolás wrote that a May 1, 1605 royal decree from King Philip IV of Spain gave clearance to the Recollects to go to the Philippines. They left Cadiz on July 12, 1605, and arrived in San Juan de Ulua in Mexico on Sept. 17, 1605 to recharge. On Feb. 22, 1606, on board the ship “Espirito [sic] Santo,” they left Acapulco to sail for the Philippines.

### **Storms, challenges**

The two authored further attributed to Fray Andrés de San Nicolás: “In the middle of the Pacific, the ship faced innumerable challenges, including storms, which the Recollect missionaries attributed to lack of faith. The fathers then ordered everyone on the ship to confess and take the Holy Communion. Only then did the Pacific crossing went smoothly and without a chink. It would have been the first miracle attributed to the Black Nazarene, except that there’s no record to show the icon was on board.”

### **Intense devotion to Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno in Intramuros**

It is true that in the San Nicolás Church of the Recollects in Intramuros that an intense devotion to the Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno,

the original Nazareno, was enshrined. But Morallo and Zulueta, unfortunately, added that “the fierce devotion was even called a superstitious cult by Fray Pedro Herce, a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Recollect historian.” His oft-quoted article is The Recollects in the Philippines, in *Boletín Eclesiástico de Filipinas* 435 (1965) 210-253. In page 223, he said that a “cult” is given to the Black Nazarene but the Inquirer article writers inaccurately attributed to Fray Herce the superstitious cult to Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno.

The Spanish Recollect friar-historian simply translated culto as cult, and Morallo-Zulueta worsened the translation by declaring it was a “superstitious cult.” The *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española* defines culto as homenaje externo de respeto y amor que el cristiano tributa a Dios, a la Virgen, a los ángeles, a los santos y a los beatos [External homage of respect and love that the Christian pays to God, to the Virgin, to the angels, to the saints and the blessed]. This Spanish definition has obviously nothing to do with the Filipino matinding debosyon o pagsunod sa isang tao, ideya o bagay (UP Diksiyonaryong Filipino 2010).. The most appropriate meanings for Herce’s cult are formal religious veneration (Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus 2014) and devotion to a person





or thing (Oxford English Dictionary 1995). The term superstitious inexplicably added by Morallo-Zulueta to Herce's cult is a complete blunder, totally out of the question because Merriam-Webster tells us that superstition refers to beliefs or practices resulting from the ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance.

### Descalzos not Descalzados

Morallo-Zulueta continues: "But to be sure, they prayed to the same Jesus Christ, who apparently granted their wish: for finally on May 10, 1606, the Augustinian descalzados safely set foot on Cebu." Evidently, without consulting any Spanish dictionary at all, inventing thus the past participle of the verb descalzar, Morallo and Zulueta coined the word descalzados to refer to the Agustinos Descalzos, Discalced Augustinian, indistinctly as Augustinian Recollects or Recollects. However, the Diccionario de la Real Academia Española categorically says that descalzo is the irregular past participle, definitely not descalzado. Yes, that the past participle of calzar is calzado is correct. Hence, the friars of the Order of Saint Augustine, out of which Order the Discalced Augustinians or Augustinian Recollects originated in the 1588 provincial chapter of the Augustinian Province of Castile, Spain, are Agustinos Calzados, differentiating them from Agustinos Descalzos. The Augustinians of this revered Order of Saint Augustine which originated from the Great Union of 1256 are indistinctly Agustinos Calzados, Calced Augustinians or simply Augustinians.

### Icon made in Mexico

Conjectures and probabilities abound in the last paragraphs as the two Inquirer duo concede: "Regarding the exact date of and circumstances surrounding the arrival of Señor [Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno], historians could only surmise." Two researchers [ADMU Prof. Fernando Zialcita and UST Prof. Augusto de Viana] then declared that the blackened icon "probably came from Mexico, having been carved by an Aztec artist who supposedly tinted it dark brown to liken it to the color of his race, mulatto, a hybrid." Then Zialcita added: "It



*IN HONOR OF THE RECOLLECTS. A Facebook post, dated January 6, 2019, by a FB account Ave Maria, Inang Diyos, showed the Señor Vicario wearing a tunic with the coat of arms of the Order of Augustinian Recollects.*

was probably through the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade that the Nazareno was brought to the country." Meanwhile, the Cofradía de Jesús Nazareno was first mentioned in the 1650s, according to Zialcita. Zialcita added another probability: "It was probably already in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, around 1760s, when the image of the Black Nazarene was brought down and installed in Quiapo."

Still another conjecture is given by Morallo and Zulueta: "According to A Study on Filipino Culture: The Devotion to the Black Nazarene by M.M. Aguinaldo, the most probable date of installation of the Nazareno in Quiapo Church was 1767, when the image was blessed by Archbishop Basilio Sancho."

### Conclusion

Morallo and Zulueta have, admirably, made the following conclusion: "The Black Nazarene has united Filipinos across the centuries. Filipinos have related to the icon so much so that the image has become their own identity and history. And that is no small miracle among several miracles attributed to El Señor across the centuries!" **RO**

## Treading “El Camino de San Ezekiel”

By Fray Jose Enrico Gallego, OAR

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—SINCE APRIL 9, 2019 IS the 171<sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary of St. Ezekiel Moreno and a national holiday to commemorate the Araw ng Kagitingan, it was decided that the community will go on a pilgrimage on foot to the St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos (SEMoNoRe) in Antipolo City. In preparation for the event, Fray Lauro V. Larlar, OAR, prior of Recoletos Formation Center, gave a talk on being pilgrims on a journey to God on the evening of April 8, 2019.

Then came the actual day. It was an early start of the day for the Recollect Coristas and intern seminarians from other congregations (Disciples of Hope, Emmanuel Servants of the Holy Trinity, Missionaries of Mary Mother of the Poor, and Oblates Apostles of the Two Hearts) as they left the Recoletos Formation Center at 5:20 AM to embark on this journey. Carrying food packs and some set of clothes, they made their way to Antipolo City, Rizal.

The first batch to arrive at the destination came at around 8:00 AM and other groups arrived one by one until the whole community was complete at around 10:30 AM. The host community (SEMoNoRe) served sumptuous snacks to the tired but fulfilled pilgrims.

After a short period of rest, they gathered in groups to share their experiences on the pilgrimage. Fray Joshua Olaivar, OAR, was reminded

of his two-hour walks with his father when they were going to the Church to Mass in his hometown Jagna, Bohol. Bro. William Julao, MMMP, expressed, “I feel blessed because I realized how lucky I am when I encountered the poor who lived in the streets.” Bro. Brien Panagsagan, ESHT said “*ok lang magpahinga pag napagod basta huwag lang titigil.*” Bro. Herbert James Hantsch, DS, who was celebrating his birthday



ON FOOT. RFC's coristas and some members of pious unions braving the long walk from RFC (Quezon City) to SEMONORE (Antipolo City).

that day shared that “...this is the best birthday I had. Even though I had to suspend the celebration of my birthday, this is the best gift I received.” It was indeed a tiring day but everyone did not feel the difficulty of the long journey because they are walking with their brothers and having fun along the way.

To end the pilgrimage, the group celebrated the Holy Mass with Fray Kenneth Onda, OAR, after which they headed back to Quezon City on vehicles and got their much-needed rest after a tiring but well-spent day. **RD**

## HESUS SA KATUBHAN: A GIFT TO THE HOLY FATHER FROM SAN CARLOS DIOCESE

By Fray Jaazeal Estelou Jakosalem, OAR



VATICAN CITY—The Catholic Community of the Diocese of San Carlos through Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, DD, Bishop of San Carlos, gave an icon of Jesus to Pope Francis during the 2019 Ad Limina visit of the bishops from the Philippines.

This is the icon of Jesus, the “sugarcane worker” locally called the “sacadas.” Until today, the sugarcane workers are being paid unjustly of their work in the field, and yet contributing to the economic growth of Negros island (Philippines); without social and health benefits. This icon challenges us to see Jesus in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the peripheries of struggle in the sugarcane fields; often enslaved by poverty in their lifetime. They fought for land and justice—ending up dead from the very hands of our state forces. The accompanying symbols are the following: sugarcane (the major crop in the island of Negros, where the Diocese of San Carlos is situated); espading (cane knife, symbolizes the hard-work and dedication of workers); blooded-bullets (depicting the current militarization in the island and also of the killing of farm workers by the state forces); the Visayan texts “Hesus sa Katubhan” (means Jesus in the Sugarcane Fields); and also the ethnic motifs (symbolizing the Filipino cultural identity).

The artist of this icon is Fray Jaazeal Estelou Jakosalem, OAR.

# “Moved by the Spirit” from a historian’s perspective

By Prof. Modesto Sa-onoy

**T**his is the title of a book that I had the pleasure of reviewing on invitation of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno of the Augustinian Recollects last November 28. The book was launched at the Provinciate of the Order in Quezon City to commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the foundation of the Province. Heretofore, the Recollects in the Philippines belonged to the Province of San Nicolas de Tolentino with houses, parishes, schools, formation institutes, hospitals and many other institutes of apostolic work all over the world.

After the decision in 1588 of the Augustinian Province of Castile, the Augustinian Recollects became a separate province to live a more austere life in 1602. The first Recollect missionaries came to the Philippines in 1606 and to Negros in 1626. They left ten years later after an exchange of mission territory but returned to Negros in 1848 and remained here since then.

The young Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, however, has centuries of experience and missionary work that even today it has institutions and members in the continents of Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Pacific which includes missions to Guam, Marianas and Indonesia. The Philippines has the largest number of their institutions, understandably because of their long stay in this country.

Sadly, many in Negros today are unaware of the great contributions of the Order in our island. Certainly, their parishes and schools in Negros and those who have passed their doorways keep the Recollect name and spirit

alive but for others they are just another of the several other religious congregations in Negros.

The Recollects have a special place in our history not only for their pastoral and missionary work but for several others beyond their convents. Of the 31 cities and towns on Occidental Negros, 29 were created by the Recollects or expanded by them. Even the other two, Salvador Benedicto and Hinobanan were villages that sprung from the works of the Recollect missionaries.

When they arrived in Negros there were only eight towns – the rest were villages or towns that were obliterated or reduced into sitios due to depopulation resulting from Muslim raids that persisted in this island until 1828. The Recollects reassembled, as it were, some of these towns, like Minuluan (now Talisay), Binalbagan and Tukgagwan (now



Prof. Modesto Sa-onoy

**Note:** This is the complete text of Prof. Modesto Sa-onoy's review about the Album of Religious and Communities “Moved by the Spirit” delivered during the book launch of the said publication on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> founding anniversary of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno last November 28, 2019.



E.B. Magalona) and created villages from scattered evacuees and settlers.

There were no formal schools then but Recollect convents that taught the Catholic faith included secular subjects as reading, writing, and Spanish. They taught agriculture and handicrafts including carpentry and masonry. They introduced many species and varieties of fruits and vegetables and root crops. Even the lowly root crop we call kamoteng kahoy was introduced. Its name is tapioca which is native to South America where the Recollects would pass by on route from Spain to the Philippines.

Of course, the Spanish government and entrepreneurs had their hand in agricultural development as well. The point is that the Recollects did not keep still in their convents preaching but also initiated economic projects that benefitted their faithful.

The most palpable of their agricultural projects was the expansion of the sugarcane cultivation. When they arrived here in 1848, sugar was produced in small quantities. The records show we produced just about 3,000 bags. When the sinamay trade in Panay collapsed, the investors there turned their eyes to Negros for the cultivation of sugarcane. The Iloilo port that opened to international shipping in 1855 created a large demand for sugar for export to England.

Investors mainly from the weakening sinamay industry shifted their money to Negros. This is where the Recollect missionaries came in.

The Spanish government had invited immigrants to Negros to develop the island's wide swath of fertile lands "without owners". The investors thus called on the parish priests, mainly Recollects (except for Bacolod and Silay as the Filipino priests refused to vacate) and sought their help to find suitable lands.

Fray Fernando Cuenca of Minuluan who had traversed the island on a government mission knew where the best lands were. The Recollects' role in the development of the sugar industry did not only involve siting the best lands but also helping improve production and processing.

Most Recollects left after the revolution but "moved by the Spirit" they never left but instead grew exponentially. Appropriately, the Philippines is now their base of evangelization.

**RO**

**"The Recollects have a special place in our history not only for their pastoral and missionary work but for several others beyond their convents."**

PROF. MODESTO SA-ONAY





A black and white photograph of a religious altar. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored flowers arranged in a circular pattern. Behind them, a white cloth is draped over a surface. In the background, a tall, narrow window or opening is visible, with light streaming through. The overall atmosphere is solemn and reverent.

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ'S LAST

# RENEWAL VISIT

TO THE PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO



B

## *BIENVENIDO, PADRE!*

The arriving Major Superior of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, was warmly welcomed here at the Provincial Curia on February 11, 2019, the day after the Province of St. Ezekiel celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> inauguration anniversary.

For the last time as Prior General, Father Miró will be making the rounds through all communities in the Province for the constitutionally-mandated renewal visit within his six-year term (2016-2022).



The proper norms of the OAR stipulate: “Either the Prior General himself, or one acting in his name, is to visit all provinces and communities during the six-year term of office” (Additional Code 465).

Having been elected to this office twice in succession – in the General Chapters of 2010 and 2016 – and thus barred for a third consecutive term, as the OAR Constitutions 358 provides, this “visita de renovación” to the Province will be his last.

(This visit, however, is his first in the series of renewal visits to the four Provinces of the Order this sexennium.)

“The main purpose of the visit of renewal is to know the state of the community, to re-affirm religious life more fully and the charity and unity [among] the brothers, as well as to correct any abuses,” states the OAR Constitutions 464.

The visit will start on February 12 and is

scheduled to end on March 25.

The Recollect communities in Palawan will be the first to receive the visitor, followed by the communities in Cebu, Negros, Surigao, and mainland Luzon.

The “chief promoter of renewal in the Order” (Const. 347) will then proceed to visit Taiwan and Saipan communities. (Visit to the two Recollect communities in Sierra Leone is booked at a later date.)

Before flying back to Rome on March 25, Father Miró will still meet the Provincial Council to report “what he [will have] seen and assessed” (Const. 469) for appropriate actions.

For the first half of the six-week itinerary, Fray René Paglinawan, OAR, a former General Councilor and currently the local prior of Recoletos de Tondo will chaperone Father Miró and double as his interpreter for those



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*ALL IN. The Prior General is to have dialogues with the communities, with the secular fraternity or its representatives... with groups dedicated to the different apostolates. (Additional Code 467)*

who can hardly pick up conversational Spanish.

Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, one of the incumbent General Councilors, will take over the reins from Fray Paglinawan for the remaining weeks of the visit, acting as pro-General Secretary since checking of official books will form part of the program.

For the first leg of his six-week and three-state renewal visit, Fray Miguel Miró, Prior General, headed off to Palawan and visited the four Recollect communities there, including that of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters in the capital.

In all of his talks with the religious and lay people, the Prior General's consistent reminder boils down to this: always start from Christ who is the foundation of everything. "As religious and as

Christians, our life should start from Christ," one religious paraphrased the Prior General's words.

Quoting Pope Francis, Father Miró also said to them: "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

**RECOLETOS DE INAGAWAN.** On February 12, the Recoletos de Inagawan community was the first to welcome the VIP. Inagawan, a barangay of Puerto Princesa City, some 75 kilometers south of the city proper, is home to the famous "Balon Pari" and the community of three Recollect friars administering the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish.

The community is composed of Fray Manuel Lipardo (prior), Fray Urbano Galanido (parish priest), and Fray Nestor Raras (local procurator). But during the conference with the Prior General, the brothers from the newly established community of Recoletos de Plaridel joined in.

Fray Lipardo recalled that the Prior General had reminded them about living their Recollect life in the pastoral reality they are assigned. “Our preaching should first come from the heart and let the people see that what

**“Our preaching should first come from the heart and let the people see that what we preach is love.... The spirit of community should prevail over any personal programs or initiatives.”**

FRAY MANUEL LIPARDO, OAR  
(PRIOR, RECOLETOS DE INAGAWAN)

we preach is love,” he said paraphrasing the Prior General’s statements. And again: “The spirit of community should prevail over any personal programs or initiatives.”

The Major Superior, he said, was urging them to help one another and to look for co-responsibility in fulfilling the tasks, emphasizing what is often neglected in parish apostolate i.e., to accomplish the parish activities and programs in common.

Father Lipardo further noted other salient points in the conference with the Prior General: to be effective in the apostolate, the religious should dedicate time to pray and to study; to be prophets and creators of communion, and to walk with the people of God; to be aware of the social dimension of the mission by linking with ARCORES (Augustinian Recollect Solidarity Network); and to promote the protection of minors and young people in our apostolate areas.

The visit to Inagawan was also marked by a reunion with some officers of the ARCORES International who were making their ocular visit to some locations in the country such as Palawan and Samar.

**RECOLETOS DE PLARIDEL.** On Around 30 minutes away, southwards from Inagawan, is the community of Recoletos de Plaridel which is located in the town of Aborlan. Here, on February 13, the Prior General made his second visit.



The community composed of Fray Regino Bangcaya (prior and parish priest), Fray Christopher Gaspar (parochial vicar), and Fray Monday Benjamine Edobor (deacon) takes charge of the pastoral needs of the San Rafael Parish.

Welcomed with the usual Filipino hospitality by the Parish Pastoral Council and heads of the different parish organizations, the Prior General took the opportunity to thank the lay people for accepting the Recoletos in their areas and to encourage them to grow as a parish.

Father Bangcaya said that the Prior General recounted to the people the important role of Palawan—since 1622—in the history of what is today dubbed as the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, and the Order, as a whole.



**RECOLETOS DE CASIAN.** “This is the best reception so far,” said the Prior General, referring to the warm welcome he received upon disembarking at the island of Casian past noon on Valentine’s Day, February 14.

The experience was heartwarming both for the people and the guest. After a near-four-hour drive from the capital to Taytay town, plus another two-hour ride aboard San Nicolas boat from the port of Taytay, the Prior General did not expect he would be accorded with such gesture akin to a homecoming. And for the locals, the positive compliment they heard was itself unforgettable and edifying.

The Recoletos de Casian community is the only Recollect community in the country nestling by the seashore. Fray Louie Gabinete (prior and parish priest), Fray Niel Ryan Jarumay (local procurator), and Fray Jorr Rabacal (deacon) make up the community that is taking care of the spiritual administration of San Isidro Labrador Parish.

Fray Leonardo Queaño, a corista who was on leave and happened to be visiting the brothers, joined in the activity.

According to Fray Gabinete, the visit officially commenced at four o’clock in the afternoon. the Prior General reminded them about the basics of religious life especially on common observances, which are none other than living as a community of brothers.

*ONE FAMILY.  
The Prior General  
includes the the  
AR Sisters and  
the SARF in his  
visit of renewal  
as they belong to  
the Augustinian  
Recollect family.*

✓

The 5:30 PM Mass in the parish church was presided by Fray René Paglinawan, appointed interpreter during the visit. He interpreted for the Mass goes the homily given by the Prior General who was endlessly thankful to the people, and invited them to support the Recoletos community and to get involved in the life of the church.

**AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT SISTERS AND SARF MEMBERS.** The Prior General did not miss to visit the AR Sisters stationed at St. Ezekiel Moreno Spirituality and Development Center (SEMSDC) at Brgy. San Jose, Puerto Princesa City, a strategic stop-over point before one takes either a southbound or northbound trip to the island, or before an outbound or after an inbound flight.

In this visit, Father Miró is scheduled to meet here in the morning of February 16 the other AR Sisters from the towns of Narra and Brooke’s Point, and some representatives of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity, particularly those from the chapters of Brooke’s Point and SEMSDC.

“Joy, humility, and generosity – those are among the signs of holiness,” said Sr. Emma Navea, AR, current superior of the St. Ezekiel Moreno Spirituality and Development Center (SEMSDC) here in Brgy. San Jose.





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*ANOTHER DUTY.  
The Prior General is  
to visit the church, the  
oratory, the sacristy,  
and the offices of each  
of the houses visited.  
(Additional Code 468)*

Sr. Emma was referring to one of the several points raised by the visiting Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, in his talk at around midmorning today – February 16 – at SEMSDC social hall.

Thirteen AR Sisters from the three communities in Palawan (Puerto Princesa City, Narra, and Brooke's Point) and around 40 members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SEMSDC and Brooke's Point Chapters) attended the special assembly with the Prior General.

The get-together kicked off with the Eucharistic celebration at 6:30 AM at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Chapel. The Prior General presided the Holy Mass and gave his homily which was interpreted in English by Fray

René Paglinawan.

"The Prior General converted the question, 'Where are you?' from the first reading, to our present situation: 'Where is your heart?'," said Sr. Emma. "God knows where Adam and Eve were, yet still He inquired into their whereabouts. Similarly, God asks us also about our status in relation to Him: 'Where is your heart?'"

That precious insight bridged the lessons from the homily to the pointers for holiness brought out by Father Miró during his talk with the other members of the Recoletos Family. "Because," Sr. Emma added based on what she reaped from the talk, "to be holy as in the case of St. Ezekiel, is not about performing miracles, but rather living out a



simple life according to the Gospel, by getting out of oneself and reach out to others.”

The listeners were happy and grateful to receive the input fresh from the Prior General himself who was equally happy and grateful for their presence. He likewise appreciated their sacrifice just to be with him and to bid him goodbye.

The Prior General was aware that those from faraway places, particularly from Brooke’s Point, left their homes as early as 2:00 AM to complete the more than four-hour travel and be able to arrive on time for the Holy Mass.

At past two in the afternoon, the Prior General left for Cebu.

**RECOLETOS DE BALAMBAN.** Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, accompanied by Fray René F. Paglinawan, OAR, arrived in Balamban, around 60 kms west of Cebu City, at 8:30 in the morning of February 17, a Sunday, for the visita de renovación.

The first schedule of the morning was the Eucharistic celebration at the school chapel, which was presided by Fray Emilio P. Jaruda, Jr., OAR, prior of the Recoletos de Balamban community. The homily was delivered by the Prior General in Spanish and was translated by Fray Paglinawan. His homily focused on the different readings, especially on the book of Jeremiah about the river that gives us abundant and green environment where we reap the fruits of the earth.

He said, “The river could be compared to Christ that gives us necessary means to live and with this water, our life is lived with meaning.” “Without water, even though we have an abundance of goods and wealth, this means nothing,” he continued.

He pointed out, from the Gospel, the theme “blessedness” which he equated to “joy and happiness.” However, this “joy and happiness” is to be found only if we are connected with Christ. He challenged the people saying that they should always be with Christ because He is in the heart of each Christian.

Before the homily ended, he mentioned the very purpose of his visit to the community and to the rest of the Recollect communities in the Philippines.

**Creativity and Teamwork.** The visit of renewal started officially at 10:15 AM at the Friars’ refectory, with a song, “Come, O, Holy Spirit!” The Prior General opened the meeting with the expression of joy to be in the community of Balamban. He said he understands that, as a new community, there are some adjustments especially in the different challenges that may come and also an advantage as we are not new to religious life and not as newly-ordained priests.

He also advised the community not to replicate the life from other communities in Cebu, rather to be creative in the approach to the apostolate since we have a different



context in Balamban. The Prior General reminded the brothers that in carrying out the apostolate, it should not be done of one's own accord, but in the name of the community, or better still, for the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

**“There is a danger, he said, that while we do our apostolate, we act as if the work is our own and not of the community, hence, pushing ourselves to fall into a trap and putting our community in a perilous situation.”**

He urged us to work as a team, together with our lay collaborators, in the spirit of a shared mission in evangelizing the people in Balamban. There is a danger, he said, that while we do our apostolate, we act as if the work is our own and not of the community, hence, pushing ourselves to fall into a trap and putting our community in a perilous situation.

He also pointed out that our motivation of staying in Balamban is to have an encounter with Christ—but this encounter is not only for oneself, but for the whole community. We should share common motives i.e., to put Christ in our life and in our community. If, sometimes, we would find difficulties in our life because of our different perspectives, he exhorted us to see them from the perspective of faith in Christ; and, as an encounter with Christ, the community brings out the true meaning of educational apostolate.

**Government policies and LAMP.** Sometimes, he said, we deal more with the updates coming from the government agencies, or be concerned with the policies and many other education-related issues, than with our work of evangelization; yet, this could be a good opportunity for the community to grow. These government programs and demands are geared to help our educational apostolate to be more organized. But for us, to work in the educational apostolate is more than this; it does not limit us to evangelization, rather it calls us to be aligned with the Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the Province.

**Unified direction.** The Prior General cited that the General Chapter had put a unified direction to every apostolate in the Order in order not to do it according to one's own way – not by country, not by Province, not by the way the Superiors want it done, but in accordance with the direction set by the General Chapter.

We unified also the eight Provinces into four, but, compared to any of these, the Province of St. Ezekiel has better hope to extend the apostolate especially to open new territories especially in Indonesia.

Revitalization is not merely on the consolidation of the Provinces but more on the effort to be creative in each Province. The Prior General saw a difficulty in the movement of religious personnel in the three Provinces (San Nicolas, Sto. Tomas, and Candelaria); and there are even some communities that were closed. With the movement and closure of some communities, there were so many complaints from among the religious. For this reason, there is a need to collaborate with each other.

In living out our community life, complaints from the members are inevitable. However, constant dialogue is a tool to reach out to one other. This is a common experience in the different communities. The criteria for discernment are the Gospel messages.

Going back to the General Chapter, there was also a restructuring of four Secretariats into three. It is not so much the number as the teamwork and collaborative effort that are highly considered.

We, religious, should be mindful that we work not for profit but for the values of the Gospel. With this in view, particularly on team effort, our educational apostolate should take one direction and one design.

In the case of our community, this team effort should not be limited only to the members of the community, but must extend even as to include the lay collaborators. On this account, we need to educate our teachers by acquainting them with the Recoletos charism and its spirituality. But there might be some problems in the Recoletos educational apostolate in the Philippines in terms of the

texts which are still in Spanish, and they need to be translated.

**The Protocol.** The Prior General opened also the Protocol on the Protection of Minors and Young People in our apostolate area. The year 2015 was a great debacle in our Catholic Church which affected not only the friars but also the faculty and members of the institutions. If problem exists, there should be openness so that we can do the best we can.

The Prior General cited Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle regarding the situation in the Philippines in which cases of sexual abuse are many and that we cannot hide them. We have to investigate and prove their credibility.

After the process, we submit it to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and, once proven, the case might result to separation from the Order. One of the greatest crises in the Church is the credibility in witnessing. These protocols were formulated by the Church in order to help the victims. It is no longer about making a cover-up.

**Creators of communion.** Lastly, the Prior General emphasized the situation of the Church that is watering down, and we need people who can share their gifts and talents. We need to work more for the Church especially in the Order. In an audience with Pope Francis, he reiterated that there is a need for each community to work hard on evangelization and put a good discernment in living the common life. In fact, we are called to be “creators of communion.”

**Dialogue and last session.** After the Prior General has held an

individual dialogue with each religious, the community gathered at the Chapel for the closing of the visit. The mid-afternoon prayer



was said. Afterwards, the Prior General expressed his gratitude to the brothers. Then, he gave his blessing to the community. We ended up singing “Pescador de hombres”.

At around 4:15 in the afternoon, the Prior General and Fray Paglinawan left the community.

**RECOLETOS DE LARAY.** “Remain united as a community!” Those were the fatherly words of assurance and support that Fray Miguel Miró gave to the community of Recoletos de Laray during his whole-day visit here on February 18.

The pastoral visit that started at midmorning consisted mainly of community conference, individual dialogue, visit to the areas of apostolate, Holy Mass, and a joint talk with other Recoletos Family members in the parish.

During the community conference, Fray Constantino Real, local prior, recalled that the major superior reminded them of the fundamentals of religious life as Augustinian

**We, religious, should be mindful that we work not for profit but for the values of the Gospel. With this in view, particularly on team effort, our educational apostolate should take one direction and one design.**

Recollects. As a father who is supposed to know the real state of the life and mission of his confreres, the Prior General advised them to continue living out the communitarian dimension of their Recoletos way of life: “Remain united as a community.” With that, he said, the brothers can then go out and be “creators of communion” among those they are serving.

The community of Recoletos de Laray is also composed of Fray Renie Villalino, parish priest of Our Lady of Consolation Parish-Recoletos (OLP-R); Fray Michael Catama, OLC-P-R parochial vicar; Fray Invenzor Melgazo, local procurator; and Fray John Paul Tanquis, assistant to the parish administrator of the St. Augustine of Hippo Quasi Parish-Recoletos (SAHQ-P-R).

In the afternoon, the Prior General was able to see for himself the recently established quasi parish in Inayawan, a barangay that belongs to Cebu City. Fray Real was appointed parish administrator of the said quasi parish.

The 6PM concelebrated Mass at OLC-P-R church was presided by Fray Villalino, who also gave the homily. Members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) – Laray Chapter, and those of the Recollect

Augustinian Youth (RAY) participated in the Mass.

Both the SARF and RAY members also attended the post-dinner joint conference by the Prior General, with Fray René Paglinawan as the interpreter. To the SARF members, the Prior General said: “You cannot be a member of the SARF and wear a long face, you must have the joy in your heart because the key to following Jesus is in being a joy to others.”

And to the RAY members, he said: “The youth must have a restless heart like that of Augustine, passionately and constantly in search for the Lord – the source of all purpose and meaning of life”.

Earlier in his conversation with the brothers of the community, the Prior General told them that the SARF and RAY members are to “walk with us” and to “grow together” in our aspiration for a more authentic living of the Augustinian Recollect charism. “In this journey, we are to aspire, to seek and to experience the joy of belongingness as the criterion for a better understanding of an Augustinian Recollect identity.”

*The Prior General poses for a picture with the community and the SARF of Recoletos de Laray.*

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**RECOLETOS DE CEBU.** Due to the nature of their multiple apostolate, the brothers





assigned in the community of the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) have devised a strategic way to accomplish the tasks assigned to each of them. This prompted the visiting Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, to not only commend them for a job well done, but also remind them to take care of themselves and that their person is more important than their work.

On February 19, Fray Miró started his three-day renewal visit to the community of Recoletos de Cebu, the last of the three Recollect communities – the other two are Recoletos de Laray and Recoletos de Balamban – in the island province of Cebu.

The OAR community in this “Queen City of the South” engages in various areas of apostolate by administering the USJ-R Main and Basak campuses (with a current total student population of 12,065 from Kindergarten to Graduate School, and 706 employees both regular and part-time), the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish-Recoletos, the Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos which is managed through the able assistance of the AR Sisters, and the three-year old Recoletos Eco-Pilgrimage Park in Danao City.

Aware of these involvements, Father Miró reminded the friars that, in fulfilling their duties, they must realize that they are creators of communion.

Recoletos de Cebu community is under the priorship of Fray Leopoldo Estioko who is also the university’s Vice President for Finance. The other brothers composing the community are: Fray Cristopher Maspara (Vice Prior and 1<sup>st</sup> Councilor of the house & University President), Fray Hernando Coja (2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor of the local community); Fray Joseph Granada (Parish Priest), Fray Nelson Plohimon (Parochial Vicar), Fray Domingo Saladaga, Jr. (House Chronicler & Talavera Director), Fray Rouel Sia (Vice President for Administration, Outreach & CSEC-R Anchor), Fray Leo Alaras (Local Chapter Secretary & Vice President for Academics), Fray Roy Baluarte (Local Procurator & Vice President for Student Welfare), and Fray Arian Josef Ocheda (House Liturgist, Local Vocation Promoter, and Vice President for Religious Affairs, Property Administrator).

To them, the Prior General gave his fatherly pieces of advice: No matter how occupied a religious is in his office, he should not forget the importance of praying with the community. And: It is important that every community should recognize the role of the SARF (Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity) and RAY (Recollect Augustinian Youth) in our mission whether in schools, parishes, or others areas of apostolate. Thus, a plan of formation must be considered to nourish their being anchored in the OAR charism.

Although another topic had yet to be dealt with in a Cluster assembly, the Prior General already told them to give so much attention to the protection of the most vulnerable, particularly the minors or children, from abuses, not only by the clergy but even by our lay collaborators in schools and in parishes.

As an aside, he also threw this challenge to the brothers in a subjunctive form, according to Fray Alaras who took note of the meeting: “I hope that the Filipino Recollects engage in learning Spanish language because, who knows, time will come when a Prior General would come from the Philippines!”

#### Other Recoletos Family Members.

The gathering of the members of the SARF, RAY, Christian Mothers of St. Monica, and CARAS (Confraternity of Augustinian Recollect Altar Servers) was actively participated in by around 165 people.

An invocation of the Holy Spirit was sung to signal the start of the get-together. Fray Estioko, the local prior, welcomed everyone and introduced the high profile guest to them. Fray René Paglinawan stood as the linguistic bridge between the visiting Spaniard and the

**“I hope that the Filipino Recollects engage in learning Spanish language because, who knows, time will come when a Prior General would come from the Philippines!”**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)



Cebuano audience.

The question-and-answer type of conversation so inspired and entertained the Prior General that, according to the prior, the meeting was prolonged because of a relatively bigger attendance, which the Prior General did not expect, and several questions raised. The answers of Father Miró served as his message to them.

Among the salient themes emphasized by the Prior General were: 1) to the SARF-Cebu Chapter and the Christian Mothers: “Holiness of life lies in the ordinariness of our lives”; 2) to the RAY and CARAS: “You are the present of the Church” which echoed the message of Pope Francis during his World Youth Day Message in Panama. The Prior General also added that they are to discover the love and presence of God in their lives and in their talents in order that they can become effective evangelizers to their fellow youth; 3) to everybody: “Live the Gospel joyfully” and “Influence your family, friends, co-workers, and community with the joy of the Gospel.”

**Closing of the Visit.** Towards midday of February 21, the brothers gathered at the convent chapel for the conclusion of the visita

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*The Prior General  
is greeted by the  
community of  
Recoletos de Cebu  
headed by the prior,  
Fray Leopoldo  
Estioko, OAR.*

de renovación.

But with the upcoming Fourth Centenary of the Recoletos evangelization of Cebu in 2021 (aside from the celebration of the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines on that same year), another precious opportunity has opened the door to invite the Prior General to come back and grace the celebration.

**CEBU CLUSTER’S ORIENTATION ON THE PROTECTION OF MOST VULNERABLE.** “Why am I a teacher?” That simple question fraught with implications was launched by Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR, a General Councilor and Head of the General Section for Educational Apostolate, during his midmorning talk before a heterogeneous audience of close to 600 at the Center of Performing Arts of the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) on February 21, 2019.

Fray Carrón said, in his exposition via powerpoint presentation, that a teacher or educator as the learners’ companion and guide ought to act as protector also of the most vulnerable.

Equipped with specialization on pedagogy

and allied fields, he was designated by the General Council to orient the OAR religious and laity working in the various apostolate areas on the “Guidelines of the Order of Augustinian Recollects on the Protection of Minors.” The World Health Organization determines that “minors” are those persons under the age of 18.

In his rationale of the assembly, Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, the lone Filipino in the Rome-based General Council, pointed out that the said orientation “is in sync with the Church as the Pope meets today the Presidents of the national Episcopal Conferences.”

He made reference to Pope Francis’ worldwide meeting with bishops on that same day in the Vatican to deal with sex abuse scandal by the clergy.

In his welcome remarks, Fray Leopoldo Estioko, OAR, prior of Recoletos de Cebu community, said that the Recoletos as an Order is on the side of the victims of abuse which is either psychological, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, as clearly delineated by R.A. 7610.

Administering 54 educational centers with a combined student population of around 90,000 in 15 countries around the world, the Recoletos friars, according to the speaker,

need to confront head-on the gargantuan challenge with respect not only to what is brewing inside the school, but also to what is going on outside the campus.

With that statistical backgrounder set within the framework of the changing paradigms and signs of the times, Fray Carrón presented his talk starting from the “Educational Apostolate of the Order.” He then proceeded with “Augustinian pedagogy as a response to today’s educational challenge” with emphasis on the Educational Plan of the Order, and closed with the third part which he termed “Safeguarding in the Order: protecting the most vulnerable.”

While the main goal of the assembly was to raise awareness on the protection of the most vulnerable in the areas of apostolate, Fray Carrón who is also a member of the OAR Commission for the Protection of Minors said that the application of pastoral principles such as absolute priority of the victims should also be equally taken into consideration.

Among those who came to listen and learn were the OAR religious and priests from Cebu province (Cebu City, Laray, Balamban) and other communities (Philippines and abroad); AR Sisters from different communities (St. Rita-Cebu City, Talavera-Cebu City,

*Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR, giving an input on the protection of minors and the most vulnerable.*

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Minglanilla, Pinamungajan, Toledo City, and Bantayan); SARF members (Cebu Chapter and Laray Chapter); Parish Pastoral Council and catechists from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish-Recoletos, Our Lady of Consolation Parish-Recoletos, and St. Augustine of Hippo Quasi Parish-Recoletos; and the faculty and staff from the three USJ-R campuses (Main, Basak, and Balamban).

**RECOLETOS DE VALENCIA.** The Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, visited the Recoletos community of Valencia on February 22, meeting both the religious and the lay people connected with the parish and school apostolates, and leaving behind a powerful message of what it truly means to get involved.

Fray Miró, together with Fray René Paglinawan, OAR, arrived all the way from Cebu at the convent of the Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned for his renewal visit on the evening of February 21. The visitors were warmly welcomed and accommodated.

Recoletos de Valencia community is composed of Fray Enrico Peter Silab (Prior, SARF-Valencia Chapter Director, School Treasurer); Fray Roderick Deguit (Parish Priest, Local Procurator, House Liturgist); Fray James Dexter Tanquis (School Director and Principal, Local Vocation Promoter, House Librarian, and CSEC-R Anchor); Fray Paul Demillones (Parochial Vicar); and Fray Ifeanyichukwu Maximillian Omem (deacon).

**Opening of the Visit.** The following day, February 21, the renewal visit kicked off with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the parish church at 6:00 in the morning. All the religious priests of the community concelebrated in the Holy Mass, with Fray Deguit as the presiding minister. It was then followed by the praying of lauds, with the members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF), Parish Pastoral Council, Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY), Confraternity of Augustinian Recollect Altar Servers (CARAS), and some Mass goers.

Breakfast followed at the St. Ezekiel Hall. At 8:00 AM, a simple parade was held from

the convent to San Pedro Academy campus. With great delight, the students, faculty and staff welcomed the Prior General. Much later, in the school library, the Prior General had a conference with the members of the SARF, RAY, CARAS and the faculty and staff of the school.

In that conference, Father Miró shared with the school personnel some pointers related to Augustinian pedagogy. He also challenged the youth to take up its special role in the Church and in the society. And to those present, he challenged them to get involved actively in the programs of the community and to contribute the best they can for the institution instead of thinking only of what they can benefit from that institution.

Back to the St. Ezekiel Hall, the Prior General talked to the religious of the communities of Valencia and Caidiocan. He encouraged everyone to make our communities and institutions a safe place for



**...apostolates are not the crafted programs for the parish but rather the life that the community shares with the people.**

everyone especially for the minors or the most vulnerable. This is in response to the call of the Church for their protection from all forms of abuses. After the talk each religious had an opportunity for personal dialogue with the Prior General.

In the afternoon, he visited the community of Caidiocan. And since the convent was still under rehabilitation, he returned to Valencia proper where he spent

his second night.

**Closing of the Visit.** On February 23, 2019, after the Office of Readings and Lauds at the chapel of the convent, the renewal visit was closed. The Prior General then gave his final exhortations to the religious, and after breakfast, he departed for the next community.

**RECOLETOS DE CAIDIOCAN.** The proximity of Recoletos de Caidiocan to the community of brothers in the town proper (i.e., Recoletos de Valencia) behooved them to coincide their February 22 schedule for a joint conference with the visiting Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR.

*(This is the second time that two Recollect communities have merged for the visita de renovación input. The first took place in Inagawan, where the nearby Plaridel community came to join in the assembly. In both cases where the new community is a “child” of the “parent” community, the coming together instantiated the reunion of brothers.)*

The Prior General exhorted the brothers to be always open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and to work as part of the whole Order. In a particular way, he addressed the new community of Caidiocan which, he said, has very rich apostolates because of the two quasi parishes and the school. He also encouraged the brothers to keep going despite serious problems that might arise. Being a new community, according to him,

has the advantage of starting from scratch due to the fact that a point of comparison from a previous one is absent.

He clarified to them that apostolates are not the crafted programs for the parish but rather the life that the community shares with the people. As Augustinian Recollects, the community has an order from the Holy Father to be “creators of communion” that begins in the community, he said referring to the message of Pope Francis to the 55<sup>th</sup> General Chapter participants during their audience in the Vatican in October 2016.

Established last June 2018, the Recollect community of St. Ezekiel Moreno Quasi Parish takes charge of the ministerial and educational apostolate in this mountainous barangay which is around seven kilometers from the población proper. The brothers here also man “in solidum” the San Pedro Academy-Recoletos which is within the convent premises, and the San Vicente Ferrer Quasi Parish in Apo Island, in the town of Dauin.

The community of Recoletos de Caidiocan is composed of Fray Jay Parilla (Prior, Chaplain of Apo Island, House Librarian and CSEC-R Anchor); Fray Excel Saycon (Chaplain of Caidiocan, Local Procurator, Local Vocation Promoter & School Treasurer), Fray Roweno Eugenio Hamo (School Director, House Chronicler, House Liturgist & Chapter Secretary); and Fray Jovy A. Gallego (deacon).

During the conference, the Prior General advised them to be an evangelizing community through the collective efforts of every member. He said that the apostolates of the two quasi parishes should not impede them in living out their religious life. He also reminded them to observe the common observances of the community, and to live their consecrated life not to give mandates but to be with the people.

At the final part of his talk, the Prior General gave emphasis on the issue of clerical abuses especially towards minors or children. He said that the community, the parish, and the school should be safe places for these most vulnerable people. He strongly instructed the brothers that there must be no cover-ups if there are positive cases of abuses, for what

is at stake is the credibility of the Church. Every religious, according to him, should be conscious of and faithful in living out his vow of chastity.

In the afternoon, the Prior General, together with Fray René Paglinawan, OAR, made his ocular visit to the place. He checked the on-going renovation of the convent edifice and the San Pedro Academy-Recoletos. After the inspection, the brothers had a community picture-taking. Individual dialogue with the members of the community followed. The visit ended with the closing rites integrated in the evening prayers.

**RECOLETOS DE TAMBO.** “Keep up, brothers, and continue!” Those were among the inspiring words of Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, Prior General, to the friars of Recoletos de Tambo during his visit to the community on February 23, 2019.

Although this visit in Tambo was already marked in the Book of Cosas Notables (Noteworthy Events) as his very first—and probably his last—as Prior General, his encouraging words to the community members to continue their pastoral work in this inland barangay and to live their consecrated life with joy left even more a memorable impact on them.

Recoletos de Tambo is composed of three friars: Fray Cirilo Andan (Local Prior, Chaplain, and CSEC-R Anchor); Fray William

Cordero, Jr. (House Liturgist, Local Vocation Promoter, and RAY In-charge); and Fray Sir Michael Dineros (Local Chapter Secretary, House Chronicler, House Librarian, Local Procurator, House and Parish Personnel In-charge).

**Arrival.** Fetched by Fray Dineros from the town proper of Ayungon at around 10:30 AM, the USJ-R vehicle that carried the visitors (the Prior General and his interpreter, Fray René Paglinawan) snaked its way up to the center of Barangay Tambo, approximately 15 kilometers from the town.

Upon arrival at the convent premises, the VIPs were eagerly welcomed by the Recollect Fathers and some parishioners. The Parish Pastoral Council members who had just finished their meeting that morning were also present to accord their visitors with their version of hospitality.

The Prior General was obviously surprised to see an appreciable number of people who turned out to give him a warm *bienvenido*. Shortly after, he gave a short talk to the people present inside the church. Lunch followed, and they shared a meal that consisted of lechon, native chicken, fish, the ever-present rice, and fruits – compliments of the usual generosity of the people. (And the residents were delighted to notice that the Prior General liked to eat “caimito,” a.k.a. “star apple”).

**Conference.** In the afternoon, the Prior General met the friars as a community, like a

*Tambo parishioners listening attentively to the Prior General and to Fray Cirilo Andan, OAR (parish priest).*

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father talking heart-to-heart with his sons. It was followed by an individual dialogue.

During the community conference, Fray Miró refreshed them on the purpose of his visit, encouraged them to continue the mission in Tambo and to live always as a community, and thanked the brothers for the sacrifice they are doing for a higher cause.

He highlighted some salient points, such as: working always as a team, allowing the lay faithful to participate in their mission, imparting the OAR charism and spirituality to the lay, and protecting the minors or children from abuses. Finally, the Prior General encouraged the brothers to continue living their consecration with joy.

**Departure.** After the official books were checked, stamped with the Order's seal, and signed by the visiting friars, the visita de renovación was concluded at 5:00 PM. After that, they left for San Carlos City.

**RECOLETOS DE SAN CARLOS.** Fray Miguel Miró, Prior General, visited on February 23 to 25 the last Recollect community lying in the eastern side of Negros Island: the Sto. Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Formation House (STV-RFH). As in other communities, he challenged the brothers to become "creators of communion" and to find concrete ways to realize it in the various engagements of the community.

With a seminary (STV-RFH) and a school (Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos) as main apostolate areas, the Recoletos de San Carlos community is composed of Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr. (Local Prior, School Treasurer, and CSEC-R Anchor); Fray Joel Alve (Vice Prior, School Director, and House Librarian); Fray Renier Alviola (Local Procurator, School Chaplain, and Local Vocation Promoter); Fray Rafael Cabarles (House Liturgist, Monteagudo and Motril Farms In-charge, and House Chronicler); and Fray Keneth Pahamutang (Prefect and Local Chapter Secretary).

**Morning schedule.** Although the major superior and Fray René Paglinawan arrived here in the evening of February 23 after covering the three communities in Negros

Oriental, the schedule of renewal visit did not start until the following day. This was another instance of flexibility in the schedule and format when inevitable circumstances and needs enter the picture.

After the 8:00 AM Mass, the Prior General met in a plenum the AR Sisters (of the nearby St. Rita College), members of the SARF-San Carlos Chapter, and the RAY. Citing Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, he told them: "Our encounter with Christ must give us joy. We must live with joy and be a testimony of one's joy to others."

Reminding everyone about community life, he said that the Lord is the one who gives this gift to us to journey together and to live together in love even though we have differences. "We are rooted in Christ, and like a tree, we must bear fruits. We must be creators of communion."

The Prior General reiterated to the RAY members what Pope Francis said during the World Youth Day in Panama, that is, the youth is the present of the Church and not just the future. And he also said that the young people have the duty and responsibility to bring their joy and optimism to the world. Thus, he urged them to listen to the Word of God, to share this and their experiences with their companions.

To the members of the SARF, he encouraged them to live their vocation with joy. To be a member of the SARF is a blessing, he said, so that each can become a better wife, or mother, or sister. Moreover, he told them of this fundamental input that they have already learned since their formation days: "The key to Augustinian Recollect Spirituality is love. Love is when you use your time and talents in serving others. We share our gifts in the community so that we can serve better.

**"Love is when you use your time and talents in serving others. Our motive for doing everything should be love. Exercise your imagination and ask yourself: what can I give?"**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)

Our motive for doing everything should be love. Exercise your imagination and ask yourself: what can I give?"

**Afternoon schedule.** The Prior General held his conference with the Recoletos Fathers in the afternoon. After the usual formalities, he addressed the community: "We have to be aware that we are a community of Augustinian Recollects. We have to know how the Lord is acting in us and through us."

He then reminded the community about the Life and Mission Project to be accomplished, the call to be an evangelized and evangelizing community, and the challenge to work always as a team. In this way, he said, we can become creators of communion!

He also talked about the need for conversion, and that there are different levels of it: personal, communitarian, and pastoral conversion. "This conversion has to start from our encounter with Jesus Christ. It is the Lord who calls us to form a community and fulfil our mission, and to live our mission with joy."

Switching the topic on the reality in the Province of St. Ezekiel, the Prior General said that here, the communities are bigger in terms of the number of religious. In other Provinces, some communities have only three members. And here, the median age is around 45 years old. Then, he added: We might think that we have already finished our work of opening a community in Asia and the fusion of other Provinces, yet there are more to be done.

The Prior General made mention of some particular areas. "We have here the educational apostolate in San Carlos. The elements that must characterize our institutions should be the pedagogy of love. We have to spend time money and do effort so that the Augustinian Recollect traits will be imprinted in each students. Institutional values that would make us real Augustinian Recollect. We must have specific characteristics not just depending on our taste. If we are united in this project, it would be easy for the continuity of program because we already have an idea. If we don't follow this project, we will be just wasting our time and energy."

He also talked about our need for social awareness especially through ARCORES

which is the social network of the Order. He said that there is ardent call to raise the social consciousness of the people through information dissemination, practice of charity in an organized way, raising funds, etc.

On the protection of the minors or the most vulnerable, he advised the community that if there are cases related to it, it must conduct proper investigation and take action. He also said that the lay people must also be instructed that if something happens, they ought to know what to do. He also opined that transferring problematic religious to other communities does not help, and hoped that those who have this problem must be honest and ask for "assistance" in order not to fall into this crime.

Finally, on communication, the Prior General said that the community must communicate to the Province its activities. "We should be interested with what is happening in the Order. It increases our solidarity with everybody."

All in all, the Prior General was contented with his visit here. He was happy, moreover, that the community of Recoletos de San Carlos is sharing the OAR charism with other people.

**Closing of the visit.** At vespers, the closing of the visita de renovación was integrated.

The following day, February 25, the visitors made a historic tour around "Monteagudo-Recoletos", a hidden paradise in one of the mountainsides overlooking the city. Fray Cabarles, the brain behind this "center" that blends spirituality and ecology, volunteered to guide his VIPs before the latter proceeded to Bacolod.

**"The elements that must characterize our institutions should be the pedagogy of love. We have to spend time money and do effort so that the Augustinian Recollect traits will be imprinted in each students."**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)

**RECOLETOS DE BACOLOD.** For the record, the last renewal visit of Fray Miguel M. Miró, OAR, Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, to the community of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R) on February 25-27, was marked by a confluence of “cosas notables” (“noteworthy events”) worth documenting for posterity.

The togetherness and the sharing of experiences of brothers from different places, not only of those from all nooks of Negros Island converging here for the Cluster assembly, but also of those practically representing the different Provinces of the Order for linkages and mobilization projects were among those memorable events that went beyond the mere category of “activities.”

Recoletos de Bacolod is composed of the following friars: Fray William Emilito Villafior (Prior, Vice President for Finance); Fray Cristituto Palomar (Vice Prior, Local Vocation Promoter, CSEC-R Anchor, Vice President for Religious Affairs, Campus Ministry, Religious Education Outreach & School Chaplain); Fray Amadeo Lucero (1<sup>st</sup> Local Councilor, Vice President for Student Welfare); Fray Don Besana (University President, House Librarian); Fray Jose Alden Alipin (Vice President for Academics); Fray Jose Teodulo Jadulco (Local Procurator, Property Administrator, Local Chapter Secretary) Fray Joseph Persiuz Decena (House Chronicler, House Liturgist, IS Director); Fray Ronel Gealon (Director of the RESOURCE-Handumanan, Spiritual Director of the OAR Nuns, Vice President for Administration, Scholarship Director); Fray Walthrode Conde (Human Resource); and Fray Joaquin Jamelo (Security & Maintenance).

Those dignitaries who arrived on February 24 were Fray Simón Puertas (Vice President of ARCORES International), Fray Nicolás Pérez-Arados (former Prior Provincial of St. Rita Province), Fray Fioresi Alcimar (President of the Secretariat of Apostolate of the Province of Sto. Tomas), Fray Juan Carlos Avitia (President of the Secretariat of Apostolate of the San Nicolas Province), Fray Antonio Carrón (General Councilor, President of ARCORES International, Section Head for

Educational Apostolate), and Fray Raul Buhay (General Councilor and President of the General Secretariat of Apostolate).

**February 25.** The Prior General visited the community of Recoletos de Bacolod, together with his interpreter Fray René Paglinawan, OAR. They arrived at the convent in the morning, with Fray Joel Alve, OAR, and Fray Keneth Pahamutang, OAR, as companions all the way from San Carlos City, an hour and a half away via Don Salvador Benedicto town. Towards noon, the community and the visiting friars from the General Curia and other Recollect Provinces prayed the midday prayers.

The official visit began in the afternoon at 3:30PM when the Prior General met the community members at the sala de recreo. The Major Superior reminded the brothers on the different points drawn from the General Chapter resolutions, official communications and updates such as, but not limited to, Zero Tolerance on the abuse of minors, and the sense of belongingness to the Order.

**February 26.** At 8:00 AM, Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, presided the Holy Mass at the Oratory of St. Nicholas of Tolentino, together with the rest of the OAR Fathers and religious coming from different communities here and abroad as concelebrants. Representatives of the UNO-R faculty and staff, student body, and some members of the Recoletos Family in Negros filled the oratory.

After which, everybody proceeded to the IS building site for the blessing and inauguration of the IS Hall dedicated to Nuestra Señora de la Salud. The blessing of the edifice was led by the Prior Provincial and the Prior General. The inaugural program followed after the blessing wherein Fray Don Besana, OAR, the University President, welcomed everyone present. The approved resolutions on the construction of the building were read by Fray Persiuz Joseph M. Decena, the School Board Secretary, and by Fray Jose Alden B. Alipin, the Board of Trustees Secretary. Messages were also delivered by the Prior General, Fray Raul Buhay, Fray William Villafior, and Fray Eduardo Celiz, Jr. Then, the historical marker was unveiled by Fray Miró and the UNO-R



religious. The IS Director, Fray Decena, gave the closing remarks. Ribbon-cutting followed, led Rome-based friars and participated in by Dr. Rovic de Leon (a lay BOT member) and Engr. & Mrs. Eric Taganile (owner of the KENNETH CONSTRUCTION, which was among the building contractors). Open house took place after the ceremonies.

Back to the Oratory at 1:00 PM, the Negros-assigned Recollect religious and their lay collaborators listened to Fray Antonio Carrón who gave a talk on the "Guidelines of the Order of Augustinian Recollects on the Protection of Minors." Those who came for this organized event were representatives of the school's faculty and staff, SARF, catechists, and Parish Pastoral Council from: Colegio de San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos and San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish (Talisay City); Santo Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Formation House and Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos (San Carlos City); San Pedro Academy and Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned (Valencia, Negros Oriental); San Ezekiel Moreno Quasi Parish and San Pedro Academy-Recoletos (Caidiocan, Valencia, Negros Oriental); San Vicente Ferrer Quasi Parish (Apo Island, Dauin, Negros Oriental); and Our Lady of Lourdes Quasi Parish (Tambo, Ayungon, Negros Oriental).

**"Constructing a new building of a university that has been around for many years since 1962 is a reason for gratitude... Constructing a new edifice at UNO-R means that there is life, there is vitality."**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)

Also well represented were the Augustinian Recollect Sisters from Colegio de Santa Rita (San Carlos City, Negros Occidental) and St. Augustine Academy (Bayawan, Negros Oriental). Fray Villaflor opened the program and welcomed all the delegations, while Fray Buhay gave the rationale of the talk and introduced the speaker.

In the evening, the community took supper

at the comedor and after which, vespers and complines followed. The end of the visita de renovación took place during vespers. Part of the rite was a brief reflection on the reading, a letter of St. Paul to the Romans (12:9-12), given by Fray Miró who, at the conclusion, thanked the UNO-R community for the hospitality and generosity.

**February 27.** The Prior General and the friars from other Provinces celebrated the 7:15 AM Holy Eucharist with the OAR Nuns at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Monastery in Tangub. After breakfast with the cloistered Sisters, the OAR Fathers proceeded to Brgy. Handumanan to have a glimpse of the area where the university frequently conducts its outreach programs in collaboration with RESOURCE-Handumanan Foundation, Inc. ("RESOURCE" stands for REcoletos Social OUtReach Center").

At past mid-morning, the Prior General met the members of the SARF (Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity), RAY (Recollect Augustinian Youth), and CARAS (Confraternity of Augustinian Recollect Altar Servers) at the President's Hall of the university for a talk. He told his audience about the significance of the Augustinian Recollect Family and their spiritual engagements. Father Miró also stressed out the prominent actions regarding the identity of being a part of the Augustinian Recollection especially for the youth, to have an engagement with Jesus, and form a community. Likewise, he challenged the listeners to do their best for the good cause of everyone. Finally, Father Miró encouraged the listeners to pray, share and try to live their life with joy in order to attain spiritual consistency amidst the changing course of the world.

After lunch, the Prior General et al. bid adieu to the community and left for Talisay.

**THE PRIOR GENERAL AT I.S. BUILDING INAUGURATION.** For Gracing the rite of blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed Integrated School (I.S.) Building of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R) on February 26, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, Prior General, has described this event as a moment of



thanksgiving and of response to integral formation.

“Constructing a new building of a university that has been around for many years since 1962 ... is a reason for gratitude,” he said in Spanish before an audience assembled at the façade of the brand new four-storey building. “Construir un nuevo edificio en UNO-Recoletos significa que hay vida, hay vitalidad.” (“Constructing a new edifice at UNO-R means that there is life, there is vitality.”)

Aside from the signs of growth, vitality and renewal, Prior General also pointed out the Latin phrase “Caritas et Scientia” (“Love and Knowledge”) in the logo of the university saying that we do not only seek for academic excellence but also for the formation of the heart.

He stressed that the I.S. Building indicates the Recoletos friars’ commitment to integral formation not only of the students but also of the school personnel and other stakeholders. He was singling out the integration particularly

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**RELIGIOUS  
AND DIOCESAN  
SUPERIORS.**  
*The Prior General  
meets the Bishop of  
Bacolod during the  
blessing of UNO-R’s  
new IS building.*

of the Augustinian values that would steer everyone towards creating communion.

The building or hall is dedicated to Nuestra Señora de la Salud (Our Lady of Health), whose first image was brought by the Recollect missionaries to the Philippines in 1634, and to whose devotion was revived only in 2017 after 72 years of “silence.”

**Heritage Trees and Blessing Rite.** Right after the 8:00 AM concelebrated Mass presided by Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, and held at the Oratory of St. Nicholas of Tolentino, everybody proceeded to the new building site for the inauguration program.

To put an ecological accent to it, two heritage trees were planted, one on each side of the new structure. The Prior General and the Prior Provincial did the planting as Fray William Emilito Villaflor, local prior of Recoletos de Bacolod community, and Fray Don Besana, university President, looked on.

The rite of blessing followed, and was officiated by the Prior Provincial. He was



afterwards assisted by the attending deacons and priests in the sprinkling of the holy water throughout the building.

**Inauguration Program.** The Grade School choir opened the program by their rendition of the Philippine National Anthem. Father President, Fray Besana, gave his welcome address by first thanking everyone “for all forms of support in realizing this dream of building a home for our students at the Basic Education, now the Integrated School.”

He also reminded everyone that the I.S. Building “is not simply a structure but a house where persons are going to be molded in the Augustinian values of interiority, truth, freedom, community, friendship, and solidarity and justice.”

Along the same lines of the Prior General’s thought, he spoke of “UNO-R’s commitment to being a center of learning that shall serve as venue in breathing life” to St. Augustine’s words: “Teach that students may become their own teacher so that time will come when they will be able to provide for their own food.”

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*PLANTING  
HISTORY. The Prior  
General planting a  
heritage tree as part  
of the program. Both  
the Prior General  
and the heritage trees  
become part of  
UNO-R’s historic  
event.*

**Board Resolutions.** How true were the words of Fray Eduardo Celiz, OAR, immediate past president of UNO-R, who said in his message: “The decisions made then are achievements now; the aspirations yesterday are tangible developments today.” And those decisions or aspirations relative to the I.S. Building were formally recorded as resolutions both of the School Board and the Board of Trustees.

The School Board Resolutions approving the construction of the said edifice were read by Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, School Board Secretary, while the BOT Resolution was read by Fray Jose Alden Alipin, Corporate Secretary.

**VIPs Messages.** The following key persons delivered their messages: Fray Miró, Prior General; Fray Raul Buhay, President of the General Secretariat of Apostolate; Fray Villaflores, local prior; and Fray Celiz, UNO-R President from 2015-2018.

Fray Buhay wished that this building be always “a living testimony of our commitment for the youth.” Speaking of commitment, he



specified the “academic, cultural, social, and religious upliftment” of the people of the City of Smile and nearby towns and cities.

For his part, Fray Villaflor noted that the dream of constructing this school building started in partnership with lay people “who shared with us the passion for excellence” and its realization marks “another milestone in the history of UNO-R.”

Fray Celiz keenly observed that, in this celebration, the presence of the highest authority of the Order, in the person of the Prior General who is making his “final tour” to visit communities in the Province, could mean that he is “open(ing) for us new horizons and opportunities to become promoters of communion” in a global scale. This he juxtaposed with the required 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills and competencies and the “tatak Rekoleta” (“Recoletos brand”) of education to be offered to students of Recoletos Schools.

**Unveiling and Ribbon-Cutting.** The Prior General and two General Councilors present (Fray Buhay and Fray Antonio Carrón) led the unveiling of the historical marker. They were assisted by the members of the UNO-R School Board and Board of Trustees.

The closing message of Fray Decena, I.S. Director, ensued. Immediately after, the ribbon-cutting ceremony punctuated the grand opening of the “new edifice of learning.”

A number of dignitaries representing the Diocese of Bacolod (among them was Bishop-emeritus Vicente Navarra), the local government, and the education sector came to witness the program. Also present were the Recoletos friars from different communities in the country, members of the Recoletos Family in Bacolod, and UNO-R students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests.

**RECOLETOS DE TALISAY.** Completing his visita de renovación to the six OAR communities in Negros Island, Fray Miguel Miró made his last stop at Recoletos de Talisay in the afternoon of February 27, where he met the five brothers working in both the pastoral and the school apostolate.

Two days earlier, on February 25,

foreseeing the limited time he would have during the renewal visit proper, the Prior General had joined the group of the Secretariat of Apostolate led by Fray Raul Buhay when they shuttled to Talisay to see the place made famous by Fray Fernando Cuenca, the longest-serving parish priest here. The visitors toured around the San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish church, San Vicente Ferrer Shrine, and Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos (CSNT-R) campus.

Recoletos de Talisay community is composed of Fray Leonardo Pauligue (Prior & School Treasurer); Fray Joel Villaruel (School Chaplain & Property Custodian); Fray Anthony Morillo (School Director/ Principal & House Librarian); Fray Niño Cesar Ruiz (Parish Priest, Shrine Rector, CSEC-R Anchor, House Liturgist, & Local Procurator); Fray Randolph Castulo Castillo, Jr. (Parochial Vicar, House Chronicler, Chapter Secretary, and Local Vocation Promoter).

Shortly after his arrival, the Prior General together with Fray Buhay as the interpreter met the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) – Talisay Chapter. As usual, he reminded them about their Rule of Life, and their obligations to live out the Augustinian Recollect charism and spirituality. According to Sis. Rosario Mamon, the eldest member of this Chapter, they were also made to understand about their special role as “creators of communion” even in their secular state of life.

The community conference with the OAR Fathers followed, at around four in the afternoon. The same themes discussed in other communities were also relayed to them. Afterwards, every friar had the opportunity to individually dialogue with the Prior General.

At past 6:00 PM, the Spanish visitor also met the RAY (Recollect Augustinian Youth) members. Only a few came since others had classes still. Nevertheless, they reported to the Prior General some updates regarding their activities, actually the same updates they made before Bishop Patricio Buzon of Bacolod during his pastoral visit to the parish.

**RECOLETOS DE HINATUAN.** After almost

three hours of waiting, the crowd cramping in the church's façade roared as Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, Prior General, and his companions arrived. It was already evening of March 1, 2019.

When the visitors came out of the vehicle, people spontaneously rushed towards them to give them the warm Hinatuanon (or typical of Hinatuan residents' way of doing) welcome. Many reached for the Prior General's hand for the blessing. Standing in front of them, Father Miguel expressed – via translation made by Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, himself a native of Surigao del Sur – his gratitude to the people, punctuating it with the Filipino word, “Salamat!”

The coming of Father Miró for the visit of renewal to the community of “Recoletos de Hinatuan” would be his first and last as Prior General. The community of friars is composed of Fray Albert Pellazar (Prior & Parish Priest); Fray Jerome Virtudazo (Parochial Vicar); and Fray Mark Saludes (Local Procurator).

After dinner, Father Miguel joined in the Holy Hour services at the parish church, with the Lay Ministers who were preparing for their acceptance and renewal.

The following day, March 2, the Prior General took the opportunity to talk to the lay faithful, to the parishioners present that morning. “Unity is vital to community,” he said to them. The reason why the faithful need to collaborate with the religious priests, he continued, is for the Church to achieve more.

The Prior General, likewise, stressed the importance of the Philippines to the Order and to the Church. He also related how essential interior life is, which is a mark of an Augustinian Recollect, in order to deepen one's relationship with the Lord through constant encounter.

Fray Buhay, President of the General Secretariat of Apostolate, explained the content of the document on the pastoral plan of the Augustinian Recollects for the communities and apostolates. Then, Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR, another General Councilor, introduced the OAR Commission on the Protection of Minors which imposes zero tolerance on abuses of the most

vulnerable, as the Pope demanded. The dialogue with the parishioners was closed with the Prior General gifting the Quasi Parish with the relic of St. Ezekiel Moreno, which, on behalf of the people, was received by the parish priest.

The second half of the day was the community's turn to have a formal forum with the Prior General. During the forum, the visiting Major Superior categorized his sharing into six points: living with faith and joy in the mission, fulfillment of the Life and Mission Project (LAMP), OAR charism and apostolate, social apostolate, protection of minors, and the importance of communication. The conference culminated with the Prior General's final words: Go on with what you have been doing and let these be your prayers.”

In the evening, the Prior General concelebrated in the Eucharistic Celebration and witnessed for himself the acceptance of the 13 new “Kaabag”, a Visayan term used to refer to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy





Communion, and the renewal of 46 others. He, moreover, was given a chance to express his gratefulness and to do the final blessing.

On the last day of the visit, March 3, the community saw to it that, before leaving, the Prior General and his General Councilors would be able to see first the “treasures” of Hinatuan such as the famed Enchanted River and the Sibadan Fishcage.

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**EUROPEAN  
 BIGSHOTS IN  
 HINATUAN.**  
*Parishioners of the  
 Province's lone  
 community in  
 Mindanao welcome  
 Fray Miguel Miró and  
 Fray Antonio Carrón.*



**AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT SISTERS (MOTHERHOUSE).** On March 3, 2019, Fray Miguel Miró together with Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, and Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR, was welcomed at the Generalate's office with Mo. Lucena L. Antipala, A.R. and the sisters of the Motherhouse together with the community of AR-Sisters in Quezon City. They were expected at around 6:00 PM but the SARF-Manila Chapter wanted to see prior general too, so they came earlier at about 4:30 PM just in time the sisters have finished the day of Recollection.

During the sharing, Fray Miró pointed out the spiritual renewal with the use of the Augustinian Recollect Spiritual Exercises.

Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, a general councilor, translated his goad from Spanish as “We have to be spiritually renewed if we don't then we would be irrelevant.”

Moreover, he discussed the beatification process of our foundresses—Mo. Dionisia and Mo. Cecilia Talangpaz. As to the advice of the postulator, the process of the beatification with the guidelines of the Church should be followed. The two foundresses will be treated individually as to the beatification process and therefore one whose documents are present and ready has to be processed first.

Mother Lucena shared that the Congregation previously pursued the beatification of Mother Dionisia, the elder of



the two Foundresses. She said that in the last sexennial term, there was a distribution of the prayer for favors and her image for the cause but the people of Bulacan, their hometown, pleaded that the image of the sisters should be printed and that the prayer for favors will be for both of them. So, the Congregation acceded to their plea. Fray Miró further explained that unless there will be a miracle attributed to both of them, then that would be possible.

As good news, Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, read to us the response of the ARCORES with regard to the project in Laoang, Samar.

Mo. Lucena and the sisters were very thankful for their presence. As they left at almost 6:00 PM, the community of Makati headed by Mother Maxima Pelaez, AR, the superior general last sexennial term, met them at the information area. They supposedly had to listen to the prior's words too but to their surprise, it was already done.

#### RECOLETOS DE MANILA.

The Prior General, Fray Miguel M. Miro, OAR, made a visit of renewal to the community of San Sebastian College-Recoletos Manila last March 3-5, 2019. The visit of renewal aims that the Prior General of the Order be acquainted with the brothers and to know the state of the community, to strengthen the common life and the religious observance of the friars, and to correct abuses if there is such, so that in the end there may be a blessing of peace among the brothers.

**Arrival of the Prior General.** The Prior General arrived at the San Sebastian Convent in the afternoon of 3 March 2019 from his visit to the community of Recoletos de Hinatuan. He immediately met with the members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity-San Sebastian Basilica Chapter, who welcomed him upon his arrival. He, then, made a fraternal visit to the Superior General of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters at St. Rita Convent.

**March 4, 2019.** This second day of the visit was full of activities, not only for the

community of San Sebastian, but also for the whole Luzon communities of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. In the morning, there was a Talk on "Guidelines of the Order of Augustinian Recollects on the Protection of Minors," given by Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR, General Councilor and President of the Education Apostolate Section of the Order. This was preceded by a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fray Carron together with the Prior General and the friars from the different communities of Luzon. Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, General Councilor and President of the Mission and Ministerial Section of the Order, delivered the homily.

After the talk of Fray Carrón, the Prior General gave his concluding message to the assembly which was composed of the



Friars of the communities namely, San Sebastian Manila, San Sebastian Cavite, Provincialate, Mira-Nila, Baguio, Antipolo, Tondo, Urbiztondo, and two friars from San Carlos, with friars are the SARF Members from the different Chapters here in Luzon, seminarians from Antipolo and Mira-Nila, Faculty and Staff of the two Colleges, and AR Sisters from the neighboring communities. The Prior General challenged everyone to be creators of communion, to help in renewal of the Order, and to the protection of minors.

Later on, lunch was served at the convent for the Religious and packed lunch was distributed to the participants. After lunch, at 2:30, there was a meeting of formators led by Fray Javier Monroy, OAR, General Councilor and Secretary General on Spirituality and Formation at the Activity Center of the Elementary Department of SSC-R Manila.

At 6:00 in the evening, the Prior General began his official Visit of Renewal to the community of San Sebastian Manila with the praying of the Vespers and Meditation, and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit. After

*Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR giving an input on the protection of minors and the most vulnerable in San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Manila.*

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the opening of the Visit, supper was served, and the Prior General met with the members community for a meeting at the Sala de Recreo after supper. During the meeting the Prior General first thanked the brothers for their service to the community and to people entrusted to them. He, then, reminded them of the basics of life as Augustinian Recollect Religious, community life, contemplation, apostolate and love of the Blessed Mother. He also challenged the community to be creators of communion and be a source of unity also to all around them, to preserve the dignity of the persons who are under their care and to protect the minors with utmost prudence and wisdom.

**March 5, 2019.** The friars and the Prior General prayed the Lauds and had their meditation at the chapel of the community and after the prayers they left for San Sebastian College-Recoletos Canlubang Campus. The Prior General was accompanied by some friars of the community and Fray Carron. They were welcomed by the school community there with joy and the students made a short



program just for the visit of the Prior General wherein the students showcased their talents. After the program and short tour, the visitors went back to Manila convent and had their lunch.

In the afternoon, around 3:00, the Prior General made an individual dialogue with the friars of the community. His aim was to know how they are doing, how was their apostolate, and if they have any concerns that the general needs to address to. The visit was concluded with a Mass with vespers integrated at the community chapel. Then, dinner was served.

The visit was indeed a good way to see how the brothers are, but beyond that it was a gesture of love and peace. The community would like to thank the Prior General for the visit and may God bless him more with the intercessions of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel de San Sebastian and St. Sebastian.

The community of Recoletos de Manila is composed of Fray Julius Marcos (Prior, Property Administrator & Director/Principal SSC-R Canlubang); Fray Nemesio Tolentin (Vice Prior, 1<sup>st</sup> Local Councilor, School President); Fray Edgar Tubio (2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor, Basilica Rector & Parish Priest); Fray Henry Santiago (3<sup>rd</sup> Councilor, Vice President for Administration & Vice President for Finance); Fray Alexis Mansueto (Parochial Vicar, Local Procurator, Chapter Secretary, House Chronicler & House Liturgist); Fray Glynn Ortega (Local Vocation Promoter, CSEC-R Anchor, Vice President for Religious Affairs & Campus Ministry); Fray Gaudencio Geronimo de Mesa (House Librarian, Assisting Priest & Spiritual Director of the AR and HFJ Sisters); Fray Casiano Cosmilla (Assisting Priest & Confessor of the AR Sisters); Fray Antonio Limchaypo (Vice President for Student Welfare & School Chaplain of SSC-R Canlubang); Fray Ferdinand Fornilos (Vice President for Academics).

**RECOLETOS DE TONDO.** With a proud history of having been visited by two ecclesiastical super VIP's (St. Pope Paul VI and St. Pope John Paul II), the people of Delpan in Tondo prove that they are no amateurs in receiving and listening to yet another European bigshot who was there to

visit the Recollect community of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish.

Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR, the worldwide head of the Augustinian Recollects, arrived at around 9:30 AM at the Recoletos de Tondo community on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019, for the "Visita de Renovación" or Visit of Renewal. Upon arrival, he held a dialogue at once with the locals who patiently waited for him. Present in the parish church were members of the Caritas Group, Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF), and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Aided by the Spanish language expertise of Fray René Paglinawan, OAR, he exhorted them to help their parish become a creator of communion as charged by Pope Francis to the whole Augustinian Recollect Order. More concretely, he encouraged them to take an active role in the work of evangelization which does not happen exclusively in the pulpit. He told them that spreading the Gospel is all about what one does every day. When the other recognizes the Lord in what one does ordinarily, then, for the Prior General, such is a fruitful evangelization already.

Additionally, he reminded them that their service should exude love and joy and that no one is more important over the other except the one who loves. Alluding to Augustinian Recollect style of parish administration, he suggested that competition should be eliminated and that unity and cooperation should be present instead.

To the members of the SARF, he reminded them that they are a blessing from God to each individual and to the parish in general. Moreover, he did not fail in telling them that they were called by the Lord to live the Augustinian Recollect spirituality which means that they have to live the OAR style of relating with the Lord through interiority, community, and apostolate. Acknowledging the inevitable reality of having daily problems, he nevertheless maintained that each member should live his or her daily life in joy and simplicity. This, according to Fray Miró, is a way of witnessing to the Lord in real life situation. Being members of the Order, he emphasized that they should be united in prayer and that their meetings should have



the following elements: prayer, formation, sharing, and proposals on apostolate.

Shifting his attention to the Caritas Group, he bared that one aspect of the Recollect spirituality is helping the poor. It is for this reason that the Order has its social arm—the ARCORES. Fray Miró further declared helping the poor as a gauge in the vitality of the parish. He underlined the fact that each one can give something, although not uniformly. Helping others does not entirely mean giving money; it can also mean sharing time and talent. And for those who, under serious circumstances, cannot share time, talent, nor treasure, their smiles and prayers are most helpful because it is the heart that the Lord sees, not the monetary amount.

Finally, to the members of the PPC, he gave a reminder that the work of the parish is not the work of the priests alone but of everyone. He also enjoined them to follow the Augustinian Recollect community living as a model in governing the parish.

Before distributing souvenirs to everyone present, he expressed his gratitude to all

for the help that they have been extending to countless OAR religious who have been assigned in Delpan.

At 11:15 AM, Fray Miró conducted a private dialogue with the friars at the recreo. Like a father speaking to his children, he reminded the local community of its primary responsibility in relation to the people of God: to become an evangelizing community. Most importantly, he exhorted the religious that they have to be true to their identity while working and living in the parish because God has called them to become Recollects and will continue calling them as Recollects. He also enjoined them to become creators of communion themselves by considering that the work in the parish is a work of the community and by respecting diversity and co-responsibility. Fray Miró encouraged every member to contribute whatever he has and can for the community because collective strength is better than its individual parts. He also expressed his desire for them to effect change and revitalization in the parish by undergoing personal change and

*GREATEST. The  
“greatest in the  
Kingdom” (cf. Luke  
9:48) welcoming to  
Cavite the “greatest” of  
the Order.*

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revitalization. He made mention of the recent Order-wide reorganization which reduced the number of Provinces from eight to the current four. He then said that this should prompt a personal reflection that one can better serve the people of God by having a personal revitalization which, for the Prior General, means a conversion of heart, change of structure, and conversion to the community.

Recoletos de Tondo community is composed of Fray René Paglinawan (Prior, Parochial Vicar, House Chronicler, and House Librarian); Fray Jorge Peligro (Parish Priest, CSEC-R Anchor); Fray John Zachary Haguisan (Assisting Priest, House Liturgist, Local Vocation Promoter, Local Procurator, and Local Chapter Secretary); and Fray Jessriel L. Marcha (deacon, RCI member).

Moreover, to cap his dialogue with the local community, he charged the members with the promotion of social awareness which is enshrined in the OAR spirituality. He also stressed the importance of the protection of minors, emphasizing that the Church credibility is at stake because of the sexual misconduct rocking the Church today. It is on this issue that he wanted his confreres

to ensure that the parishes under their care should be safe for minors. Finally, he reminded the local community of the importance of the communications arm of the Order and of the Province, telling the religious that it fosters the local community's unity with the Order and with the Province by knowing the news

**“In the community, even [if] we are together if there is no fraternal communion, there is no real communion.”**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)

and events therein.

At 1:30 in the afternoon, the individual dialogue with each religious commenced. At 4:00 PM, the official visit was concluded. He bade farewell for his next appointment.

**RECOLETOS DE CAVITE.** Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR, Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, paid his second

Renewal Visit to San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite last March 7, 2019. He was accompanied by Fray Raul M. Buhay, OAR, one of the General Councilors of the Order who also served as his official interpreter. Fray Buhay was the main celebrant during the Holy Mass that started the program and which was joined by all the members of the OAR community of SSC-RdC and Fray Miró.

The community of Recoletos de Cavite is composed of the following friars: Fray Rommel Rubia (Prior, Vice President for Administration, and SARF-Cavite Chapter Director); Fray Joseph Dexter Palagtiosa (Vice Prior, 1<sup>st</sup> Local Councilor, Local Vocation Promoter, Vice President for Religious Affairs, and Vice President for Student Welfare); Fray James Bumangbang (2<sup>nd</sup> Local Councilor, and Vice President for Academics); Fray Raymund Alcedo (Local Procurator, CSEC-R Anchor, and Vice President for Finance); Fray Samuel Eyas (Local Chapter Secretary, House Chronicler, and Director/Principal of Cañacao Campus); Fray Rafael Pecson (House Liturgist, School President); Fray Vincent Cadelina (House Librarian, Property Administrator); and Fray Antonio Zabala, Jr. (School Chaplain).

In the words of Fray Buhay, the Prior General is the highest in the hierarchy of the OAR religious all over the world, but more importantly, he is the father of all the Recollect communities including SSC-RdC. One of the functions of the Prior General is to visit all the OAR communities in twenty-two countries including the Philippines. So far this time, he has visited Palawan, Cebu, Mindanao, Negros, and now Luzon.

In his homily, Fray Miró acknowledged the importance of the over 400 years of OAR presence in the country but he also recognized that looking back is not what is important. The Order has a vision to realize and has to look forward to the future. They are here to evangelize, particularly the youth, who are not just the future of the world, but the present of the church. This was emphasized at the celebration of the World Youth Day the Prior General attended in Panama two months ago, in the presence of Pope Francis.

Fray Miró addressed the youth of the SSC-

RdC community as the heroes of the Church. The Order is not merely after the academic institution. They want to encourage the youth – educate the mind and the heart, which in the teachings of St. Augustine, is the way to living well.

“As we celebrate the season of Lent, beginning with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, we must believe in the Gospel,” said Fray Miró. In his Twitter account, his message was that Lent is a time of grace and we all have the task to listen to the Word, to love and to create communion. He pointed us to the day’s Gospel where we were asked what benefits us having the world if we lose our souls thereby. If we want to live happily, we must do something good for our brothers every day. This according to him is the secret to living in happiness.

Fray Miró pointed out, too, to the words at the back of the shirts everyone was wearing – Siempre Bravo, Siempre Baste – an expression of the unity of the community in living the values of the institution. In closing, he prayed for the Lord to bless all, and give everyone grace and peace.

The second part of the visit was a short program to express the community’s happiness and gratitude to the Prior General. Selected Basic Education and college classes performed some Spanish inspired modern dances.

In his closing speech, Fray Miró summarized his feelings with the words, “GRACIAS, MUCHAS GRACIAS.” He said that he wishes for the happiness displayed by everyone to be coming from the heart and thus, to last a long while. He wishes for this happiness to be the same feeling students will have towards their studies, and to help them in life. As St. Augustine taught, knowledge must be shared, he added. Sharing is a way to happiness. He thanked everyone, including the members of the Secular Augustinian Fraternity (SARF) and the parents who were present. Finally, as the father of the Recollects he wished everyone unity, peace, and blessings.

**RECOLETOS DE MIRANILA.** “The

community cannot be renewed by just one day of visit. The only one who can renew our hearts is the Holy Spirit,” said Rev. P. Fray Miguel Miro, OAR, Prior General of Order, addressing the formands and Religious Formators of Recoletos Formation Center during the Eucharistic celebration last March 8, 2019.

**Opening Mass.** In his sermon, he reminded the formators and seminarians on the importance of the Pope’s message on conversion: personal and communitarian conversion. He explained the need to serve the people and to be close to the suffering: “We need likewise pastoral conversion.”

The Prior General asked the friars to continue listening to the Word of God during this season. He mentioned his tweet last Ash Wednesday (in his twitter account- @PriorGeneralOAR): “La Cuaresma es una buena oportunidad, un tiempo de gracia y tarea para escuchar la Palabra, amar y crear comunión.” (Lent is a good opportunity, a time of grace and a task to listen to the Word, to love and to create communion). His tweet nearly covered the topics he had wished to treat during his visit.

“Our encounter with God is a sacrament of Love,” P. Fray Miguel enunciated. He highlighted the essence of love in the community. To build Communion is to listen to others: “In the community even [if] we are together if there is no fraternal communion, there is no real communion.” Community brings us to evangelizing mission, he added. He challenged all to respond to the Holy Spirit’s work of conversion.

**Meeting and Dialogue with Formators.** During the encounter with the Prior General

**“I was surprised to see religious [other than Recoletos] during Mass. I really wanted to meet you. Considering the situation, we have to come up with a formula to protect the identity of each congregation.”**

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(PRIOR GENERAL)



and the formators of RFC the topics are as follows: first, the joy of living the gospel: evangelizing communities; second, Life and Mission Project of the Province and the Order; third, OAR charism in the formation apostolate; fourth, social apostolate: ARCORES; fifth, protection of minors, prevention of abuses and attention to victims; sixth, communication and communion. Most of the time allotment during the visit was scheduled for the dialogue with religious.

The Recoletos de Miranila Community is composed of Fray Lauro V. Larlar Prior (Prior) Fray Leander Barrot (Vice Prior, RST Director of Libraries & Research Director); Fray Gideon U. Antolin Lagrimas (2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor, Pastoral Ministry, Parish Priest); Fray Ian Anthony R. Espartero (Vicar Provincial, Registrar); Fray Kenneth Joseph L. Onda (Master of the Professed In-Charge of RAY- RFC); Fray Radni Caparas (Dean, RFC In-Charge of Student Affairs); Fray Feliciano Campomanes, Jr., (Local Procurator School Treasurer); Chapter Fray Rey Tripulca (Guidance Counselor, Assistant Master of the Professed); Fray Francisco Antonio (Secretary, House Chronicler, Outreach Program); Fray Hector Gonzales (Local Vocation Promoter & Parochial Vicar); Fray Huberto Dunstan Decena (Spiritual Director & Ordinary Confessor); Fray Emilio Edgardo Quilatan (Archivist, Chaplain of SARF-RFC).

**An Hour with the Interns.** “I was surprised to see religious [other than Recoletos] during Mass. I really wanted to meet you. Considering the situation, we have to come up with a formula to protect the identity of each congregation,” the Prior General said during his conference with the interns.

“We must put in mind that there is no competition among us. We are like rivers. We have our own riverbeds to follow and we have to be faithful to it,” he added.

The Interns introduced themselves and explicitly stated their gratitude to the worldwide head of the OAR. Br. Constantino V. Salas expressed: “We thank you for allowing us to stay with you (RFC), and in the process break the rule of ‘clausura.’ We appreciate it so much. The fathers and the friars have been very welcoming. We did not feel out of place

from day one up to now. As far as formation is concerned, we have grown by leaps and by bounds.”

**Addressing the SARF and the RAY.** On March 9, after the Eucharistic celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Parish at 8:00 AM, Fray Miguel Miro met the Secular Augustinian Recollects and the Recollect Augustinian Youth. “I challenge you to deepen the Augustinian Recollect charism so that you may be able to live our faith,” he exhorted.

He pointed out to the RAY that their gatherings should make them responsible and study well. “You should learn to utilize your spare time well for that will help you.” He encouraged the SARF to follow their itinerary (Pilgrims) and he said: “We have to know that being SARF will help us in our family...we live the joy of our life and we have to share the same joy.”

A representative of RAY and SARF reported their status as an organization, their apostolate, schedules of prayers, gatherings and involvement in the Parish. The Prior General urged them to continue in the journey of faith in giving of self to others for service: “We continue being one in mind and heart.”

**Encounter with the Coristas.** Enjoy yourselves to where you are now, fall in love with your studies. Those are the words primarily mentioned by the Prior General during his encounter with the twenty-one OAR theology students. “Do not ever think that after formation things will be done,” he articulated.

He invited them to be open and allow themselves to be accompanied along the formation years. He also insisted that each should know that: “We belong to the Province but first of all we belong to the Order.” He discussed that each religious should strengthen his sense of belonging to the Order despite the diversity of culture that one may find himself integrated.

**“I challenge you to deepen the Augustinian Recollect charism so that you may be able to live our faith.”**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)



P. Fray Miguel accentuated to the formands, “It is good that in the formation we become open to where we are called. We try to consider the initial formation as a time to open up, identifica con Cristo, and to establish stronger relationship with him.

P. Fray Javier Monroy, OAR, being the President of the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality was asked by the Prior General to give some points with regards to initial formation. P. Fray Monroy asked the youngest and the eldest seminarians as to where do they see themselves ten years from now, when they are going to prepare and what preparations they are supposed to do. A time was also given to P. Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, (the translator of Fray Miro) to talk about the apostolate and so he presented the manual of the Order concerning the apostolate: Guidelines for Pastoral Care.

P. Fray Miguel shared his main concerns as Prior General to formation, pastoral, youth & vocation promotion, community and spiritual life. Then, some brothers raised

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*SELFIE. Recoletos de Antipolo together with some SARF members pose a selfie with Fray Miguel Miró and Fray Javier Monroy.*

their questions to him. He highlighted the value of trust (confianza para hablar). “The important thing is that you have trust. You have so many things to open up and these things are concerns that you cannot heal by just praying.” He concluded the session with an invitation, “We really need to trust each other and we will grow together.”

The visit ended with the praying of vespers and P. Fray Miguel Miro, OAR, explicated the prominence of peace in the community.

**RECOLETOS DE ANTIPOLLO.** Early in the morning of March 11, the Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, together with Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, a General Councilor and President of the General Secretariat of the Apostolate, made his own version of the popular song “*Tayo na sa Antipolo*” (“Let’s go to Antipolo”), by snaking his way up to the Recoletos de Antipolo community for the visit of renewal in compliance with the mandate of the OAR Constitutions.

The community of Recoletos friars here houses the prenovitiate and novitiate programs of formation. The Bahay-Lingkod-Recoletos for the prenovices shares premises with the St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos. The Chapter of Formation team is composed of Fray Paulino Dacanay (Local Prior and House Librarian); Fray Arnel Diaz (Vice Prior); Fray Emeterio Buñao (SARF Director, Resident Confessor and Spiritual Director); Fray James Castelo (Prenovitiate Director and Local Vocation Promoter); Fray Roland Cepe (Novice Master, House Chronicler, House Liturgist, CSEC-R Anchor & Chapter Secretary); and Fray Charlito Orobia (Local Procurator).

**Morning Prayers, Mass.** Fray Paul Dacanay presided the Holy Mass, with the rest of the Fathers concelebrating. The Prior General gave the homily in Spanish and was translated to English by Fray Buhay. With the reading of some portions of the Rule of St. Augustine and the OAR Constitutions, the renewal visit was formally opened.

Then, the community of Antipolo formally welcomed their visitors including Fray Javier Monroy, OAR, the General Councilor in-charge of formation, who came at around 9:30 am. He visited and was toured around by Fray Castelo.

In the second day of the visit, the community celebrated the Holy Mass with the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) members. (Unfortunately, no member of the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) was around due to conflict of their schedule.)

**Commitment and Concerns.** On the first day of the visit, the formators had their meeting with the Prior General who talked to them about, among other things, “revitalization” and how it is realized in the community and in the Order in general. He also challenged them to be “creators of communion,” to observe the strict implementation of the guidelines concerning protection of minors, to collaborate in the the social involvements of the Order particularly to those who are in the periphery, and to implement the the formation of formators to better accompany the formands. Moreover, the Prior General asked the formators during their individual dialogue



about their commitment and concerns as religious, as well as their apostolate in the community and outside.

**Meeting the Celebrity.** At 8:30 AM, March 12, Fray Miguel had a meeting with the SARF. He asked their status, activities, and projects. They presented their projects and programs: medical mission; annual feeding for the children every December; sponsoring some of the Recollect Augustinian Youth in School; and many more. The SARF received compliments from the Prior General for being active and for being prayerful. Nanay Conching, a SARF member, felt delighted for the appreciation on how she was able to juggle her time to serve the church while her tasks as a grandparent. After the meeting, the Prior General gave a present to each of them, but Nanay Conching asked for his signature, and the rest followed suit, like a group of fans circling their ‘celebrity idol’ for autograph signing.

**Wisdom and Encouragement.** Past midmorning of March 12, the Prior General



and his two companion met the formands. The visitors threw lots of questions so the seminarians could share their experiences as a novice or a pre-novice. The sharing was mixed with laughter as Father. General would spice his with his fatherly knack and wit. Every after sharing, wisdom was gained. Every after laughter, encouragement was given. Somehow, the presence and wisdom of the three visitors re-invigorated the zeal of the formands. As Fray Miguel told the formands: "You have to have a personal experience of the Lord Jesus Christ which does not come neither from books nor from any people. An 'experience' which will be guided and accompanied by any OAR priest to confirm if the candidate's vocation for religious life is authentic or not." He also added that the candidates, as early as their formation stage, should already be responsible for themselves - by being mindful of their action and by purifying their motivation.

Towards the end of the meeting, Fray Monroy shared some inspiring words. "It does not mean that when you have problems or crisis, you don't have vocation anymore. Rather, it means that you should work hard for your vocation." For his part, Fray Buhay said: "Always be humble. Think of what you can contribute to the Order, and not what the Order can give you."

The final words were given by the Prior General; he gave the formands two points to ponder: first, "what God wants for me" and second, "what I want for myself." Then, he told the formands "Only God knows what is in the depth of our hearts (and) God wants us to be really happy whatever vocation we choose."

The meeting ended giving the formands new hope and new inspiration. Thanks you for those words of wisdom and encouragement.

**RECOLETOS DE BAGUIO.** This city may be cold, but the Prior General certainly felt the warmth of fraternal love and Filipino hospitality during his recently concluded Visit of Renewal at Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary last March 13-14, 2019.

Recoletos de Baguio is composed of the

following religious/formators: Fray Bernard Amparado (Prior/Rector); Fray Anthony Irineo (Vice Prior, First Local Councilor, and Dean of Studies); Fray Federico Gregorio (Guidance Counselor); Fray Eduardo Celiz, Jr. (Local Procurator); Fray Joseph Philip Trayvilla (Spiritual Director - College); Fray Ralph Laureen Ciceron (Prefect of Discipline - College); Fray Bob Cabanag (Prefect of Discipline - SHS); Fray Ken Oliver Lao (Spiritual Director - SHS)

The seminary was Fray Miguel M. Miró's third-to-the-last stop in his visit to all Philippine communities of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. The 69-year-old leader of the Order said he was feeling the toll of constant travel as he had been to other Recollect communities located in Mindanao, Cebu, Negros and Metro Manila before coming up to Baguio.

"You have recharged me so I can go on to other communities and share with them the joy that I experience here and the love that I receive from you," he told the community of formators and formands in his parting speech after dinner on March 14.

Number 464 of the Order's Constitutions states that the aim of the Visit of Renewal is for the superior to know the state of the community, reaffirm more fully the religious life, charity and unity among brothers; as well as facilitate fraternal corrections whenever necessary.

Fray Miró had been elected to a second term as Prior General during the General Chapter held in Rome in 2016. He was accompanied in his visit by two General Councilors, Fray Francisco Javier R. Monroy, OAR, and Fray Raul M. Buhay, OAR, who acted as his interpreter.

Aside from meeting the Chapter of Formation in an individual and community

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(PRIOR GENERAL)

dialogue, the Prior General also had a personal encounter with the members of the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) and the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF).

**Prior General to Seminarians: “I’m at home here”.** The seminarians had their encounter with the Prior General on the morning of March 14. (Earlier that day, the Prior General officiated the community Mass in his native Spanish tongue in line with seminary tradition of saying the Mass in Spanish on Thursdays.)

Before the conference, the seminarians were visibly thrilled at the prospect of finally meeting the leader of the Order whom they had seen only in photos until then. But contrary to their collective notion, the Prior General when at last he talked with them, didn’t come across as an imposing, aloof, so-far-away-in-Rome figure.

“He is very gentle and fatherly,” said Br. Alvin Laserna after the conference. “He is a very good model of an Augustinian Recollect religious.”

Added Br. Jude Dacullo: “It is very overwhelming to meet the Prior General. It inspires me to pursue my religious vocation.”

“It’s life-changing,” relayed Br. James Opuan. “Encounter with the Prior General is like an encounter with Jesus.”

The General opened his talk with a random enumeration of the statistical condition of the Order’s seminaries across the world, though he admitted that he was only recalling the numbers from memory and were therefore inaccurate for they were strictly approximations.

While he admitted that those who are entering the seminaries are getting fewer, especially in Europe and Latin America, he said the primary concern of the Order in particular and the Church in general is giving seminarians a well-rounded and solid religious and priestly formation.

“The [decreasing] number [of those who enter the seminary] is not that important,” the Prior General said in Spanish. “What matters is that each one of you is formed properly after the heart of the Lord.”

To achieve this end, he urged the seminarians to “establish a closer personal and communitarian relationship with Jesus.” The General also singled out fear as a factor that is detrimental to formation for it makes the seminarian secretive and not open to the formators.

“To be a religious is to love the Lord and your brothers and sisters more fully,” he said. “How can you love fully if you do not open up your heart to formation because of fear?”

The Prior General related well with the seminarians as he reminisced on the days he was previously assigned as a formator in various stages of formation, from the minor seminary to theologate.

“That is why I feel at home with you here,” he said. “It makes me remember times past.”

**Seminarians to Prior General: “Come home often, Padre!”** During the question-and-answer portion of the conference, the seminarians were able to voice their concern to the Prior General, from domestic issues to general problems haunting the Order and the Church.

One question raised concerns the effort the Order is doing to attract more vocations. Fray Monroy, who is also the President of Formation and Spirituality, said they are doing “vocation animation” by conducting vocation promotions and placing the youth in mind when crafting pastoral programs.

But the Prior General could only lament at the secular conditions of Europe, especially with the destruction of family and family values. He said people no longer go to Church for society offers other options. Couples also opt not to raise as much children for it is not

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compatible with their career advancements and could be very demanding of time and effort.

“Somehow, we are to blame,” he said regretfully. “We don’t work hard enough.”

The grim atmosphere pervading the conference room was quickly set aside when the Prior General reversed the situation. Instead of answering questions, he was the one asking them.

One memorable question he threw was: if you are the Prior General, what would you do to be able to relate to the youth better?

Br. Dionisio Limos, who is also the Community Beadle, responded: “To be able to establish rapport with the youth, Padre, I guess you just have to come visit us often.” To which the other seminarians chimed in: “Yeah, come home often, Padre!”

Laughing, the General answered: “I sure hope to be back. But when I do, I hope not to see you here, but in Antipolo or Mira-Nila.”

The Novitiate house of the Province is located along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo City while the Theologate is in Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City.

Before the General was able to leave, he was inundated with requests for group and individual photos. The seminarians even solicited his signature on their breviaries and journals, to which he also obliged with customized messages which greatly delighted the seminarians.

“I might be in Rome or someplace else,” he said, “but I have confidence that people in Casiciaco are studying hard and praying hard and living harmoniously in the community, with one mind and heart intent upon God.”

**RECOLETOS DE PANGASINAN.** *Buenos dias y bienvenido!* That’s how we greeted with the usual Spanish the visiting Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, that early morning of March 15, 2019. Together with one of his general councilors, Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, he arrived in this newly established Recollect community in Pangasinan, thanks to the driving skill of Fray Ralph Ciceron, OAR,

Prefect of Discipline of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary, who volunteered to steer the wheel and brought them safe here.

The parish community located in Barangay Pasibi East is composed of the following religious: Fray Samson Silloriquez, OAR, local prior; Fray Joseph Cyprian Panaligan, OAR, parish priest; and Fray Jayferson Baldeovar, OAR, parochial vicar. The parish has just recently changed its name from the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish through the approval of Archbishop Socrates B. Villegas who is the current local ordinary of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan.

The visit began with a simple breakfast prepared by the community. During meals, the local prior introduced each member of the community to the Prior General. They also talked about the changes in structure of the convent and the parish since the first time the Recollects arrived in the parish last November 2017.

Immediately after, everybody proceeded to the community oratory to officially open the visit of renewal. The simple liturgy opened with the community singing of the song “Here I Am Lord.” Fray Buhay made some introduction about the purpose of the fraternal visit. Then the liturgical prayers continued.

Individual dialogue immediately followed, with Fray Buhay as interpreter for the two younger friars. After the dialogue, they were called all together for a special forum with these central points from the Prior General: implementation of the LAMP, OAR Charism and Apostolate, Social Apostolate, Protection of Minors, and the Importance of Communication. It was followed by Fray Buhay explaining the content of the document on the Pastoral Plan of the Augustinian Recollects for parish communities and its apostolates.

The Prior General expressed his gladness seeing how happy the members are living in unison with each other despite the age gap among the members. His final message to the community was to continue living in unity and living out the charism of the Order and to make known to the parishioners more the



identity of the OAR.

Then the friars went back to the oratory for the closing liturgy, with the fraternal greetings of peace. At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Prior General too time to meet the newly-formed Local Chapter of Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) in Pangasinan.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, the historical turn-over of the administration and property of the parish and convent of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish by Archbishop Socrates Villegas to the Order of Augustinian Recollects was held and witnessed by no less than the Prior General himself, and other Recollect friars, some diocesan priests, the SARF and RAY members, and some parishioners and friends who came from the different communities of Luzon.

**RECOLETOS DE PROVINCIALATE.** Amid water crisis that affected Metro Manila for the past days, a heavy downpour in the early morning of March 15, a Saturday, providentially came, allaying the sweltering heat at least for a day when the OAR Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, made his renewal visit to the community of Recoletos de

*The Prior General posing for a picture with the friars of the Recoletos de Provincialate community.*

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Provincialate.

The rain that poured down few hours before sunrise also “blest” the group led by Fr. Robert Reyes and Fray Jonathan Caballero, OAR, who, at that time, were transferring the “Kariton ni Kiko” (a pushcart named after Pope Francis and specially designed in accordance with the advocacies of the pope) to the Recollect-administered San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish.

**Lauds and Holy Mass.** The usual Saturday morning prayers at 6:00 AM at the parish church of SNDTP were led by the members of the Secular Augustinian Recollects – Provincialate Chapter. The Recollect Fathers, members of the SARF and RAY (Recollect Augustinian Youth), some Mass goers, and the group of Fr. Reyes joined in the praying of the lauds.

At 6:15, the “running priest” Fr. Reyes gave a brief talk about the “Kariton ni Kiko” which symbolizes the concrete effort of the Diocese of Cubao, to which SNDTP belongs, to support social concerns programs especially those that relate to “buhay” (representing the human person’s fundamental right to life) and “bahay” (representing the person’s basic needs, one of which is shelter).



With his equally strong advocacy for the social apostolate of the Order through ARCORES, an international solidarity network of the Recoletos, the Prior General appreciated the meaningful initiative and its insertion in the schedule of his visit.

Fray Dionisio Selma, Prior Provincial, presided the concelebrated Mass that followed. Before the homily delivered by the Prior General, with the Tagalog translation of Fray Raul Buhay, the official start of the renewal visit was integrated. Fray Bernabe Dosdos, local prior of the community, read some relevant excerpts from the Rule of St. Augustine and the OAR Constitutions.

**Conference with SARF, RAY.** Right after breakfast at the Pastoral Center, the Prior General met the members of the SARF and RAY. He first directed his talk to the young ones, reminding them of their “present” role and participation in the life of the Church. His emphasis on the youth as the “today” of the Church rang the core of Pope Francis’ message in Panama-held World Youth Day. He also clarified to them the stages of the formation itinerary of the RAY.

To the SARF-Provincialate Chapter with around 48 active members, he reminded them to be faithful to their Rule of Life which, in concrete, is the very path to holiness.

**Individual and Community Conference.** Recoletos de Provincialate is composed of Fray Bernabe Dosdos (Local Prior and Provincial Procurator); Fray Jose Ernil Almayo (Vice Prior, House Chronicler, Provincial Secretary); Fray Jonathan Caballero (Parish Priest); Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia (Parochial Vicar, Provincial Councilor); Fray Emilio Larlar, Jr. (Member of the Pool of Translators of the Province); Fray Ceferino Añez (House Liturgist); Fray Rellyric Delos Santos (Chapter Secretary); Fray Dionisio Selma (Prior Provincial); Fray Allan Jacinto (National Vocation Director); Fray Felipe Rollon, Jr. (Resident friar); and Fray Robin Ross Plata (deacon).

As in other communities, the Prior General talked to all the brothers individually, except to the last two who were then in Tagaytay. He also dialogued with Fray Dominador Mercado, one of the missionaries to Indonesia, who was

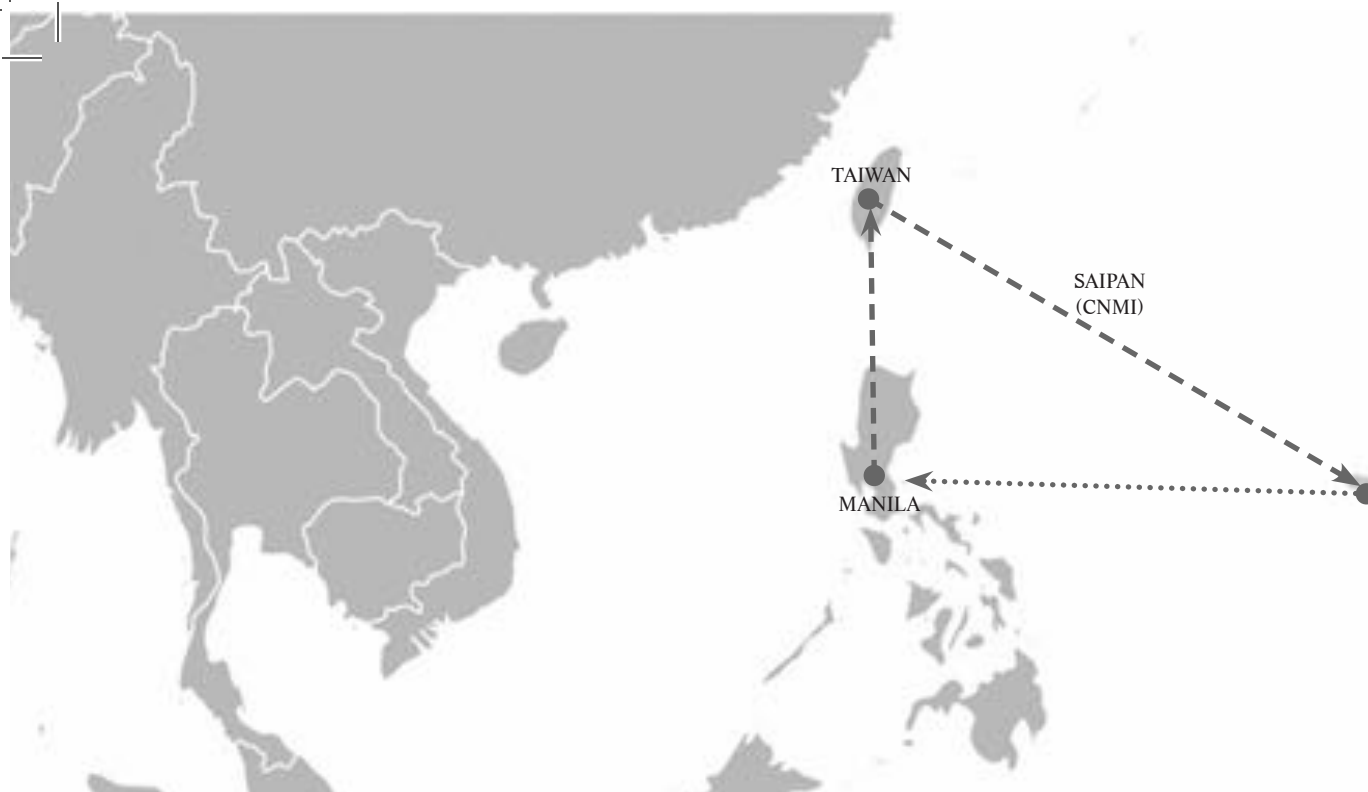


then around for vacation, and to Fray Dennis Castillo who was to return that evening to Sierra Leone.

He also met, after lunch, the group in-charge of formation apostolate led by Fray Francisco Javier Monroy, General Secretariat President, together with Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, Fray James Castelo, and Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda.

At 5:50 PM, the Prior General met the brothers in a plenary session during which he reminded them of the same six key points about which he had told the other communities: revitalization and restructuring; community life and our charism; ARCORES and social apostolate; protection of the most vulnerable in our apostolate areas; mission and ministerial apostolate; and communication.

Standing out among his reminders was the one that echoed the message of the Pope for the Recoletos: to become “creators of communion.” But this can only be made effectively possible and meaningful if there is conversion in each religious, the Prior



General said.

**Closing of the Visit.** During the praying of the vespers, the closing rite of the visita de renovación was integrated. The Prior General, in his final words to the community, expressed his gratitude not only for the warm hospitality accorded to him but also for the OAR way of life being lived with peace and fidelity. "Peace is a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit," he said.

After his last reminder to the brothers to open their hearts to the Lord to be able to comply with the Life and Mission Project of the Order and of the Province, he then gave his final blessing.

**The Prior General also stressed on the need to establish a profound relationship with Christ, the source of our calling and joy in the mission.**

**RECOLETOS DE TAIWAN.** Amid Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR, Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects made his penultimate destination in his on-going fraternal visits to all the OAR communities in the Province of St. Ezekiel

Moreno. The OAR Prior General arrived here at noon of March 17, 2019, accompanied by one member of his Council, Fray Raul M.

Buhay, OAR. Fray Miró's latest fraternal visit to Taiwan was his second as Prior General. His previous one was on February of 2014 with Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr., OAR, serving as his accompanying secretary and interpreter.

Coincidentally, on the day of the Prior General's arrival, St. Joseph Parish in Xiaogang (in the Diocese of Kaohsiung) was also celebrating its 62<sup>nd</sup> Founding Anniversary and Patronal Fiesta, with the series of activities starting at 3:00 PM. Hence, the arrival of the two Rome-based VIPs spurred much delight and pride to the host parishioners as well as those attending guests from other parishes who were also under the spiritual auspices of the OAR friars.

On that grace-filled day, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was presided by Archbishop Peter Liu, D.D., Local Ordinary of the Diocese of Kaohsiung with seven concelebrating priests. Among the concelebrants were the four OAR missionaries in Taiwan namely, Frays Corvin Maturan, Joel Dequilla, Giovanni Gil Magbojos, and Nimrod Launio, together with Frays Miró and Buhay as well as another Diocesan priest. After the Mass, the OAR General had the chance to hobnob not only with Bishop Liu but also with the other fiesta attendees. He was amused watching the performers during the program and also willingly and gamely accommodated those



who asked for “selfies or groupies.”

On the second day, March 18, the visit of renewal commenced with the communal praying of Lauds, followed by meditation, and the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. During the homily, the Prior General emphasized the importance of communitarian living of the charism of the Order, the mark of Augustinian Recollect identity, which should cascade to our apostolates, and be shared with and by the people we serve. The Prior General also stressed on the need to establish a profound relationship with Christ, the source of our calling and joy in the mission. Pastoral works which, though commendable and fruitful, but only serve to aggrandize the ego of an individual friar and to exclude the community should be avoided. After the Mass, the friars proceeded to the refectory where everyone shared a hearty breakfast (which of course, was prepared and cooked by the missionary friars themselves).

Individual dialogue to the members of the Recoletos de Taiwan community started at 9:30 in the morning, beginning with the youngest.

*WHEN IN SAIPAN.  
Fray Miguel Miró  
together with the  
Bishop of Saipan and  
the lone community  
in Saipan.*

✓

After three friars finished conversing with the General, the dialogue with the local prior was temporarily suspended for a brief ocular visit to the parishes currently administered by the Recollects. The first destination was the Queen of Victory Church in Xiaogang where some parishioners excitedly welcomed the OAR friars. Next stop was the St. Augustine Parish in Linyuan, and the third place visited was the Holy Cross Parish in Daliao. From there, the group proceeded to a restaurant which served the best delectable goat meat cuisine in Daliao.

The friars headed back home to the convent and caught a quick afternoon siesta. At 3:45 PM the OAR General resumed his dialogue with the local prior. The group conference started at around 4:15 PM where the Prior General, like a true father with solicitude towards his children, further reminded, exhorted, encouraged and assured the Taiwan OAR friars. At 7PM, everyone once again gathered at the community chapel to pray the vespers and performed the liturgy which formally closed the official fraternal





visit. Then they proceeded to an “all you can grill and eat” restaurant.

Early dawn the following day, March 19, we drove down and brought the Prior General and his councilor to Kaohsiung International Airport for their flight back to the Philippines for an overnight stay there before flying to Saipan.

**RECOLETOS DE SAIPAN.** On March 21, 2019, the Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR), Fray Miguel M. Miró, together with Fray Raul M. Buhay, OAR, General Councilor, came to the island of Saipan for the first time. Fray Miguel, who is based in Rome, is the head of the whole Recollect communities all over the world, and is currently conducting a “Visita de Renovación” to OAR communities under the Province of Saint Ezekiel Moreno which includes one community in Saipan. This marks his first official visit to the Recollect community in this island since the “return” of the Recoletos here in 2016 to collaborate in the pastoral ministry.

Travelling from Manila aboard the United

Airlines Flight UA 184 with a short layover in Guam, the Prior General and Fray Raul, who also served as his interpreter, were welcomed by Most Reverend Ryan P. Jimenez, Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and the OAR Fathers, Fray Allan Rubett Cabatian, OAR, (Local Prior of the Community) and Fray Leo Neil Bullos, OAR, (Local Procurator) right on the tarmac, as soon as they disembarked from the plane – much to their surprise! The surprise did not stop there, though, because when they emerged from the arrival area, they were eagerly offered with leis and were warmly greeted with “Hafa Adai” and “Bienvenido” by several volunteers and active church group members from the parishes of San Roque, Santa Remedios, Kristo Rai and San Antonio. After some group photos, the OAR Fathers took a quick breakfast before going to the rectory of San Roque Parish to get some rest. By noon, the OAR friars had lunch together and did a short island tour.

At 6:00 PM, the Eucharistic celebration in San Roque Parish was presided by Fray Miguel Miró, with Fray Raul, Fray Allan and Fray Neil as concelebrants. The OAR General shared that for the past weeks, he has

*BOOK LAUNCH.  
Fray Miguel Miró  
witnesses the book  
launch of Fray  
Francisco Antonio's  
second volume of  
“Pointless Points to  
Ponder Not.”*

✓



been concelebrating the Mass in Cebuano, Filipino (Tagalog), and English. And he was not expecting to say it in Spanish, his native tongue. While many Chamorro (and Filipino) words were loaned from the Spanish language, it was a huge help that the order of the Mass was flashed in the monitors for the people to respond – also in Spanish.

The official opening of the visit was incorporated in the Liturgy as the General Instructions were read and the purpose of the visit was explained, as stated in the OAR Constitutions No. 464: “To know the state of the community, to reaffirm religious life more fully and the charity and unity among the brothers, as well as to correct any abuses.”

After the final blessing, the devotion to Saint Ezekiel Moreno was recited, followed by the kissing of his relic brought by Fray Miguel and Fray Raul as a gift for the community and for the people they serve. A simple dinner fellowship courtesy of the parishioners followed at the Social Hall, then, the individual dialogue with the friars ensued.

March 22 began with the praying of the Office of Readings and Lauds, and meditation. After breakfast, the individual dialogue and the checking of the Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the community continued. The Prior General, together with the other OAR Fathers, then headed south for a courtesy call with Bishop Ryan. They had lunch with him, the clergy and staff of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa at the Rectory of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

In the afternoon, a Conference with the Recoletos de Saipan community was conducted during which Fray Miguel emphasized the following: the joy of living the Gospel and evangelizing communities, the Life and Mission Project of the Province and of the Order, the Augustinian Recollect charism in the specific apostolate of each community, social apostolate, ARCORES, protection of minors, and communication and communion. The checking and signing of the seven official books of the community were also completed. The community prayer held at the convent chapel concluded the official visit at 5:00 pm.

Afterwards, the OAR Fathers proceeded to

Nuestra Senora Bithen Delos Remedios Parish in Tanapag for the Eucharistic celebration at 6:00 PM, also in Spanish. The visiting friars were again treated to a warm reception by the parish community with a fellowship dinner after the Mass. Shortly after, they went back to the rectory in San Roque to prepare for their travel that same evening via Aseana Airlines heading to Manila via Incheon (South Korea). During his short two-day stay, Fray Miguel expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome that they received at the airport, which is “fit for a Pope” as he said. He admired not only the beauty of the island but also the memory of the happy, smiling faces of the people he met. He thanked the people for accompanying Fray Allan and Fray Neil in their ministry and asked pardon for all those times when they were unable to respond well to the tasks that have been given to them. He also asked the people to include them in their prayers that the Lord may always guide them. Thanking the parishioners, choir members, and volunteers for serving in the church, he urged them to be united in the presence of Christ, work together for the common good, listen to God’s word and open their hearts to the needs of others because as he said, *“El unico poder que hay en la Iglesia es el servicio.”* (“The only power there is in the church is service.”)

***“El unico poder  
que hay en la  
Iglesia es el  
servicio.”***

***“The only power  
there is in  
the church is  
service.”***

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)

**FAREWELL AND THANKSGIVING TO THE PRIOR GENERAL.** To express their collective gratitude to the Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, for the fruitful six-week visits of renewal to the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno and to bid him farewell as he prepared for his trip back to Rome, the members of the Recoletos Family held a memorable program “Despedida & Tribute to the Prior General” on the evening of March 24.

The Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma,



in his opening remarks, noted the special role of Father Miguel when he was still the Prior Provincial of San Nicolas de Tolentino Province during the transition period of the Vicariate of the Philippines and China, which then pertained to that Province, to being the youngest of the eight Provinces of the Order since 1998. [And even now that the Order is restructured into four Provinces, St. Ezekiel (SE) continues to hold that distinction not only because it is the latest to be established but also because, with 47.9 years old median age of the 179 religious, it is considered the youngest compared to 63, 58, and 57 of San Nicolas (SN), Candelaria (CD), and Sto. Tomas (ST), respectively.]

Practically, for the past 20 years of the Province, Father Miguel, who was elected as Vicar General and then twice as Prior General, continued to guide the growth and progress of this Asia-based and Filipino-majority Province.

In this last “visita de renovación” as the

second-term Major Superior of the Order, the Prior General remained consistent in his observation about the Province as a whole: “What draws most my attention is that the communities are many, of which few are composed of three religious while others are made up of four or more, and the majority of these are young, if not almost young. These are displayed well in their hopes, commitments, and enthusiasm to do the work of evangelization, combining well what is traditional and what is novel...”

**Triple treat.** The evening treat was divided into three parts. The first part was a book launch of the second volume of Fray Francisco Antonio’s “Pointless Points to Ponder Not” which, in 140 pages, commits itself to present the hilarious edges of religious life and other oddities. The Foreword writer said that the book “explodes with insightful energy that can transport a reflective reader to a whole new world of realization about his vocation, mission, and dreams.”



After the launching, everybody shared the food served. The presence of Mo. Lucena Antipala, AR, Superior General of the Congregation of the Recollect Sisters, together with her Councilors, as well as the National Officers of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF)-Philippines, headed by its National President, Bro. Edwin Ruiz, SAR, made the occasion another special bonding moment with the OAR Fathers, Brothers, and seminarians.

The third part of the program was composed of message-giving and song renditions as tribute to the Prior General. Bro. Edwin, Mo. Lucena, and the Prior Provincial – being heads of their respective groups – conveyed their message and wishes, on behalf of their respective constituents, to the visiting VIP from Rome. The Spanish songs sung by the coristas and the Recollect Fathers and Brothers expressed their prayerful tribute of thanks and appreciation.

The community singing of the 7<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter theme song, “Sharing our vision,” aptly punctuated the despedida party.

#### **SEQUEL: RECOLETOS DE KAMALO.**

Fray Miguel Miró, the Prior General of the Augustinian Recollects, has been carrying out the renewal visit to the Recoletos communities in Sierra Leone since November 15. Accompanied by the President of the General Secretariat of Apostolates, Fray Raul Buhay, he will be present in Kamabai and Kamalo, the two

municipalities belonging to the Diocese of Makeni where the Augustinian Recollects are doing pastoral works.

**November 16, Saturday.** On the day of his arrival, a Friday, the Prior General spent the night in Kamabai. The following day, Saturday, he traveled to Kamalo, where the opening Eucharist of the visit presided by Fray Raul Buhay and concelebrated by Fray Miguel Miró and the Augustinian Recollect missionaries, Frays Jose Prudencio Castillo Jr., Jess Marco

Sanchez, and Kenneth Caligdong, took place. St. Paul’s Parish church was full. More than two hundred people came to accompany the Prior General. In his homily, Fray Buhay, a former missionary here, highlighted the importance of Nuestra Señora de la Salud (or, for the Sierra Leoneans, “Our Lady of Welbodi”) and of the need for sacrifice that evangelization entails for missionaries, and thanked the people of Sierra Leone for welcoming God’s Word.

At the end of the celebration, the Prior General thanked the companionship and care of the religious community. He also gave emphasis on three words: thank God for having celebrated the Eucharist together, request for help to the Virgin of Health, and joy for being Catholics. What followed was the rite of anointing of the sick administered by Frays Dennis and Kenneth. As a closing tribute, the Salve in Latin was sung and the medals of the Virgin were distributed to those present.

In the afternoon, the Prior General shared with the community. The day ended with the praying of the rosary in which about 70 people, mostly children, participated.

**November 17, Sunday.** The Prior General stayed in Kamalo where the parish administered by the Augustinian Recollects covers 38 chapels and 47 schools, and in which the missionaries also celebrate Masses during the week.

On Sunday morning, the Prior General’s renewal visit officially began. The official letter about the visit was read. Fray Miró explained the reason for a renewal visit and also his interest in seeing the life and mission project of the community. Being a Sunday, each one of the missionaries of the community left after breakfast to different areas to preside over the Mass. The Prior General accompanied Fray Kenneth Caligdong to the village of Laminaya. To arrive, the entourage had to cross two rivers and traveled through mountains. Upon arrival, the inhabitants of the village were happy to celebrate the holiday and for the visit of the Prior General who was amazed by the joy with which the people sang and the color of the festive dresses of women. More than 200 people attended the Eucharist

**“This fraternal visit is a conversion that has to be lived every day.”**

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ, OAR  
(PRIOR GENERAL)

with the Prior General. At the end of the Mass, a couple brought their newborn daughter to the altar for a blessing and a ceremony called 'naming' during which the baby receives her name and becomes a member of the community. The girl received the name of Michelle, the only one with this name in the whole parish. The family named this baby girl for Miguel Miró. Afterwards, the Prior General set out for the village of Kendiyaloko, almost an hour away. About one hundred and fifty people there made the celebration very lively with their songs. At the end of the Mass the young people rendered a song and dance number for the visitors.

**November 18, Monday.** On Monday, November 18, the Prior General attended a welcome and baptism celebration of the first Christians in the village of Morong, where the community received a property of about four hectares from a generous donor. It has already a small house, a cultivation area and a football field. A cottage thatched with coconut leaves was made for the celebration of baptism and the Eucharist. There were 47 catechumens, among them were elders and children, who received baptism administered by the Prior General. One of the baptized received the name of Miguel, in honor of the officiating minister.

**SEQUEL: RECOLETOS DE KAMABAI.** "This fraternal visit is a conversion that has to be lived every day," Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, Prior General, said to the community of Recoletos de Kamabai last November 20-24, 2019. Accompanied by Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, General Councilor and President of the General Secretariat of Apostolates, who acted as translator of the Fray Miró, the Prior General visited this community with the following purposes: to renew the community according to the Constitutions of the Order; to urge the brothers to be always open to the actions of the Holy Spirit; to know how the community live their Augustinian Recollect vocation; and to know and deepen the brothers' motivation in order to love and share this love to others.

The Prior General also wanted to know and experience the sacrifices of the missionaries

of Kamabai, who at present experience difficulties due to the emerging conflicts caused by the insurgencies of renegade groups. More than these, Fray Miró assured his brothers that his visit also brings hope because it is the Lord who directs the Order and the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. He also reminded them that our work will have meaning if we look at it with the perspective of the Lord.

As one community, the brothers from Kamalo and Kamabai had a spiritual retreat based on the Augustinian Recollect Spiritual Exercises. This took place on November 21, 2019, the second day of the fraternal visit.

The following day, on November 22, 2019, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, together with Most Rev. Natalle Paganelli, Bishop of Makeni, blessed the St. Thomas Senior High School.

On November 23, 2019, Fray Miguel, as part of his fraternal visit, reviewed and signed the official books of the community and had a one-on-one dialogue with each member of the community.

During the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Prior General concelebrated with the community of Recoletos de Kamabai in a Mass at Our Lady of Sierra Leone Parish. Fray Mark Ryan Prado, OAR, Prior of Recoletos de Kamabai, presided this Solemn Mass.

At the close of the fraternal visit, Fray Miguel Miró imparted to the brothers the message that "we join ourselves with the whole creation in praising the Lord as we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King." He thanked the missionaries for their sacrifices and love for the mission in Sierra Leone. He gave his assurance that the whole Order of Augustinian Recollects is behind them to accompany and support them. Finally, he urged them to live out our spiritual and fraternal life for these are the essentials of our life as Augustinian Recollects. Then he closed the fraternal visit by imparting to them his blessings and prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

After the closing of the fraternal visit, the community shared an early lunch before accompanying Fray Miguel and Fray Raul to Lungui Airport for their departure back to Rome. **RD**



# 1998

52<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER; BIRTH OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO; FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ WAS ONE OF THE CAPITULARS

# 2010

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ'S ELECTION AS PRIOR GENERAL

# 2016

FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ'S REELECTION AS PRIOR GENERAL

# 53

DAYS SPENT IN ST. EZEKIEL MORENO PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION DURING THE 2019 RENEWAL VISIT

# 6

COMMUNITIES TO HAVE THE FIRST AND LAST VISIT OF FRAY MIGUEL MIRÓ IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRIOR GENERAL (RECOLETOS DE PLARIDEL, BALAMBAN, CAIDIOCAN, TAMBO, HINATUAN, AND SAIPAN)



# OnFormation



[ formation ]

## Pre-novices attend APAC Symposium

By **Bro. Chrislean Rey Pamilaga**

**MANILA**—EIGHT RECOLLECT PRE-NOVICES PARTICIPATED IN THE symposium on Youth and the Digital World at La Consolacion College de Manila on January 19, 2019.

Acting on the initiative of the Spirituality Commission of the Asia-Pacific Augustinian Conference (APAC), Fr. Francis Lucas of the Catholic Media Network Corporation expounded on the topic. The event hinged on the theme: “Understanding and Communicating in the Digital World.” In attendance together with the OAR prenovices were representatives of various organizations and houses of formation.

Fr. Lucas unveiled before his audience a reality which demonstrates a decay of the society’s moral fiber: the Philippines as one of the nations in the top spot of fake-news-flooded countries according to the New York Times. He enumerated some of the many problems prevailing in today’s society which contribute to moral decadence: loss or confused identity, genderless humanity, “right” over one’s body, unguided power of science and knowledge, extreme secularism and relativism, loss of moral compass, and, too much reliance on subjectivity and technology.

## Pre-novices attend...

(from page 76)

The situation of moral decadence, according to the speaker, has made a strong statement on how everyone ought to behave before their monitor screens and on how to formulate their message. He suggested that every message sent to the digital world should be rooted on the gospel truth. In this way, evangelization in the digital world becomes possible. Fr. Lucas further said: "Man is made for communion and for this very reason undeniably, the essence of relationship is communication," insisting on the importance of real communication. The resource speaker, aware of the current situation of the people who are into the digital world, wanted his audience to be cautioned. Hinting an Augustinian tone, he advised the participants to return and examine themselves so they can find and value their real identity. He exhorted them to "go back to the very problem on how he expresses his very self" because in the digital world, "there is possible dearth on how he understands his very self as a person."

Man's way of communication in this present age is so powerful, that is, it can either build or destroy his identity; yet the fact cannot be discounted that technology and the digital world are also a great help for man's restoration through evangelization. Every Christian in the digital world is therefore tasked to be an evangelizer in such world. **RD**

[ formation ]

## CaReS observes feast of Sto. Niño with festive Sinulog atmosphere

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

*BAGUIO CITY*—THE BEAT AND RHYTHM OF THE Sinulog in Cebu City resonated even in a cold mountain city located some 1,900 kilometers from the center of the festivities.

This as seminarians and devotees carrying with them different sizes and versions of the Sto. Niño statue flocked to the chapel of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary here last Sunday – January 20, 2019 – to take part in the observance of the feast of the Holy Child Jesus.

"The feast of the Sto. Niño is very dear to us Filipinos," Mass presider Fray Bernard Amparado, OAR, said in his homily. "Our devotion to the Holy Child Jesus coincided with the writing of the first pages of our history."

Fray Amparado, who is also the seminary rector, blessed the little children present and the different Sto. Niño statues of the mass goes in a special rite during the Mass. After the final blessing, the rector held the chapel's enthroned Sto. Niño icon in both hands and danced to the popular beat of the Sinulog in front of the altar, a Sinulog tradition observed by presiding priests in Cebu.

According to the journal entry of Pigaffeta, the official chronicler in Ferdinand Magellan's expedition, Queen Juana of Cebu received as gift the image of the Sto. Niño after she – with husband Rajah Humabon and



*PIT SEÑOR! Recoletos de Baguio seminarians perform a Sinulog dance in observance of the feast of the Holy Child Jesus popularly known as the Santo Niño.*

## CaReS observes feast...

(from page 77)

some 800 natives — was baptized by Fr. Pedro Valderrama in 1521. It was Pigafetta himself who presented her the sacred image, now considered the oldest Catholic icon in the country.

Some 40 years later in 1565, a sailor in Miguel Lopez de Legaspi's fleet found in one of the destroyed houses of a village in Cebu the same unscathed image of the Sto. Niño which had been given to Queen Juana. The image has since been entrusted to the care of the Augustinian Fathers and housed in the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño de Cebu.

## Sinulog in Baguio

"The image of the Sto. Niño is the image of God who is powerful but has made Himself accessible, lovable and endearing to men," the Father Rector said. "He stripped Himself of all majesty and glory and assumed every likelihood of man except sin."

He exhorted the faithful to imitate the virtues present in the Sto. Niño — and in every child — namely: simplicity, humility, innocence, docility and trustfulness.

"God took the initiative to be near us so He could bring us back into his fold, so we'd do well to follow the examples of the Sto. Niño," he added.

The neophyte seminarians, before the 7:00 AM Mass, started the festive mood by dancing to the beat of the Sinulog inside the chapel. With the mass goers already seated, they performed their dance routine along the aisles and gave the audience a close-up feel of what is happening in Cebu's streets at those very moments.

After the Mass, the Grade 12 seminarians gave a more elaborate performance of the Sinulog at the seminary façade, with a live band playing Sinulog beat and rhythm. The mass goers were visibly pleased with the performances, judging by their reactions.

"This makes me feel at least close to home in this special feast of the Sto. Niño," said Bantayan, Cebu-native Br. Kline Kysser Asentista who was one of the organizers of the activity. He was also the Sto. Niño bearer for the Grade 12 dancers.

RO

## [ formation ]

# 35 young men welcomed for search-in program

By Fray Keneth Pahamutang, OAR



SAN CARLOS CITY—THE SANTO TOMAS DE Villanueva-Recoletos Formation House (STVR-FH) opened its doors to 35 young men who felt they have an initial calling for the priesthood and religious life. They came voluntarily for a three-day "Search-In Program" from March 8 to 10.

Organized by STVR-FH, the said program was meant to let these young men experience firsthand a foretaste of what seminary life is. This was also in preparation for the re-opening of the High School Seminary next school year but only for Grades 9 and 10 applicants.

The proposed alternative program for STVR-FH shall include a Live Out Plan of Formation (LOPF) which will start S.Y. 2019-2020.

The young men who attended the "search-in" immersed themselves in the usual seminary activities such as prayers, conference, meals, laborandum (manual work outside the building), manualia (manual work inside the seminary), etc.

The conference on vocation was given by Fray Rafael Cabarles, OAR, aimed to help candidates or applicants discern their vocation for religious and priestly life especially in the Augustinian Recollect way.

STVR-FH hopes and prays that all of them heed the Lord's call, enter the Recollect seminary, and become later among the workers in God's vineyard. May the Lord, the author of vocation, guide these young men in discerning their calling in life. RO



## FOUR PINOY RECOLLECTS AMONG 35 PARTICIPANTS IN ESCUELA DE FORMACIÓN

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR



El Desierto de la Candelaria, COLOMBIA—"We are learning a lot from other Provinces' manner of forming candidates to the Order (of Augustinian Recollects)," said Fray James Castelo, OAR, Pre-novitiate Director in Antipolo City, who is currently enrolled in the "Escuela de Formación" or Formation Course taking place at El Desierto de la Candelaria, Ráquira, Colombia.

Together with him from the Philippines were Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda, OAR, Master of the Professed at the Recoletos Formation Center in Miranila, Quezon City, and Fray Ralph Laureen Ciceron, OAR, Prefect of Discipline at Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary in Baguio City.

The three seminary formators are representing the Province of St. Ezekiel in this Formation Course meant primarily "to train companions and trainers in the process of human, vocation, and spiritual growth" based on the Augustinian Recollect charismatic principles.

Fray Fredric Abiera, OAR, is the fourth Filipino Recollect in the assembly of 35 participants coming from the four Provinces of the Order. A formator and vocation director assigned in the Vicariate of the USA, Fray Abiera belongs to the Province of St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

## CaReS joins CFC-SFL World Singles Congress as Vocation Exhibitor

By Bro. Jesse Meer Alipes

### BAGUIO CITY—CASICIACO RECOLETOS SEMINARY

Community took part as a Vocation Exhibitor, in the three-day CFC-SFL (Couples for Christ-Singles for Family and Life) World Singles Congress last March 22-24, in CAP convention Center, Camp John Hay, Baguio City.

#### Vocation Booth

Fray Ken Oliver Lao, OAR, the Recollect Augustinian Youth in-charge, managed and took over the vocation booth entrusted to CARES. He was accompanied by Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR, the national vocation director of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, on the first day of the event.

Books magazines, pictures and a VTR were exhibited in the booth, reflecting the life of the Augustinian Recollects.

The booth is intended to accompany every single who is searching for their vocation.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects was joined by other orders and congregations as vocation exhibitor. Orders of Franciscan Minor (OFM), Order of Saint Benedict (OSB), and Good Shepherd Sisters were among the Vocation Exhibitor in the event.

#### Families on Mission

"Families on Mission" is the theme of this year's world singles congress which is anchored on the bible verse from Joshua 24:15b, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

The Congress aims to empower singles and build strong families in Christ through its sessions and programs.

The event was attended by over 1600 participants from the Philippines and other countries. Among the participants were from the regions of National Capital Region, CALABARZON, Cebu and other parts of Mindanao. A Participant from another country include the one from United Arab Emirates.

#### One of a Kind Experience

"It was a one of a kind experience and it was my first time to attend a program like that," he said. "Looking at the dilemma of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, focusing more on broken families and divided relationships, I'm glad to see people making a move towards finding solution and aiding to the pathologies of this century." **RD**



# Institution of Lectors and Acolytes celebrated

By Fray Ralp Andrew Cepe, OAR

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—THE INSTITUTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF ACOLYTE and lector was incorporated to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish last May 4, 2019. The celebration started at six o'clock in the morning. Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, the Prior Provincial of the St. Ezekiel Moreno, presided the Eucharist and the Institution of Ministries. Formators of RFC and from the other congregations also concelebrated in the Eucharistic Celebration to witness the institution of their formands who stayed at RFC for their academic formation.

In the presence of the faithful the brothers who were instituted to the ministry of lector were:

1. Fray Helfrid Palmis, OAR
2. Fray Nero Bautista, OAR
3. Fray Jose Enrico Gallego, OAR
4. Fray Rey Jay Quevedo, OAR
5. Fray Renz Calex Soriano, OAR
6. Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR
7. Br. Brien Panagsagan, ESHT
8. Br. Marco Peter Dasco, DS
9. Br. Maximilian Evardoni, DS
10. Br. William Julao, MMMP
11. Br. Joselito Dumogho, MMMP

Likewise, in the presence of the faithful in the parish, the brothers who were instituted to the ministry of acolyte were:

1. Fray Jay-Jasper Jamelo, OAR
2. Fray Jovanie Siesmundo, OAR
3. Fray Joshua Olaivar, OAR
4. Fray Ricky John Austria, OAR
5. Fray Ivan Rhey Mislang OAR
6. Fray Jhyryx Vincent Gamulo, OAR
7. Fray Ivan Cuison, OAR
8. Fray Jazzy Jeff Montañez, OAR
9. Fray James Erol Gatinao, OAR
10. Fray Ralp Andrew Cepe Jr., OAR
11. Br. Herbert James Hantsch, DS **RO**



# RST sends off graduates, awards outstanding students

By Fray Ralp Andrew Cepe, OAR

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—SOLEMN INVESTITURE WAS GRANTED TO NINE theology students of Recoletos School of Theology (RST) last May 31, 2019 held at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City. At 8:00 AM, the Baccalaureate Mass was presided by Fray Lauro V. Larlar, OAR, PhD, Rector of RST, as the main celebrant. Formators from Recoletos Formation Center (RFC) and from other religious congregations also concelebrated in the Holy Eucharist.

After the Baccalaureate Mass, the Solemn Investiture was officially opened by Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, PhD, the Registrar of RST. Invocation was led by Bro. Arun David Maria Anthuvan, SdC (Cum Laude, MAT and Magna Cum Laude, SThB). Address of petition was delivered by Fray Ramon B. Bitancor III, OAR (Cum Laude, SThB). The welcome address was given by Fray Larlar, OAR.

After the introductory part of the program, the Solemn Investiture 2019 was split into two parts: the ceremony for the ecclesiastical degree granted by the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, Manila, and for the civil degree from Recoletos School of Theology as a Graduate School recognized by the Commission on Higher Education.



The Dean of Studies, Fray Radni L. Caparas, OAR, SThD, presented the candidates for graduation of ecclesiastical degree and Rev. Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP, SThD, the Dean of the Faculty of Sacred Theology of UST conferred the degree and title to the graduates.

The superiors, parents, benefactors and friends imposed the hoods on the candidates for the ecclesiastical degree. Fray Larlar, OAR, and Fr. Aligan, OP, awarded the diplomas to the graduates. Keynote address was delivered by Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP, to the graduates, students, faculty and the rest of the faithful who were present.

The ceremony for the conferment of civil degree followed. Fray Larlar, OAR, conferred the civil degree and title to the deserving graduates while the superiors, parents, benefactors and friends imposed the hoods on the candidates for the civil degree. Fray Larlar, OAR, and Fray Caparas, OAR, awarded the diplomas to the graduating students. The same priests presented the graduation awards for the civil degree.

Students from first year and second year theology classes with academic awards were also awarded by Fray Leander V. Barrot, OAR, SSL, Vice Rector of RST, and Fray Gideon Lagrimas, OAR, Parish Priest of the Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

Fray Charlemagne D. Marin Jr., OAR, delivered the valedictory speech. A Pledge of Loyalty by the new graduates was led by Fray James O. Alibong Jr., OSA (Cum Laude, SThB). The Induction to the Alumni Association of Recoletos School of Theology was led by Fray Barrot, OAR.

After all of the speeches and rites, Father Caparas, OAR, the dean of RST, delivered his speech. The RST hymn was sung to officially close the solemn investiture. The graduates with their beloved families and friends took pictures to immortalize the momentous event. After which, the Masters of Ceremony, Fray Nero F. Bautista, OAR, and Bro. Constantino V. Salas, MMMP, invited the people to have lunch at the Bulwagang Recoletos Atrium. **RO**



# Seven Pre-Novices received as Novices; One Novice renounces parental inheritance

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

**ANTIPOLO CITY—ST. EZEKIEL MORENO NOVITIATE-RECOLETOS RECEIVED SEVEN** postulants who have finished their one-year Pre-Novitiate Program and in the same occasion the lone novice renounced parental inheritance prior to his Simple Profession of Vows.

Prior to their acceptance to the novitiate, Fray Ken Oliver Lao, OAR, accompanied the candidates in their five-day spiritual retreat last June 17 to 21, 2019 held at Canossa Spirituality Center, Tagaytay City with the theme on “Be not Afraid.”

During the Rite of Acceptance to the Novitiate, Fray James Castelo, OAR, Pre-Novitiate Director, read the official communication from the Prior Provincial stating the approval of the Major Superior that these candidates be accepted as novices. After reading the official letter, Fray Castelo presented the candidates to the Prior of the Novitiate, Fray Paulino Dacanay, OAR, who in turn entrusted them to the Novice Master, Fray Roland Cepe, OAR.

In his exhortation, Fray Dacanay urged the brothers to: 1) be honest to themselves, to their brothers, and to God; 2) to be a brother to their companions in the community; 3) to listen to God; and 4) to be matured in handling their possession, especially gadgets.

He also reiterated the directive of the Constitutions that “the particular nature and aim of the novitiate demand that the major superior and those responsible for formation ensure for the novices adequate conditions of stability, solitude, and silence, and for the practice of prolonged periods of prayer. This is attained ‘only from a detachment from one’s self from everything in the world that resists God, and even from those worldly values that are undeniably worthy of respect’” (Directives on Formation in Religious Institutes,

Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, 1983, 50; OAR Const. 216). After the Prior’s exhortation, the tunic and the belt were blest according to the formularies of the Rituals of the Order. Afterwards, the formators of Recoletos de Antipolo assisted the newly accepted novices in donning their habit. As a custom, the formators welcomed the brothers through their fraternal embrace.

The Rite of Acceptance to the Novitiate was done in private at St. Ezekiel Moreno Chapel where, in accordance with the Constitutions of the Order, “the habit [of the Order] will be handed to the novices in private, as the official act of clothing with the habit will take place during the rite of first profession” (OAR Const. 215).





**Seven Pre-Novices received...**  
(from page 83)

The newly accepted novices are:

1. Fray Joseph Neil Baygan
2. Fray MC Airel Capinpin
3. Fray James Esplanada
4. Fray Judd Galinato
5. Fray Mark Joseph Quirante
6. Fray Lord Zeus Vaño
7. Fray Chrislean Rey Pamilaga

Following the Rite of Acceptance to the Novitiate was the Rite of Renunciation of Properties done by Fray Neil Robert Alilain who will profess his simple vows the following day. At the beginning of the rite, Fray Roland Cepe, OAR, Novice Master, read the Gospel. In his short reflection, Fray Dacanay shared with those present, which includes the parents of Fray Alilain, that the renunciation of parental properties is a sign of entrusting one's self to God through the Order.

After the brief reflection, Fray Neil Robert pronounced the formula of renunciation of properties and signed the document in the presence of two witnesses, Fray Cepe and Fray Dacanay.

The Rite of Renunciation of Properties closed with a Solemn Blessing given by the Prior: *Benedicamus Domino. Deo gratias!*  
**RD**

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*JAM-PACKED. Devotees flood the Plaza del Carmen, raising their hands as they sing the Our Father.*

[ formation ]

# Curso de Preparación 2019: The preparation for the definitive “yes” to Christ

**By Agustinos Recoletos**

**SPAIN**—THE SOLEMN PROFESSION OF VOWS PUTS AN end to the preparatory stage of the vocational journey. It is the moment in which the Augustinian Recollect religious says “yes” definitely to the call of Christ. This culminates a long process that takes years of effort, reflection and training. This Course of Preparation was organized by the General Secretariat of Spirituality and Formation which started on June 29, 2019.

For six weeks, religious from the Philippines, Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Nicaragua and Mexico delve into their decision to follow Christ as Augustinian Recollects, and reflect on the dimension of this decision and what this means for their lives. During this time they will go through the various basic aspects of the Augustinian Recollect charism: the wisdom of interiority, the wisdom of ecclesiality and the wisdom of the community; to be pilgrims returning one and a thousand times to the heart to find the truth, where the interior Master lives.

The conclusion of this course will be the personal project of life,





aiming at the growth in the points that base and build the Augustinian Recollect religious.

For the formative work and the accompaniment of the young people, the Prior General has appointed a team formed by the Augustinian Recollects José Gabriel Rodríguez, Kenneth Onda and Javier Monroy. They are in-charge of making the journey together with these young people, of accompanying them in this formative moment, prior to the definitive surrender of their life to the Lord.


The religious will be trained in the aspects related to the Augustinian Recollect religious life—contemplation, community, apostolate, chastity, poverty and obedience-, as well as in the communication of values or the social dimension of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. In addition to training, these weeks of preparation will bring the pilgrimage experience to Lourdes or Santiago. Through the Camino de Santiago, they will be able to experience in a concrete way what St. Augustine invites us to live: “We are pilgrims together with the pilgrim Jesus Christ, who incarnates himself to accompany all the pilgrims of the world.”

The first week was centered on the wisdom of interiority. Fray Carlos González Castellanos, OAR, the facilitator in this topic, helped the participants to understand the human and spiritual process of interiority. This is the contemplative path that is

proper to a religious: to live from the inner man, the path proper to the Augustinian Recollect, who identifies and forms with Christ, and in which he travels with other men.

Fray Kenneth Onda, OAR, has introduced the wisdom of ecclesiality in the second week. It is the second great column of the Augustinian Recollect charism. Topics such as the sense of belonging, what is gathering, growing in love for the Church, and understanding the priesthood as a service with the topics that are offered to the participants as essential to grow charismatically.

This year’s candidates for Solemn Profession are the following:

- Fray Antonio Max Oliveira, OAR
- Fray Fernando Ferreira, OAR
- Fray Pedro Santos da Silva, OAR
- Fray Hugo Badilla, OAR
- Fray Hector de Jesus Molina, OAR
- Fray Jordan Tijerino, OAR
- Fray Cristito Rey Pulga Tepace, OAR
- Fray Virgilio Cruz Calalang Jr, OAR
- Fray Ingemar Dario Duran Barreto, OAR
- Fray John Eduard Olarte Murillo, OAR 

## 12 OAR POSTULANTS PROCEED TO PRE-NOVITIATE STAGE

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR



ANTIPOLO CITY—After their summer vacation, twelve new Pre-Novices reported to Fray James Castelo, OAR, Pre-Novitiate Director, on June 19, 2019. Before they proceeded to Bahay Lingkod-Recoletos, the Pre-Novitiate House located within the compound of St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos in Antipolo City, they visited some OAR and AR communities in Metro Manila. They had a stop at the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian and AR Mother House in Quiapo, Manila, and at St. Ezekiel Moreno Provincial Center in Quezon City.

The new Pre-Novices are:

- Bro. James Francis Bago
- Bro. Jay Balcueva
- Bro. Roldan Benemerito
- Bro. Joffry Casusa
- Bro. Mark Angelo Diaz
- Bro. Seiji Ishii
- Bro. John Arnold Lozada
- Bro. Enrico Macaranas, Jr.
- Bro. Romy Rj Panadero
- Bro. Audel Ken Santillan
- Bro. Lloyd Jorem Terania
- Bro. Warren Vencislao

>

*JAM-PACKED. Devotees flood the Plaza del Carmen, raising their hands as they sing the Our Father.*

# Lone Novice makes simple profession

By Fray James Esplanada

ANTIPOLO CITY—THAT “STRENGTH IS NOT ALWAYS in numbers” seemed to have underpinned the “successful” journey of the only Novice—Neil Robert M. Alilain—who made his simple profession of vows.

Though said to be streamed from a very big number, only he survived to raise and wave the Batch’s flag—the ‘Luminaries’—and eventually made his profession of the evangelical counsels on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, the solemn feast day of Saints Peter and Paul.

With the OAR friars who also came to witness this special event was the Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, who presided the Holy Mass at 9:30 AM. The Prior Provincial emphasized in his homily that the Order is still breathing because the grace of God is still working in the very person of Fray Alilain.

After the celebration, everybody was invited to a buffet lunch. The momentous event was graced by the presence of Fray Alilain’s family, SARF Antipolo Chapter, Religious Sisters such as the CB and AR Sisters from different communities, some RAY members and friends. **RD**



*LONE SURVIVOR. Fray Neil Robert Alilain, OAR making his simple profession of vows before the Prior Provincial.*



# 38 new aspirants welcomed by Prior Provincial

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY*—“WELCOME TO THE Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno!” These were the words of Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, during the courtesy visit of the neophytes prior to their reporting to Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary, Baguio City last August 2, 2019.

Prior to the Provincial House’s visit, the new aspirants dropped by the communities of San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila and St. Ezekiel Moreno-Novitiate-Recoletos in Antipolo City, Rizal. Accompanied by the National Vocation Director, Fray Allan M. Jacinto, OAR, and by Fray Arian Josef M. Ocheda, OAR, VP-Religious Affairs and Local Vocation Promoter of USJ-R, the new seminarians were presented to the Prior Provincial who, in turn, warmly welcomed the aspirants.

The aspirants, after individually introducing themselves to the Prior Provincial were encouraged by the latter to open themselves to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. “You are here because you are called by God. It is now up to you on how you will participate on the call,” said Fray Selma. He also shared with them his experience in the seminary. “Life in the seminary may be difficult. You will be separated from your family. You will encounter new persons. You will learn new language, new culture, and new ideas. You will face crisis and difficulties in your formation. But if you hold on to God who calls you, you will survive,” he added. Fray Selma also shared with the aspirants

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**FRESH HARVEST.**  
Young aspirants to the Augustinian Recollect way of life sharing a photo with the Prior Provincial before reporting to Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary in Baguio City. Soon thereafter, they would be sharing in the life of the friars and fellow formands in the college seminary.





the life of an Augustinian Recollect missionary.

After spending some time with the Prior Provincial, the aspirants were toured around the Provincial House and introduced to the members of the community. Later, they they proceeded to Recoletos Formation Center where they were also welcomed by the Local Prior of RFC, Fray Lauro V. Larlar, OAR. In his

message, Fray Lauro urged the seminarians “to open your heart for God, for dialogue with your formators and co-formands, and for accompaniment.”

The new aspirants are composed of 17 senior high school students, 13 first year college students, and eight transferees and those who belonging to the adult vocation.

\* \* \*

#### SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. Balanhi, Jefferson F. (Baguio City)
2. Bodiongan, Kirvie E. (Luzon Avenue, Quezon City)
3. Cabigon, Nigel T. (Inayawan, Cebu City)
4. Hechanova, Adrian Joseph L. (Subic, Zambales)
5. Igsoc, Dorin James G. (Dugmanon, Hinatuan, Surigao Del Sur)
6. Macalalag, Juan Carlo O. (Luzon Avenue, Quezon City)
7. Manalastas, Jhon Russel B. (Luzon Avenue, Quezon City)
8. Manalo, Christian J. (Laoang, Northern Samar)
9. Ocon, Mark Adrian A. (Luzon Avenue, Quezon City)
10. Palmis, Janrhey S. (Tambo, Ayungon, Negros Oriental)
11. Pedimonte, Jomaricyde P. (Laoang, Northern Samar)
12. Regala, Mj Stuart A. (Luzon Avenue, Quezon City)
13. Sabanal, Jhon Mark D. (Tambo, Ayungon, Negros Oriental)
14. Songahid, Khurt Andrei T. (Bantayan, Cebu) (Grade 12)
15. Sosongco, John Philippe C. (Metro Manila)
16. Taliquig, Mark Evan B. (Hinatuan, Surigao Del Sur)
17. Vailoces, Jay-R B. (Tambo, Ayungon, Negros Oriental)

#### FIRST YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

1. Albina, Rossil L. (Valencia, Negros Oriental)
2. Ampasin, Christian L. (Carmen, Bohol)
3. Ang, Romar B. (Marbel, South Cotabato)
4. Bancal, Ramon V. (Pandan, Antique)
5. Digal, Christopher C. (Carmen, Bohol)
6. Draper, Renz Christian E. (Dapitan City, Dapitan)
7. Fernandez, Rom Francis Dr. (Angeles City, Pampanga)
8. Nadal, Danielle V. (Bais City, Negros Oriental)
9. Palma, Elven M. (San Miguel, Bohol)
10. Purificacion, Dan Allen J. (Rosario, Cavite)
11. Quitaleg, Kenneth P. (Urbiztondo, Pangasinan)
12. Riego, Emilio Iii G. (Kawit, Cavite)
13. Solmayor, Jayson A. (Lamba, Banga, South Cotabato)

#### TRANSFEREE COLLEGE STUDENTS (3)\* / ADULT VOCATIONS (5):

1. Boncolmo, Alex C. (Tiwi, Albay)\*
2. Castañares, Kaiser R. (Carcar, Cebu)
3. Conjurado, Clifford John M. (Pasig City, Metro Manila)
4. Lasponia, Johny P. (La Castellana, Negros Occidental)\*
5. Olimpo, Ameer D. (General Trias City, Cavite)
6. Salolog, Norman S. (Santa Barbara, Iloilo)\*
7. Sarilla, Angeliko B. (Tiwi, Albay)
8. Solas, June Clark D. (Santa Barbara, Iloilo) **RD**

# 38 Neophytes Report to Casiciaco

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**BAGUIO CITY—THIRTY-EIGHT (38) NEOPHYTES ARRIVED AT THE ORDER'S Aspirancy and Postulancy house in this city to formally begin their seminary formation last August 3, 2019.**

National Vocation Director Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR said that of the 38, there are 17 who will be enrolled at the senior high school; 13 will be admitted to the first year college; and eight are members of the Adult Vocation.

All in all, there are now 79 aspirants and postulants residing at the Order's Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary, a decidedly drastic improvement from last year's record of only 64 seminarians.

Fray Anthony Irineo, OAR, seminary vice rector, said the good number of seminarians this formation year is a "blessing, a concrete answer to our prayers for more workers in the Lord's vineyard."

Fray Irineo said the formators are elated upon hearing from Sr. Lucille Encabo, AR that of all the religious Orders and Congregations in the Philippines, the Recollects got the "highest number" of neophytes this year.

Sr. Encabo is the Representative for Religious Women, a national officer in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Directors of Vocations of the Philippines (CBCP-DVP) and has access to statistical data concerning the number of seminarians in different religious Orders and congregations in the country.

Working closely with the local vocation promoters of each Recollect community, Fray Jacinto went all over the country in order to do vocation campaigns immediately after he received his patente in September last year.

Formerly assigned in the Panama missions, he travelled extensively with missionary zeal

even in Mindanao, scouring the Land of Promise for vocations – from Davao to South Cotabato, Hinatuan, Butuan and Dapitan (formerly a Recollect mission site), among many others, an endeavor which yielded three Mindanaoanons in this year's neophytes.

*"Minsan magka-campaign ako sa schools na yung Grade 10 pa lang may 20 sections na. Ubos ang oras, ubos ang boses, Grade 10 pa lang yan sa isang school!"* he said.

**Fray Anthony Irineo, OAR, said the good number of seminarians this formation year is a "blessing."**

(Sometimes I would do vocation campaigns in schools whose Grade 10 alone already has 20 sections. It is time consuming and energy draining and it is just the Grade 10 of a single school!)

But he said he found joy in the task, especially that he was able to meet each family of the prospected applicants and was able to engage the communities in a dialogue, reminding them of their roles in raising and supporting religious and priestly vocations.

Fray Irineo said the blessing of more youths responding to religious vocation is not without its corresponding responsibilities.

"The challenge is now with us formators to nurture and nourish such vocations," he said. "We would not want this blessing from the Lord to go to waste." **RD**



# STV-R welcomes High School Seminarists

By Fray Kenneth Pahamutang, OAR

*SAN CARLOS CITY*—TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE Sto. Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Formation House was not catering high school seminarists. This Formation Year 2019-2020, STV-R has opened again its doors for those who would like to follow Christ in the Recoletos way of life. STV-R Formation House welcomed 13 young and brave men who heeded the call of God of which six are stay-in seminarists and seven are under the Live Out Plan of Formation (LOPF).

## STAY-IN SEMINARIANS:

### Grade 9

- Christian S. Compas (San Carlos City)
- Bon Frances Paul S. Ocag (Kanlaon City)
- Lawrence Jeff L. Pang (Vallehermoso)

### Grade 10

- Jericho F. Guigayoma (Talisay City, Negros Occidental)

### Grade 11

- Brice Stephen B. Leuterio (San Carlos City)
- Ben Cyron Francis L. Yap (San Carlos City)

## SEMINARIANS UNDER THE LOPF PROGRAM:

### Grade 9

- Llukas Antonio B. Grunewald (San Carlos City)
- Justine Dale Acojedo (San Carlos City)
- Railley Sean M. Lee (San Carlos City)

### Grade 11

- Khent A. Bahinting (San Carlos City)
- Reuel Hurlfield O. Zaraga (San Carlos City)
- Christian Jeff L. Pang (Vallehermoso)

### Grade 12

- Roger Belga (San Carlos City)

We pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out more laborers into His vineyard. **RO**

## newsbits

### VIRGEN DE LA SALUD JOINS 40<sup>TH</sup> INTRAMUROS GRAND MARIAN PROCESSION (IGMP)

By Fray James Eroid Gatinao, OAR



Intramuros, MANILA—More than 300 devotees from three Recollect parishes in Manila and other devotees from Parañaque, Quezon Province, and Batangas flocked together in Colegio de Sta. Rosa to participate and to express their support for the miraculous Marian image in the said event.

The procession started at 4:00 PM but the image of the black Virgin of Health, which was designated as the 67<sup>th</sup> Carroza, was able to join the procession at around 7:00 PM. The procession and the praying of the rosary was led by Fray Emilio Quilatan, OAR.

This is the fourth time that Nuestra Señora de la Salud joined the IGMP while it is the first time that the vicaria (replica image) of the Black Virgin was used in the procession.

[ milestone ]

# Fray Bob celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> sacerdotal anniversary

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**BAGUIO CITY**—THE PREFECT OF DISCIPLINE OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL seminarians reached a milestone in his priestly life last August 27, 2019.

Fray Bob Cabanag, OAR was joined by the Recoletos de Baguio community and his family members as he celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> sacerdotal anniversary on the feast of Sta. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine.

“After all these years, I can say that priesthood has been largely what I expected it to be,” Fray Cabanag said in his homily, adding that he expected it to be full of hardships and difficulties as it entails the total giving of the self to the service of God’s flock.

However, he quickly added that there are two things in priesthood that he really did not expect.

“I did not expect that God’s generosity would far exceed what I projected it to be; and I did not expect that my view of the Holy Eucharist would change,” he said.

Reflecting on his journey thus far, he said there are many things that he feared because of his own weakness and limitations. Yet he said he was given ample grace to face such fears as if they never existed.

“For every difficulty, there was joy and satisfaction

in the ministry,” he said.

He said he was looking forward to his ordinations as early as five years old, when he would kneel during consecration and dream of doing one day what the priest was doing in the Mass.

He said the Mass is what the priesthood is all about, and yet it is not about the priest but Christ who himself says the Mass. Everything that he does as a priest, he added, is done by Christ himself who only uses him as instrument.

“Inasmuch as I am a priest, I must be Christ,” Fray Cabanag said. “Inasmuch as we are Christians, we must be Christ,” he added, asking the congregation for prayers as he continues to strive to remain faithful to his vocation as a religious priest in the Augustinian Recollect Order.

Making the occasion more meaningful was the presence of Fray Cabanag’s mother and five siblings who came all the way from Cebu to celebrate with him the gift of priestly vocation. **RD**

## newsbits

### 10 NEWLY INVESTED CARAS FOR OLCP

By Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR

MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY—Ten young men were invested to the Confraternity of Augustinian Recollect Altar Servers (CARAS) at Our Lady of Consolation Parish last March 31, 2019.

Fray Leander Barrot, OAR, Vice-Prior of the Recoletos Formation Center, presided the Eucharistic Celebration and the Rites of Acceptance and Investiture for CARAS.

These young men come from the various Area Chapels within the jurisdiction of OLCP. After going through the necessary formation and scrutiny for CARAS, they were allowed to don their white vestments

and cincture. This momentous event, the rite of investiture, was incorporated immediately after the homily during the 9:00 AM Mass. Led by CARAS-OLCP President, Mark Francis Mamauag, they expressed their commitment as members of the confraternity. “Here I am Lord, ready to serve you,” the striking line uttered by these ten committed youngsters.

Fray Leander presented the newly invested CARAS to the parish community. He also challenged young men to “live out their promises and be good examples.” As they face the congregation, the ten

brave men were warmly applauded and welcomed by the faithful. The event was made even more memorable to them by the presence of their respective parents and family members who witnessed the investiture.

The CARAS de OLCP is looking at the bright side that more young people will join the confraternity and hoping that one day they will also respond to the call to religious and priestly life. At present there are 17 new aspirants coming from the villages, subdivisions and chaplaincies who are undergoing initial formation program.



## RST CONDUCTS A THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM ON "COMMUNION IN CHRIST"

By Fray Renz Callex Soriano, OAR



MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY—Recoletos School of Theology conducted a half-day theological symposium at the Bulwagang Rekoletos Atrium. The said event dwelt on the theme "Communion in Christ." The event commenced with Fray Lauro V. Larlar, OAR, the Rector of RST, setting the tone of the gathering by a brief introduction of what the symposium and a warmly welcome to all participants.

Fray Radni Caparas, OAR, the Dean of RST, was the first speaker. He delivered the talk on "Christological Hermeneutics of Augustine in the writings of Benedict XVI." Fray Caparas focused on Augustine's method in knowing Christ through the thought of Benedict XVI. Prayer leads us to know and to understand Christ more; likewise, prayer and silence are mediums in listening to God's word. "Thus, the primacy of love is paramount in prayer and silence," the Dean said.

Msgr. Sabino Vengo, the second speaker, dealt on the topic "Parish as communion: A Pastoral Imperative." His talk focused on the centrality of the parish as a venue of unity and communion with God. Through the harmonious and united relationship of God's people with one another, a community of listeners of God's word is established. Prayer, then, is not only exclusive to oneself as a member of the Church but is to be done as a community of God's believers.

## Fr. Greg at 73: "It is God's gift to be old!"

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

BAGUIO CITY—SEMINARIAN-FAVORITE FRAY FEDERICO Gregorio, OAR celebrates his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday last September 2, 2019 and imparted nuggets of wisdom about gracefully growing old to the congregation during the 6:15 AM Mass.

Fray Gregorio—fondly called Fr. Greg by seminarians—is the seminary's director of Human Formation Program, the one seminarians talked to about matters of the "heart."

But during his homily, it was he who poured out his heart to the congregation as he reflected on what it means to have God at old age.

"*Papunta pa lamang kayo,*" he told the seminarians, "*ngunit pabalik na ako. Subalit ang tanong: matatanggap mo kaya ako, Lord, kung ako'y babalik na sa Iyo?*"

He said old age means "a slow journey back to You, Lord." Hence, "each step I take is as precious as the thought that I am coming back to You," adding that only those who have no faith in God experience depression or crisis at life's end.

He exhorted the seminarians: "*Wag kayong matakot sa buhay. You have so much to discover. Do your running towards where God prepares you for.*"

Fr. Greg exhibited the joy of having God at old age when he said: "I am no longer as strong or as quick as before. So I just let the Lord carry me through. Indeed, it is a gift to be old, to walk slowly back to the Lord!"

And yet even at old age he still sees himself doing some important role, especially that he is assigned in the Order's house of aspirancy and postulancy.

"*Mas may halaga ang buhay ng matanda kung iukol ito sa pagtulong sa mga bata,*" Fr. Greg said. "*Ito ang pinakmagandang misyon bilang matanda—ang gabayan ang mga bata!*" **RD**



# “Casianic Experience”: A Glimpse of My Diaconal Exposure

By Fray Jorr Rabacal, OAR

*Casian Island, PALAWAN*—“YOU CANNOT REALLY KNOW SOMETHING UNTIL YOU are there.”

These were the words from a Recollect priest who had dedicated long years in the missions. His wisdom tipped my interest to have this eagerness to also go to the mission territories to experience what is yet unknown to me. Providentially, I was assigned in one of our “local missions” in Palawan for my diaconal exposure, and now I confirm the truth behind those words.

It’s been almost five months since I arrived here in Casian Island, and about six months since I was ordained a deacon. I cannot deny the fact that, so far, the sense of adventure and excitement are the factors that really move me to conquer my fears linked to the sea, and to muster courage to face the challenges in my diaconal assignment.

Many things in this island are new to me: the means of transportation going to my apostolate is through a boat (of different types) where its engine has always the open possibility to malfunction anytime during the trip, long stems of plants and branches of the trees that are like hands slapping my face and like shackles on my feet as I climb the hill towards the chapel, the need to consult a calendar with indicators for high and low tides to somehow approximate the feasibility of travel despite the unpredictable condition of the sea, and the ubiquitous consciousness to conserve energy due to daily power interruption (from 12 midnight to four o’clock in the afternoon) — all of these bring me the sense of awe to see the interesting side of life in the island, and all of which inspire me to find deeper meaning in my vocation as religious and cleric.

Moreover, as I visit the island chapels and minister to the people, I can feel their enthusiasm. Understandable, because they cannot, say, go to Mass, as frequent as the people in the mainland do. And seeing a minister approaching them, their longing to hear the Word of God becomes immediately evident in their eyes. I am happy for them because I know

every time a minister visits them, in their hearts they whisper they have another chance to receive God’s grace.

My brief immersion so far in the apostolate like this cannot be compared with those of others who have already spent many years in the mission apostolate. But all that I have witnessed and experienced in these few adventures in the last few months offered me a more profound awareness of God’s goodness. But then a question still lingers in me: Am I as ready as I was for the first time?

**Blessed and joyful.** Two days after my arrival here in Casian last December, Fray Louie Gabinete, the local prior and parish priest, immediately assigned me to Barangay Batas in Batas Island, for the nine-day novena dawn paraliturgy, or equivalent to “Simbang Gabi” if it were dawn Masses prior to Christmas Day.

Batas is the newest island chapel handed over (or added) by the Vicariate of Taytay to the Recoletos. I stayed there for 11 days to carry out my responsibilities dutifully, with the people of the island. Two chapels were assigned to me where I minister the paraliturgy, and other tasks covered by my diaconal ministry. One chapel was nearer to where I stayed while the other was at the other side of the same island. In order to get to this second chapel, I had to ride a pump boat, enjoying the splashes of the waves that would douse us and soak our clothes. After disembarking, we had to traverse the middle of the forest for an hour. It was in the dark, mid-section of the forest and then on the top of the mountain that I could not help myself but marvel at God’s creation. From the summit, I would peek below and feast on the beautiful scenery: the blue-green-colored sea studded by islets, the rock formations that could be as big as a cathedral, and the multi-hued sunset. If luckier, I would be able to have a glimpse of the wild boars and wild chickens (known to the locals as “labuyo”).



These, for me, are a blessing and they have formed part of my joyful experiences here. These could never be forgotten nor be replaced. Looking back when I was in Batas Island for 11 days, and when at times I felt lonely and tired, I could still remember how these incredible sights of nature had their own way of firing me up and keeping me going in serving God's people. I didn't exactly know how to express it, but there was something in them that reminded me of transcendence.

**Fearful but courageous.** I always looked forward to doing my apostolate every weekend. Although my missionary zeal would be heavily challenged just by the thought of encountering the raging waves, I still strove to muster enough courage to go to the island chapels.

Actually, it's not about the location of the apostolate area—whether it is just nearby or there in a remote island; rather, it is the unpredictability of the natural phenomena—the waves of the sea. No one can really guess with prevision how these waves would behave when we are already in the middle of the sea. But, once the bangkeros (boatmen) would warn us that the waves would be too dangerous, our apostolate schedule would be postponed to another day. They would make us understand that anything

could go wrong during the trip with that rough sea condition, and help could be so difficult. Although Christopher Paolini is saying, "Without fear there cannot be courage," there is also such a thing as taking calculated risks. That's the wisdom behind heeding the advice of these sea experts who know their world better. And that is quite a courageous thing to do, too.

Returning from the second chapel which was on the other side of Batas Island, I would retrace the footpath across the middle of the dark forest for an hour and a half to get to the place where we had docked our pump boat. As darkness began to fall, I would remember the stories of the inhabitants here about the supernatural forces that I might possibly encounter. Integral to the rich history of this remote island are interesting stories about encounters with supernatural elements such as "engkanto" and "wkwak". These are only two of those creepy creatures that people warned me about. And in that late afternoon when I was on my way home, what the locals told me before "You I might come across them" became more vivid in my imagination. To intensify the eerie ambiance, there were huge trees — so huge that it would take 10 to 12 people to completely circle around their trunks — whose branches would

overshadow our path, forming a canopy. Later, I learned that I had also passed by a cemetery. Luckily, though, the moon at that time was so bright that somehow it illuminated the path, at least a portion of the whole stretch, that I was treading. Otherwise, in the middle of the forest, the only source of light would just be my flashlight. All the singing that we did while walking was gradually replaced by the hush of the branches touching our skin. Honestly, I wanted to run at that sound because it seemed so strange and terrifying. But then I entertained the idea that this travel in the middle of the forest was similar to my journey towards priesthood. It could be as dark and, at times, as frightening as this, but I must stand firm and be brave, I told myself. And so I just prayed to get out of the forest alive, in the same way that I prayed, and am praying, in quiet surrender and trust in my journey towards priesthood: "It's up to You, Lord."

Yes, all I did, at that time during that long walk, was to pray and surrender everything to the One who is much powerful than all evil forces combined.

**Prayer as refuge during high tide.** With courage and readiness as well as with the love of God to serve, I was given the strength that I needed to go on despite the challenges in living out my religious life and diaconal commitment in this "Waterworld." I realized it wasn't all about the adventures in Casian and Batas Islands and nearby islands; it was also about the amazing grace and blessing of God. I realized that all of those that I experienced and witnessed to were no mere products of chance. They were divinely appointed moments for me. And they, too, were precious opportunities to build a stronger relationship with the Lord Himself by keeping my prayer life ablaze and with that of the community entrusted to me to shepherd. I also re-discovered that those were the renewing source that kept my religious life so attuned to God's guidance and my mission firm: to share Christ with His people. These also made me cling to the mercy and will of God. And for one more

time, I got to re-affirm: prayer life is indeed vital!

While it is not only by the mind but also by the heart that I was able relate effectively with the people here, what is more necessary and fundamental is my faithful relationship with the Lord. This gives effectiveness in my diaconal exposure. Without my relationship with Jesus, I would surely be an islet that can never be a refuge during high tide for anyone lost in the sea.

**New perspective to live by.** For some, it may seem to be difficult to live and work in a remote island such as here in Casian. Yet the happiness and the contentment that I had since the day I arrived here could never be equalled to as when I could have been assigned in another place. I know that God has always been with me in this community

with its unique features and characteristics as an area of local mission. Now, I come to realize that life in the mission is not just about conquering fears, overcoming hardships, taking risks, or challenging oneself; it is also about convincing oneself that he actually has what it takes to live and love the mission itself and to let God do the rest. After all, everything is God's works and all we have to do is to be His good workmate. As to those who asked me whether I am still as ready to live and work the 'Casianic' way as I was the first time I came here, my answer is: No one is ever ready, but I know for sure that I am willing and able! **RD**

**"I realized that all of those that I experienced and witnessed to were no mere products of chance. They were divinely appointed moments for me."**

FRAY JORR RABACAL, OAR

**Note:** Fray Jorr, a native of San Carlos City in Negros Occidental, was ordained deacon on November 17, 2018, together with six others. In mid-December last year, his group were sent to their respective parish assignments for the start of their diaconal practice which is basically described as "one of service in three areas: the Word, the Liturgy, and Charity." As a deacon, Fray Jorr has to take the ministry of the Word which includes proclaiming the Gospel during the Mass, preaching and teaching. His liturgical ministry includes various parts of the Mass proper to the deacon, including being an ordinary minister of Holy Communion and the proper minister of the chalice when Holy Communion is administered under both kinds. His ministry of charity involves service to the poor and the marginalized and working with parishioners to help them become more involved in such ministry. The above account is a glimpse of the life and ministry of an Augustinian Recollect deacon (the author) assigned in the island community of San Isidro Labrador Parish in Casian Island, around two hours by boat from the town of Taytay in mainland Palawan and when seawaters are serene.



# Formands told: “We need missionaries”

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—THE FIRST FULL DAY OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> OAR FORMANDS' Convention at the RFC fell on Pentecost Sunday, and it was nothing short of being appropriate as the Holy Spirit's presence was invoked and was felt in the activities all throughout the day.

After the Morning Prayer held at the Mini-Forest, the Prior of the Province, Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, gave his State of the Province Address to the formands gathered at the AVR.

Fray Selma said the Province needs more religious willing to volunteer to go to the missions as he has been receiving invitations from bishops in the country and abroad for missionaries in their dioceses.

“We need missionaries, we need you and your continued commitment to the Order,” Fray Selma said.

After relaying to the formands “sensitive” information regarding the condition of the Province in various aspects ranging from the number of religious and to its financial status, Fray Selma said the Province “continues to survive” by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

He issued a challenge to the formands to take their formation seriously and so give an authentic witnessing to the youth that “this religious vocation, though never easy, is worth living” too.

## Pentecost and Renewal of Vows

At 11 AM, the Prior Provincial presided over the Holy Mass at the RFC chapel in honor of the Holy Spirit's descent on Mary and the apostles.

Within the Mass, the coristas of the Province renewed their simple vows before the Prior Provincial; the Prior of the House, Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR; and the Master of the Professed, Fray Kenneth Onda, OAR.

In his homily, Fray Selma likened the Holy Spirit to the air necessary for life; to the dove which symbolizes peace; tongue which brings about unity and communion; and fire which emboldens the

timid to preach the Good News of God's love and forgiveness.

“The vows are not irrelevant,” he said. “We who profess them could be likened to spiritual therapists, for the world is sick.”

He further cautioned the coristas to make the vows not out of “external constraints nor internal necessities, but out of love of God and His people.”

## Interiority and Contemplation

After praying the Corona of Our Lady of Consolation after the siesta, Fray Joseph Philip Trayvilla, OAR gave the convention's first talk which centered on interiority and the contemplative character of the Order.

Fray Trayvilla, the Spiritual Director of the college seminarians of the Order, emphasized that “there can be no formation without interiorization”, even as he insisted that interiority is “illuminist and mystical.”

He quoted St. Augustine as saying that before his conversion, he was a “prisoner of the exterior world.”

Interiority, he said, is not a fruit of work or personal development, but of an encounter. Real encounter, he added, can only happen between persons who are rooted in their interior selves.

“The depths of our interior life are always found in the presence of a caring, loving fire; that of the other, the Great Other,” he said.

After the talk, the formands had a chance to share their thoughts in their designated groups. They also bonded over fraternal basketball and volleyball matches during the game period.

The first day ended with the Lucenarium, service of light, held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Parish Pastoral Council Building. **RD**

# Homily of Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR on the Closing Mass of the XII Formands Convention

By Agustinos Recoletos

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—ON THE EVE OF PENTECOST AND AT THE START of this Convention, we asked the Holy Spirit to show where this year's theme—Recollect Accompaniment: Quest for Interiority, Sign of Communion and Bond of Charity—would lead us.

Today, as we conclude this convention and celebrate Independence Day, what message does the Word of God convey? The Readings speak of how the soul, when filled with the Holy Spirit, rejoices in God the Savior and how the heart proclaims the greatness of the Lord. Who is proclaimed is the Son of God who lived, suffered, died and resurrected for us to be able to live as God's beloved.

He is the same Lord who ascended to heaven and in his name the Father sends to us the Holy Spirit. It is he who said: as the Father sent me, so now I send you.

Is not this a fitting way to end the 12th Formands' Convention? We are reminded of and summoned to the mission. What is the mission? The Son of God of course! Christ, the son of Mary and fullness of God's love for his people is the mission. Like the child in the womb of Elizabeth encountered by the Son of God in the womb of Mary is what I prayed for during the convention. In fact, this is what we should have seen and read in the theme.

In the bosom of the Mother Church, in the company of formators and prayed for by Mary and the Saint of the Order, as well as the members and affiliates of the Province, we ought to have realized that the "Quest" we did was in fact a "search for ways" to grow in the love of God and how, in concrete ways, we can bring this love to others. You see, the three talks were but expressions of the same amor that is castus, ordinatus, and diffusivus. This is the same love that unites, accompanies and sustains us...to bring caritas et amor to the people of God.

Remember the song: Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est!

The quest, the search, is always personal and communitarian. Discerning the love and will of

God, to know how to grow in and spread this love, is evangelical and ecclesial endeavor. All this gave sense to the scheduling of talks, prayers, games and other formative activities. Before we go home can we ask ourselves: do we truly rejoice, filled with Spirit like Mary and Elizabeth, and are our hearts ready to proclaim the greatness of the Lord? Do we realize how well accompanied we were and how we ought to accompany the young brothers? Or did we lose ourselves in the multiple activities? Look back and recall some highlights.

On Pentecost Day we heard of the state of the Province and witnessed the renewal of vows of the young confreres. What message did we receive? Where we enlightened by the Spirit to share the vision and mission of the Order and the Province, such that we were inspired to renew commitment to belong to and remain in this religious family? How well do we know the OAR spiritually, her vocation and mission? Are we formed to live in communion and work for God and his people starting from the Augustinian Recollect charismatic identity? Pray that the Spirit show the way. Ask Our Lady of Health and St. John of Sahagun to pray for us! **RD**



# Recollect healing priest: “Jesus does the healing, not me”

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**BAGUIO CITY**—A RECOLLECT PRIEST WHO IS GIFTED WITH THE GRACE OF healing visited the Recoletos de Baguio community and officiated a healing Mass last August 19, 2019.

Fray Nelson Plohimon, OAR, who is currently assigned as parochial vicar of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish-Recoletos in Cebu City, laid his hands on Mass goers after the Mass, some of whom felt they lost for some moments consciousness and balance as they were helped by seminarians to lie on the chapel floor.

*“Hindi po ako nakapagpapagaling,”* Fray Plohimon insisted. *“Ako ay nagdadasal lamang para sa inyong kagalingan, but it is Jesus who does the healing.”*

The healing Mass was celebrated in honor of the feast of St. Ezekiel Moreno, an Augustinian Recollect bishop who once was missionary to the Philippines and who is declared by the Church as patron of cancer patients.

Fray Ralph Laureen Ciceron, OAR, Prefect of Discipline of college seminarians, said that during healing Masses, some people who are properly disposed to receive the grace of God is “slain by the Spirit”. In situations like this, he added, people

lose their sense of space and time and so they unconsciously fall to the ground.

Fray Plohimon, in his homily, said that it was only in 2016 that he discovered that he has the gift of healing. Assigned in Palawan, he was “instrumental” in the healing of two critically ill patients after praying over them — one was suffering from breast cancer while the other was critically treated at the ICU.

“We have the power to conquer the enemy because we are children of God,” he said. “Sickness of body and spirit is the effect of sin. So it is important that we remove anger and hatred in our hearts, forgive those who wronged us, and ask forgiveness from those we have offended so that the healing of the Spirit may enter our lives.”

After the Mass, seminarians visited the sick in Baguio’s four leading hospitals. They prayed for the sick and entertained them with song and dance routines as they assured the sick of God’s loving providence.

The seminarians also brought with them miniature statues of St. Ezekiel Moreno in order to give the patients both a source of hope and inspiration in their time of medical, emotional and spiritual need. **RD**



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*SLAIN BY THE SPIRIT.* Fray Nelson Plohimon, OAR laid his hands on Mass goers, some of whom felt they lost for some moments consciousness and balance as they were helped by seminarians to lie on the chapel floor.

## 36 neophytes find home in foster families

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**BAGUIO CITY**—THIS YEAR'S 36 NEOPHYTES NOW HAVE their home away from home in the context of an apostolate program of the seminary.

This as the neophytes were distributed to 17 foster family members of the Family Apostolate Program during the First General Prayer Meeting last August 25, 2019 at the seminary chapel.

"It feels good to belong to a family who is concerned with my vocation," said Br. Elven M. Palma, a neophyte who will join this year's first year college seminarians.

Fray Ralph Laureen Ciceron, OAR, priest-in-charge of the program, thanked the foster families for their "time and effort in looking after the vocation of these seminarians."

Fray Ciceron, who is also the Prefect of Discipline of the college seminarians, however, reminded the foster families not to put any pressure on the seminarians to really pursue religious or priestly vocation.

"We should not ask the question, 'how many of them will continue?'; ask instead: 'how can we be of help to these seminarians?'" Fray Ciceron said. "Becoming a priest is very difficult. What we can do is help them attain Christian perfection so that whatever journey they will be taking in life is a journey directed towards God."

The Prefect of Discipline also warned the seminarians not to abuse the generosity and charity of their foster families.

For this year, the foster families have grown to 17, up by three from last year's 14. The Pablo and Lacopia families are both returnees from hiatus, while the Tenefrancia family is the newest addition to the program. The three families have seven foster sons among them from this year's neophyte seminarians.

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### newsbits

## NEW LA SALUD MARKS FRAY CABARLES' 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Georgene Quilaton-Tambiga



**SAN CARLOS CITY**—June 29, 2019, On the 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Fray Rafael E. Cabarles, OAR, the new image of Nuestra Señora de La Salud was unveiled.

The three-and-half-foot image is made of tugas or Molave (*Virex parviflora* Juss.). Local wood artisan Jesus Duroca from Sitio Panuolan, Barangay Buluangan sculpted the image that was installed at the Conference Hall of Monte Agudo-Recoletos.

Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, Sto. Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Prior, blessed the image while Fray Rainier Alviola, OAR, campus minister, and Fray Kenneth Pahamutang, OAR were in attendance.

Fray Cabarles, meanwhile, basked in the continuous development of Monte Agudo Recoletos as a premier spiritual and reflection destination in San Carlos City. In time for the students' recollection season, the renovations and improvements at the property will end and it will be re-opened to the public.

On the other hand, Nuestra Señora de La Salud that took two months to finish will soon make her debut appearance at STV-R chapel.



# SEMoNoRe celebrates Feast of St. Ezekiel Moreno: a sharing of healing with Fr. Orbos

By Fray Judd Galinato

ANTIPOLO CITY—ON AUGUST 19, 2019, THE COMMUNITY OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO Novitiate-Recoletos (SEMoNoRe) celebrated the feast day the community's patron saint and the patron of the Province. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist started at 10:00 am, with Rev. Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD, as main celebrant who accepted the opportunity to preside the Mass as a thanksgiving to St. Ezekiel Moreno. He believed that through the intercession of St. Ezekiel he was healed from his cancer.



The homily of Fr. Orbos was very meaningful and inspiring. He shared his healing experience through his devotion to the very saint. Before, Fr. Jerry did not know St. Ezekiel Moreno, until Fr. Ferdinand Hernando, MB, a former Recollect priest who became the founder of the Missionaries of the Beatitudes, handed him an image of St. Ezekiel Moreno. When he was diagnosed with cancer, Fr. Hernando advised him to ask the intercessions of St. Ezekiel because he is the patron of cancer patients. Fr. Orbos did likewise and since then, a miracle happened. He recovered from cancer and according to his story, he “personally experienced his fatherly presence and healing through his statue that constantly shed perspiration and tears during my bout with cancer last year. After my last chemotherapy in November 2018, it no longer shed tears, nor perspired, as if telling me that my cancer is

gone.”

Indeed, St. Ezekiel Moreno is a Real Saint, who stresses the loving, compassion of God. Moreover, he added in his homily, “We must continue to pray more and have faith rather than to worry much on our illnesses and problems.”

A good number of Augustinian Recollect priests, religious and seminarians, religious sisters from different congregations and lay faithful attended the Eucharistic Celebration. It was a very solemn and charismatic celebration. Fr. Jerry extended his gratitude to the OAR Fathers because he was given the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Mass in honor of the saint who interceded for his healing. The celebration of the Holy Mass was followed by a fiesta lunch at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos covered court. Happy Fiesta! St. Ezekiel Moreno, pray for us. **RD**

# Buwan ng Wika celebrated in the spirit of St. Augustine

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**BAGUIO CITY**—LAST AUGUST 28, 2019 WAS A RED-LETTER DAY FOR BOTH formators and formands as Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary observed on the same day the Solemnity of the Order's holy father, St. Augustine, and the Culmination of Buwan ng Wika.

The Order's leading Augustinologist, Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR, officiated the Holy Mass at 6:15 AM. He reminded seminarians and the faithful alike to acquire the spirituality of St. Augustine who never took liberties in defining truths on his own, apart from God.

"Let us remove from ourselves our own convictions as to who we are," Fray Larlar said. "Much of our truth nowadays is a myth, a man-made interpretation of truth."

That is why, he said, gender issues abound, the family and the values it cultivates are destroyed, and human life and dignity are devalued, among others.

"We define our truth according to our desires, and this is not God's truth," he said. That was why, he added, St. Augustine prayed, "Let me know myself, let me know You!"

He said St. Augustine is the sign of the power of

grace when God is present in one's life, and at the same time the sign of misery when God is absent.

## Buwan ng Wika Contests

After the Mass, exciting contests were held in observance of the culmination of the Buwan ng Wika.

The seminarians, grouped according to their fraternities, tried to outfashion each other in designing bulletin boards, outdo each other in cooking native dishes, outlast each other in playing native games, outsmart each other at the quiz bee, outwit each other in the poetic Balagtasan and outshine each other in rendering native songs.

This year's theme was "Wikang Katutubo: Tungo sa Isang Bansang Filipino at Kadiwa si San Agustin." After the contests, everyone prayed the Solemn Vespers at the chapel and later shared a hearty dinner at the refectory. **RO**



# Language prof: “Our indigenous languages are sacred”

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

## BAGUIO CITY—SEMINARIANS AND FORMATORS OF CASICIACO RECOLETOS

Seminary were reminded of the importance of preserving and enriching indigenous languages during a lecture given by a leading language scholar of the Cordilleras.

“Our indigenous languages are sacred,” said Dr. Stephenie Lee Ong-Busbos, who gave a lecture on the indigenous languages in the country as part of the culminating activity of Buwan ng Wika last August 26, 2019 at the mini-theater.

Dr. Busbos, who used to conduct English conferences and modular classes in the seminary, is now the department head of the Professional Education, School of Teacher Education and Liberal Arts of St. Louis University, and a leading researcher on indigenous languages and cultures in the Mountain Province.

She said that of 185 languages spoken by Filipinos, only 28 are used as educational languages for only these have orthography, the system of grammar and spelling indispensable for academic endeavors.

Dr. Busbos also showed graphs depicting the number of Filipino indigenous languages on the brink of extinction, if not already extinct, a phenomenon which is tragically undeniable among scholars and local communities.

“We must help preserve our languages, for we cannot separate language from culture,” she said. “Language is anchored on culture; it is anchored on the heart of the Filipino.”

Aware of the diverse ethnicity of the seminarians, she urged them to constantly use and preserve their native tongues, and to learn other languages as well as part of their apostolic endeavors.

“I urge you, when you become religious and priests, learn the language of the community where you will be assigned,” Dr. Busbos told the seminarians. “Use these native Filipino languages in your apostolates. In this way, you bring God closer to the people.”

Seminarians of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary come from all over the archipelago, especially in places where the Recollects maintain strong missionary presence. For this formation year, there are three seminarians who come all the way from Mindanao, two from the Cordilleras, a good number from Tagalog-speaking Central Luzon while the majority are Visayans.

Fray Anthony Irineo, OAR, dean of studies and senior high school principal, told the assembly that the early Recollect missionaries in the Philippines also did their share of learning and preserving indigenous languages and cultures in the Philippine regions.

Proof of this, he said, were the volumes of regional language dictionaries painstakingly written by the Recollect missionaries, as part of their apostolic endeavors, which are now preserved at the Bulwagang Recolecto in Mira-Nila.

Fray Irineo added that St. Ezekiel Moreno, who was for 15 years a missionary in the Philippines, was also a fluent speaker of the Tagalog language which paved the way to his becoming the official preacher of the Recollects in Manila at that time.

*“Kung seseryusohin natin ang ating bokasyon, kailangan din nating aralin ang salita ng ating kawan,”* he said.

Filipino Recollect missionaries — present in Africa, Taiwan, and Indonesia — learn the languages of their places of assignments in order to better communicate the Gospel to these people.

In the afternoon, seminarians went on a hiking trip to the nearby Tam-Awan Village in Brgy. Pinsao Proper to better understand and appreciate Cordilleran art, architecture and culture. **RD**

# Fray Selma on Solemn Profession: “We are called to be God’s presence wherever we are”

By Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—“SOLEMN PROFESSION IS THE DEFINITIVE profession, perpetual, of our brothers,” Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, articulated during his homily last September 7, 2019 on the occasion of the Solemn Profession of the two Friars at Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

The brothers who solemnly consecrated their lives to God in religious life were Fray Virgilio Calalang Jr. y Cruz, OAR (35) from Balagtas, Bulacan – son of Mr and Mrs. +Virgilio Sr. and +Nelia Calalang – and Fray Cristito Rey Tepace y Pulga, OAR (27) from Laoang, Northern Samar – son of Mr. and Mrs. Reynaldo and Purita Tepace.

Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, officiated the Rites. He said: “We are called to be God’s presence wherever we are.” He explained that this Vocation to Religious Life is primarily a Gift, not given to everybody; secondly, it is Mystery, with the question of “why;” and thirdly, it is a Call that needs proper discernment. He concluded his homily by reminding all to remain in Jesus Christ despite all the odds in life.

Prior to the Solemn Profession of the brothers, they had their seven week Curso de Preparación in Spain together with other OAR friars from other countries who made their Profession of Vows this year. **RD**



## newsbits

### STV-R HOSTS ST. EZEKIEL BOOK LAUNCHING

By Ma. Nita Bolo

SAN CARLOS CITY—Two books on St. Ezekiel Diaz Moreno were launched at the Sto. Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Chapel last September 8, 2019.

Prof. Emmanuel Luis A. Romanillos and Prof. Dennis Madrigal, both co-authors of “St. Ezekiel Moreno: Studies on His Missionary Activity in the Philippines” and “St. Ezekiel Moreno: Recollect Icon of Holiness in the Mission,” graced the occasion.

Prof. Romanillos, who has authored at least 17 books about the Recolects in the Philippines, mentioned the timeliness

of the book launch that coincided with the birthday of Mother Mary. He added that St. Ezekiel was a true Marian.

Prof. Madrigal, during his speech, mentioned a few of the challenges that he and Prof. Romanillos had to go through during the writing, gathering and editing phases of the two books.

Fray Angel Martinez Cuesta and Fray Pablo G. Panedas, OAR were also among the contributing writers of the books.

The book launch was the first of its kind in Recoletos de San Carlos Community.





# Prior Provincial: “Wearer of the habit is a property of God”

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

*BAGUIO CITY*—THE RELIGIOUS HABIT IS A SIGN OF THE TRANSCENDENTAL AND supernatural realities which the wearer gives witness to in this highly secularized world of today.

This was the content of the homily delivered by Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR during this year’s investiture of five formands of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary on the feast of the seminary patroness, Nuestra Señora del Pilar, last October 12, 2019.

“The habit does not make the monk,” he said. “But it is an external reminder of one’s religious consecration to God.”

Fray Selma, the Prior of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno of the Order of Augustinian Recollect, exhorted the investees to act appropriately for the habit now expressly identifies them with God.

“Before the eyes of God and man, behave properly,” he said. “People recognize that the wearer of the habit is a property of God.”

The Prior Provincial warned the investees not to use the habit in boosting their self-worth or in attracting undue attention to themselves. On the contrary, the religious habit should remind them of their identity and give witness to a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience which they desire to live out, he added.

The five newly invested seminarians belong to two batches. Three of them are third year college who comprise the Batch Cherubim. The other two, moreover, are from Batch Altruists who are currently in their second year in college. They are part of the first batch of Senior High School seminarians of

Casiciaco who entered the seminary in 2016.

## Just like producing good wine

Seminary Rector Fray Bernard C. Amparado, OAR thanked the parents of the investees present for their generosity in offering their sons to the service of the Church, an offering that is not without great and many sacrifices on their part.

The rector reminded the parents that there is still long a way to go for the seminarians of Casiciaco and so encouraged them to not waver in their commitment and support to their sons’ formation in the religious and priestly life.

He said formation milestones like the investiture are a “big deal” to the seminarians for they rejuvenate the fire of their vocation which could grow dim because of the many challenges in the seminary and the long years of formation.

Fray Amparado likened seminary formation to the long and tedious process undertaken to produce good wine. The longer the wine undergoes the process, the smoother it becomes, he said.

“Everything that is worth doing well requires time,” Fray Amparado said. “We are forming here not just any priests and religious, but priests and religious with a certain degree of holiness and wisdom as a response to the demands of the Holy Mother Church in this age of the new evangelization.” **RD**



[ milestone ]

# Family Apostolate's Abad couple renews vows after 35 years

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**BAGUIO CITY**—A MEMBER COUPLE OF THE SEMINARY'S FAMILY APOSTOLATE

Program renewed their marriage vows on the occasion of their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the seminary chapel last Sunday, November 10, 2019.

Mr. and Mrs. James and Fanny Abad reiterated their love and commitment for each other before God, family members, and friends during the 3:00 PM Mass officiated by the priest-in-charge of the Family Apostolate, Fray Ralph Laureen S. Ciceron, OAR, at the Nuestra Señora del Pilar chapel.

"There were many challenges in our marriage these past 35 years," said Mrs. Abad, who bore her husband four sons, all grownups now. "But we keep Christ the center of our marriage and our family, and so we are able to make it through."

Proof of their Christ-centeredness was that four other priests concelebrated in the Holy Mass, including two of their foster sons in the Family Apostolate Program: Fray Hector Gonzales, OAR who gave the homily, and Fr. Frederick Galwagao, who presided the renewal of marital vows.

Fr. Galwagao, who is now a diocesan priest serving in the parish of Mayoyao in Ifugao, expressed his gratitude to his foster parents while he was still a seminarian at Casiciaco for "being there always for me."

"I was sent out of Casiciaco. I felt lost. I was lost. But they were there for me, encouraging me to seek my path back to the Lord. And so here I am, sharing in their joys in this milestone moment in their married life, giving testimony that vocation to the priesthood or religious life is very much nurtured and nourished in the healthy environment of a loving, Christian family," Fr. Galwagao said.

The Abad couple first joined Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary's Family Apostolate Program in 2003. They already have at least four foster sons who are now priests in the religious and diocesan ways of life.

Aside from Fray Gonzales and Fr. Galwagao, the other two are Fray Elpedio Sarita, OAR who is now



*35 YEARS AND COUNTING. Abad couple mark their wedding anniversary by renewing the vows they exchanged with each other 35 years ago.*

a missionary in Africa, and Fray Norman Ezequiel Abello who is now a member of the Order of St. Augustine and is currently assigned in Spain.

Rev. Jovy Gallego, OAR, will soon be added to this list as he is due for priestly ordination this coming December 7, 2019.

Established in the year 2000, the Family Apostolate Program is designed to place every seminarian of Casiciaco in a Christian family setting, the "domestic church", and so help the seminarian grow in his social and cultural dimensions, and clarify and enrich his vocation.

This year's Family Apostolate Program has 17 member families which cater to Casiciaco's 74 seminarians from all over the country. **RD**

## Bishop Santos to two newly ordained OAR Deacons: “In your name there is already a sign that you will imitate Christ”

By Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—“THE REASON FOR THIS IS SIMPLY THE IMITATION of Christ. The imitation of Christ that leads to the establishment of the kingdom of God and the offering of the self...When I read your names tamang-tama yung pangalan nila isang Kristo (Cristito) Rey at isang Virgilio Cruz. In your name there is already a sign that you will imitate Christ,” said Most Rev. Bartolome G. Santos, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Iba, Zambales, during the Diaconal Ordination of Fray Virgilio C. Calalang, Jr., OAR, and Fray Cristito Rey P. Tepace, OAR last November 16, 2019.

In his homily, Bishop Santos exhorted that vows, particularly the vows as consecrated—obedience, Poverty and Chastity—are all about the imitation of Christ. He addressed the two friars that they should be signs of God’s Kingdom.

He challenged all to go beyond mere kailangan (need). Bishop Bartolome in his conclusion articulated: “You are an offering. *Salamat po sa mga magulang* (Thank you to the parents for) allowing your sons to be offered...It is an offering of life, a thanksgiving, gratefulness to God who is so merciful and so gracious to us. Consider your life now, wherever you will be assigned, as an offering.”

The night before the Ordination, they solemnly professed their Faith, and they were reminded by Fray Lauro V. Larlar, OAR –Prior of Recoletos Formation Center – that being an ordained minister is not solely about the ministry, but first and foremost a call to holiness.

Few days after the Diaconal Ordination of the friars, their designated assignments were announced to the community: Rev. Tepace is assigned to the Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Pasibi East, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan; while Rev Calalang is to the St. Raphael Parish, Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. **RO**





# AR-OAR formands: Called and formed now, to be sent out later

By Bro. Ioannes Arong

**TAGAYTAY CITY**—CHRIST DID NOT JUST SEND OUT HIS DISCIPLES TO PREACH THE Gospel. Before all else, he gave them proper formation.

This was the content of the impassioned homily delivered by Rev. Benjamine Edobor, OAR to the gathering of formands of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect (AR) Sisters and the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) last Nov. 30, 2019 – feast of St. Andrew the Apostle.

“As disciples, we must allow ourselves to go through formation and be formed, to allow God to take control of our formation,” Rev. Edobor told the congregation gathered at the chapel of the AR Sister’s Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Novitiate house in this city.

The gathering of the AR-OAR formands was designed to foster stronger “fraternal communion” between the two religious groups closely linked in the spirits of St. Augustine and the Recollection.

All levels of formation from both sides were properly represented, excluding the postulants of the AR Sisters who were on vacation at that time.

“We might not understand the importance of formation now, but we will be grateful for it later,” Rev. Edobor said. “First we are called; then in our convents and seminaries we are formed. Later, we will also be sent out to make disciples of all nations.”

A highlight of the convention was the fun-filled activity of making Christmas trees. Distributed randomly among groups, the formands were to make Christmas trees using organic materials like chopped

wood, walis tingting, and leaves and flowers available in the garden.

During the smaller group sharing, the formands were able to process the significance of such values as cooperation, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and service, among others, in seeing to completion any common aspiration, no matter how seemingly insignificant or trivial it is, like making a mere Christmas tree.

Such realizations were then cascaded to the larger community in another sharing, where each group was allowed to introduce and explain the collective effort that went into the making of the Christmas trees.

Overall, the convention was pervaded by a spirit of camaraderie and fun, as much of its activities were centered on fraternal bonding and encounter. This was evident during meal times when the refectory would erupt in loud laughs and endearing banters.

Each community was also given the chance to showcase their talents through socio-cultural presentations which mostly involved religious singing and dancing.

“As religious or aspiring religious, more is expected of us,” Rev. Edobor said. “We do not just preach with our words, but more importantly, with our lives. Hopefully what people would see in us and in our communities is the love of God filling our hearts to overflowing.” **RO**





[ formation ]

# Bishop Gaa ordains seven Augustinian Recollect Priests

By Romel Acebron



*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019, THE BISHOP of Novaliches, Most Rev. Roberto Gaa, DD, officiated the Presbyteral Ordination of seven Augustinian Recollect deacons held at Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

After the long years of seminary formation, seven religious friars of the Order of Augustinian Recollects were solemnly ordained to the priestly ministry. They were as follows: Fray Jorr S. Rabacal, OAR, Fray Monday Benjamine Edobor, OAR, Fray Ifeanyichukwu Maximillian Omem, OAR, Fray Jovy A. Gallego, OAR, Fray Andrie S. Pugate, OAR, Fray Tomakatsu N. Yamaguchi, OAR, and Fray Jessriel L. Marcha, OAR. Fray Edobor and Fray Omem were the first Nigerian Augustinian Recollects ordained as priests in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

The ordaining prelate, Bishop Roberto reminded the ordinandi and the people about the significance of the occasion. “The ordination...is not a magical event that erases all our issues; [ordination] consecrates us before God that sets us solely for the service of God. In fact it is just an acknowledgment of the little things these deacons gone through. Mind you, formation only allows us to handle our issues, but the issues are still there. But we have learned to handle them hopefully,” said Bishop Gaa. The good bishop, during his homily, emphasized to all the endless struggle and demand of following Jesus.

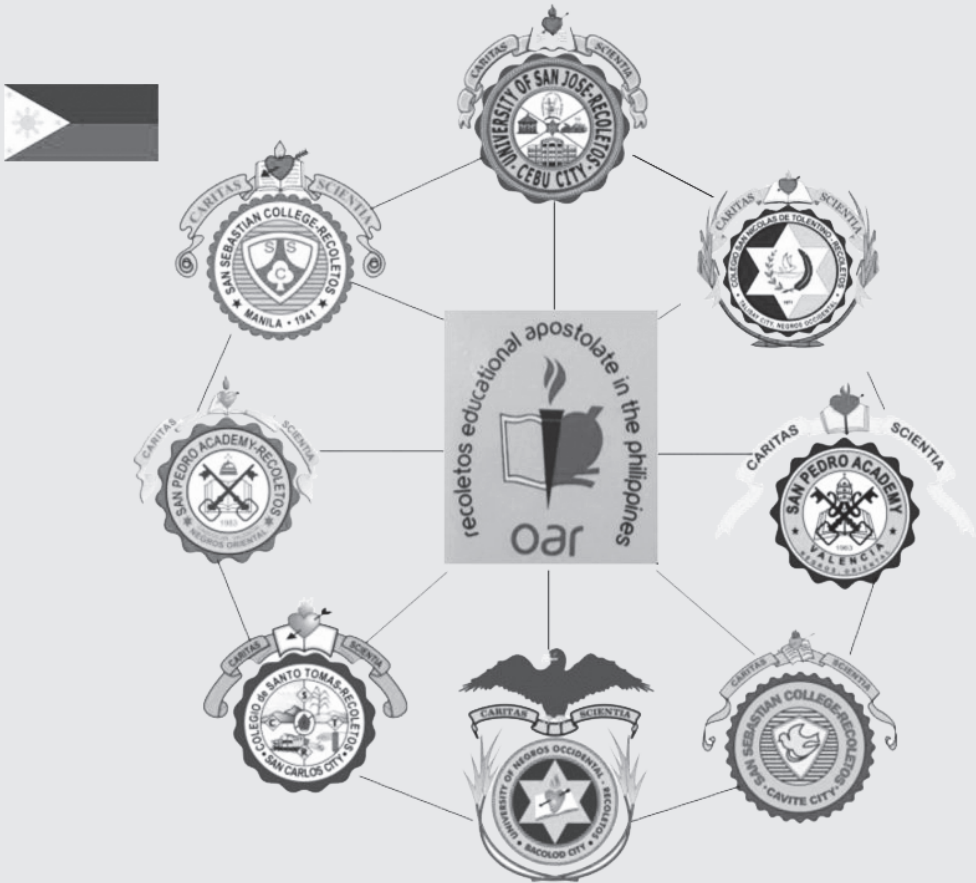
After the ordination, Fray Jovy Gallego, OAR, one of the newly ordained priests, delivered a message of gratitude by extending his heartfelt thanks to God and to all who tirelessly helped them all throughout their

formation years. He also asked for continuous prayers for all of them especially as they venture into their newly designated assignments.

The celebration was well-attended by a good number of guests present that include the parishioners, the parents, relatives and friends of the deacons and including the members of different religious congregations who came. The estimated number of people present were about a thousand which was quite unexpected. Present during the celebration were 48 Augustinian Recollect priests.

Before the final blessings, the Vicar of the Province, Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR read the assignments of the newly ordained priests. Fray Jorr Rabacal, OAR, will live in the community of brothers in Recoletos de Casian, Palawan; Fray Monday Benjamine Edobor, OAR, will stay in Recoletos de Plaridel, Palawan; Fray Maximillian Omem, OAR, will be back to where he spent his diaconal exposure program in Recoletos de Valencia, Negros Oriental; Fray Jovy Gallego, OAR, will be sent to the newly established community of Recoletos de Bengkayang, Indonesia; Fray Andrie Pugate, OAR, and Fray Tomokatsu Yamaguchi, OAR, will be assigned in Recoletos de Kamabai and Recoletos de Kamalo, respectively; and Fray Jessriel Marcha, OAR, will be assigned in Recoletos de Provincialate. **RD**

# On Education



[ education ]

## Visual Identity for Recoletos Education in RP explored

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR

**C**EBU CITY—IN VIEW OF DESIGNING AN OFFICIAL Visual Identity for the Recoletos brand of education in the Philippines, the appointed members of the Committee on Visual Identity gathered at the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R), Balamban Campus on January 28, 2019 for an initial orientation on “Brand, Visual Identity, Logo: Towards Designing the Recoletos Education’s Visual Identity.”



*VISUAL IDENTITY. The participants together with Fray William Emilito Villaflor, Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, Fray Emilio Jaruda, Jr., and Fray Sixto Bitangjol.*

### **Visual Identity...**

(from page 97)

The said Committee chaired by Fray Sixto Bitangjol, OAR was formed in response to the number 41 decision of the Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the Province of St. Ezekiel for the quadrennium 2018-2022 which states: "Design and publicize an official Visual Identity Device (VID) for all Recollect Schools in the Philippines."

Sixteen (16) participants representing all the eight schools under the umbrella of the Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP) were present and oriented by this writer as the resource speaker who preferred to be called a "collaborator," rather than a "consultant," in this Province-wide project.

The morning session was dedicated to the theoretical aspect of the project. The speaker chiefly talked about the background and basis of the Recoletos brand in general; the Recoletos brand of education; the distinction among brand, visual identity, logo, and other related terms; and the

proposed program for brand management.

In talking about the Recoletos brand in general, the speaker reviewed the participants about the "Manual de Identidad" ("Identity Manual") of the Order which was promulgated by the Prior General on February 7, 2017 and is binding throughout the Order.

With the new challenge to be "creators of communion" in the educational apostolate, the need to design a Visual Identity based on the OAR Identity Manual was just logical and relevant. Yet the speaker first toured the participants to a brief history of the REAP (formerly SEAP).

The speaker also differentiated the three terms: brand (the widest in coverage), visual identity, and logo. Then, he gave the various proposed definitions of "brand" and, following ISO 10668 on Brand Valuation's description of brand as an "intangible asset," settled with this working definition of brand as "a distinctive identity that differentiates a relevant, enduring, and credible promise of value associated with a product, service, or organization and indicates the source of that promise." **RO**



# Alumni from two OAR Universities pass 2018 Bar Exam

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

The Supreme Court of the Philippines, after the special en banc session held on May 3, 2019, announced the result of the November 2018 Bar Examination. Out of 8,158 aspiring lawyers who took the exam, only 1,800 examinees, or 22.07% of the total number of examinees, were able to pass, as confirmed by the 2018 Bar Chair SC Associate Justice Mariano C. Del Castillo.

In the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, there are four educational institutions with existing Law Schools. These are University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental; University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City; San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Manila; and San Sebastian School of Law in Surigao City.

Among the 2018 Bar Exam passers, some of the alumni from two Recollect-run Universities with Law Schools in the Philippines got a spot in the list of bar passers.

From the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos School of Law:

1. Patrick Jon K. Bañas
2. Jaime T. Geolingo
3. Juniven Rey S. Umadhay
4. Marcus Aurelian F. Vaflor
5. Pengie Mae A. Vallega
6. Christopher Henry M. Yap

From the University of San Jose-Recoletos School of Law:

1. Lovely Joy A. Avisado
2. Maria Lourdes C. Badayos
3. Meeshel C. Caminero
4. Jonathan Chadwick S. Cañares
5. Luvernie N. Cañete
6. Hans Vincent C. Chua
7. Jonathan L. Clarus
8. Kimberly Jane R. Dy
9. Gerson B. Gamas

10. Clarice R. Guaren-Donaire
11. Jose Manuel C. Longos
12. Michelle Mae L. Mabano
13. Ray Lambert V. Menchavez
14. Kathleen Camille H. Najéal
15. Glace G. Ongcoy
16. Ken Ebbe T. Peña
17. Louthera Christie L. Rizon
18. Katrina Marie C. Surabilla
19. Romeo Cisco A. Tenedora
20. Feovie T. Uy
21. Christian L. Villamente

San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila and San Sebastian School of Law in Surigao City are yet to confirm the official list of bar passers from their respective Schools of Law.

The successful Bar Examination passers will take their Oath on June 13, 2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, and the signing of the Roll of Attorneys will begin the following day, June 14.

Congratulations to our new Attorneys! **RO**





# 17 Lay Collaborators undergo CSFIP

By Carlos Legaspi Jr., Ph.D.



*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—SEVENTEEN LAY MEMBERS OF OAR SCHOOLS IN the Philippines took the Comprehensive Spiritual Formation and Immersion Program for OAR Schools at the Recoletos Formation Center at Mira-nila Homes, Quezon City, from May 14 to 24, 2019.

The 10-day formation program is a response to Decision #32 of the Life and Mission Project of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno which states that, “design and implement a comprehensive spiritual formation and immersion program for all religious and lay administrators, teachers and office staff of all our educational institutions (cf. LAMP, OAR p12).

Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR, Prior of the Recoletos Formation Center talked on “Augustinian Values and Pedagogy” last May 14 - 17, 2019. Fray Hubert Decena, OAR, an Augustinian Recollect Biblical scholar, gave a talk on the “Word of God in Lectio Divina” in the morning of May 18 and the “Lives of the Augustinian Saints” on May 22 and 23. Fray Emilio Quilatan, OAR, Church Historian, discussed the “Augustinian Recollect Charism: Journey through History (Augustinian Movement)” on May 20, 21 and

24, 2019.

In the afternoon of May 18, the participants were accompanied by Fray Feliciano Campomanes, OAR and they visited Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, the Prior Provincial, at the Provincial House in Quezon City and the community of St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos in Antipolo City, Rizal.

The 17 participants to the formation program are:

- Merlyn Cuenca (San Pedro Academy-Recoletos, Caidiocan, Valencia, Neg. Or.)
- Ma. Nita Bolo (Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos, San Carlos City, Neg. Occ.);
- Anna Mae Gajete (Colegio de San Nicolas de Tolentino, Talisay City, Neg. Occ.);
- Corazon Cosico (San Sebastian College-

Recoletos, Canlubang)

- Ninfa Taupo, Ma. Soledad Tubay, Ana Manzano, and Melissa Puti (San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite)
- Joydeleen Revilla and Pae Rotsen Sabayton (University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu)
- Gilbert Plarisan (University of San Jose-Recoletos, Balamban)
- Elmer Haro, Carmenda Leonoras, Annabee Claur, Lino Sumbillo, Harry Magluyan and Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr. (University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod City).

The 17 participants, undergoing the Comprehensive Spiritual Formation and Immersion Program (CSFIP) for OAR Schools in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno went back to the Augustinian Recollect roots with Fray Emilio Quilatan, OAR. He led the participants in tracing the roots of the Augustinian Recollection Movement.

He gave a comprehensive talk on the history of the Order, which he tagged as “Augustinian Recollect Charism: Journey through History.” Fray Emilio gave lectures to the participants last May 20 and 21, 2019 at the Recoletos Formation Center, Recoletos Formation Center.

A tour to the Bulwagan Rekoleta was made to concretize the lectures last May 20. Another tour was organized to visit the Bamboo Organ of Las Piñas, which was designed and constructed by an Augustinian Recollect Priest, Padre Diego Cera. A visit was also made to Intramuros, Manila, where the participants were brought to the Intramuros Museum and the site of the San Nicolas Church, now the office of Manila Bulletin.

The program is spearheaded by the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, Secretariat of Apostolate (Educational Apostolate) in cooperation with the Recoletos Formation Center and the OAR Schools in the Philippines. **RO**



# Journey to St. Augustine: A CSFIP Encounter

By Ma. Nita Bolo

W What a privilege it is to be in a community where spirituality is being nourished and nurtured! But, learning about one's spirituality requires willingness to ask, listen and most importantly, surrender.

I was in a reflective mood when I accepted the challenge to be one of the delegates of the Comprehensive Formation and Immersion Program for OAR Schools (CSFIP) at the Recoletos Formation Center (RFC), Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City last May 14-24, 2019.

The 10-day formation program is a response to Decision #32 of the Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the Order of Augustinian Recollects in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno which requires that it “design and implement a comprehensive spiritual formation and immersion program for all religious and lay administrators, teachers, and office staff of all our educational institutions” (cf. LAMP, OAR p12).

## Being Recoletos

I have been a Recoletos by heart and mind ever since I can remember. What I have come to know about my spirituality helped me to understand my ideal way of life—the Augustinian way of life. The significant part of my Augustinian spiritual journey is identifying my unique God-given purpose. But I also need tools if I want to continue living with purpose; this is one of my significant realizations.

During the 10-day program, I came to



IMAGE OF THE FIRST IMAGE. The artist's inspiration for his work is the first image of St. Augustine.

appreciate more than ever the value of friendship in the community, that as a member of the Recoletos family we must spiritually equip ourselves and embrace the OAR charism.

## Living the Augustinian Values

Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR, prior and rector of the RFC, talked about Augustinian Values and Pedagogy. Stepping into interiority always connects to truth and freedom— if I am an interior person I live in truth, in consistence with who I am and my commitment.

Being an educator and counselor is quite a big task. I guide students, who are mostly teenagers, as they discover themselves. I lead them to the true knowledge of their own selves. I am an instrument of God for the formation of these youth who are truly the future of our society.

My passion is to develop their potential and to encourage their growth and journey until they become like Christ. This lifework maybe exhilarating but it can also be exhausting. In the process of counselling students, it is so easy to share fondness, enthusiasm and joy with them. Yet, I see to it that I also maintain the proper atmosphere in my class making sure that while fraternity and friendship is promoted, discipline is also observed. No matter how warm these scenes appear to be, I also make sure I take a break from the nonstop demands of being both counsellor and teacher. I recharge myself through silence and rest to make sure I do not exhaust my spirit so that I will always have something to



keep on giving to young ones charged to my care.

#### Imbibing the Communitarian Spirit

Along the way we need tools that will lead us closer to our goal thus, values and pedagogy are part of our journey in achieving the goal to become like Christ. These not only take us to a whole new level but also help us to strive for further growth and learning. The more we grow and learn, the more experiences we can share with others. Through this, the cycle of learning through the OAR charism becomes evident. Then, relating with other members of the Recollect community becomes easier than what we imagined.

However, the great challenge is that all communities should be able to live in unity despite the individual differences of its members.

Community was very important to St. Augustine and he believed that personal differences should enrich the members of the community rather than divide it. We may be all different, but we can live in unity, enriching our brothers and sisters with the gifts that we have received from God. It is our goal to complement each other.

Just like the tension of having opposing minds and ideas, choosing one at the expense of the other can be challenging. Once, I had to choose between the brightest idea presented by a colleague and the opposition of a dear friend against that idea. I had to encourage people to work as a team instead of focusing on our differences so that we could understand each view. This way we avoided division in the community. In the end, our values kept us together and prevented issues from breaking our workforce apart.

The climax of our spiritual formation was the Immersion Program. The closest thing that we could practice the communitarian spirit was through the formation life in RFC. That became both a challenge and a grace. We were able to join some of the activities (Holy Mass in the morning, meal times and even recreation time) of the novices. The idea that you have something in common with people you don't even share a common language with became fascinating to me. We found ways to connect despite the barriers. Life at the formation center had been a pleasant surprise and yet I realized that it is truly a blessed life.

#### The Legacy of Agustinos Recoletos

Being now spiritually awakened, I gained insight


on the importance of knowing about the Augustinian Movement. Fray Emil Quilatan, OAR talked about the history of the presence of the Recoletos in the Philippines and the influence of the Augustinians to the spirituality of every Filipino. Truly, it is commendable how the Agustinos Recoletos helped to evangelize people across the archipelago—from building churches to fulfilling apostolic works, to establishing schools for the education and formation of the Filipino youth.

The historical Bamboo Organ Church in Las Piñas houses the world-famous Bamboo Organ that a Recollect priest, Fray Diego Cera, invented. This became a national heritage and the famous Recolecto-established Intramuros Museum in Manila is now one of the most sought-after historical landmark.

Each spiritual journey is unique but emulating the journey of enlightened saints could be uplifting. Fray Huberto Decena, OAR talked about Scriptures and the Augustinian Saints. Knowing the biographies of the Augustinian saints and canonical candidates has helped me to embark in my spiritual journey. It may not be important for others to know the Augustinian Saints, but this makes my journey unique because it deepens my understanding about how we can contribute in the revitalization of the Augustinian charismatic identity through the lives of these saints.

#### United by One Charism

Being one of the seventeen lay delegates of the said spiritual formation has opened my eyes in many ways. Knowing that each one of us is living entirely different lives is in itself beyond amazing. We all come from different backgrounds and yet we were all grateful for the opportunity to study and internalize our being part of this one big Recollect family. We now embark on a journey that is aligned with our own beliefs and faith. We are transforming into a community of purpose-driven people who are living the OAR charism.

Being part of this event made me appreciate even more than before the importance of our Recollect community and how this community helps me to live out my God-given purpose as member of the Recolecto family. Inspiring others, sharing from the heart, inspiring the self and the people around—these are among the beautiful aspects of the Augustinian way of life! 



# REAP caps four-day Parallel Textbook Orientation to Teachers in Recollect Schools Nationwide

By Agustinos Recoletos

**CEBU CITY**—THE RECOLETOS EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE OF THE PHILIPPINES (REAP) conducted a textbook orientation for teachers of OAR schools from May 27-30, 2019. The academic activity that started Monday was held in the modern and spacious Our Lady of La Salud building in Basak Campus of the University of San Jose-Recoletos.

In attendance were textbook writers whose ideas are contained in the references distributed in all Recollect schools, colleges and universities nationwide. As of this writing, close to 50 authors from top universities in the country got to meet their audience of over a hundred teachers from elementary, junior high, senior high school and collegiate levels who have had actual experience of using the book in their classroom. Albert Badion, an author of textbooks on Christian Life Formation and REED disclosed to REAP that the gathering was an opportunity for more conversation or dialog for both authors and teachers who were using his book in their CLF classes to understand why such concepts or field cases as well as theories have been considered in the structure of the book. "I do understand where their apprehensions and concerns are coming from but somehow, it was addressed in the session that I had with them," Badion added.

For his part, San Luis Gomez, considered the textbook orientation and workshop as important opportunity to share and explain concepts and theoretical underpinnings of the book as well as understand the context of the teachers and students using the book. He also emphasized that the commitment to write and to just keep on writing regardless of how good or bad the output may be is one quality that the aspiring writer should have in regular manner. Both Badion and Gomez are part of the faculty of the Ateneo de Manila (ADMU) University's Department of Theology.

"Writers should have the sincere desire to help teachers and students or readers to understand some complex concepts without the feeling of challenging their intellect and clarity of language are some of the important qualities writers should have to be able to write," Mark Joseph Calano shared. A faculty of ADMU's Department of Philosophy, Calano has authored eight books in his field and has accumulated enough experience as a teacher in the higher education institution. He added that his advantage over other

authors is that because Senior High School is new, there has been not many materials nor references that exist in the country so he has yet the leverage.

Among the attendees are Recollect priests, Fray Paul Demillones, OAR, Fray Maximillian Omem, OAR and Fray Kenneth Pahamutang, OAR who diligently attended the sessions. Omem considered the textbook orientation workshop to be "mentally refreshing" while Pahamutang candidly disclosed that he was at first having some issues with the book but then after attending the session, he has gained the understanding that the book (on CLF or REED) is more of deepening the understanding of concepts and not just dependent on memorization.

The dialogic interaction between authors and teachers was initiated by the REAP in order to actualize the objective of strengthening the communication between the two parties. Moreover, it also aimed to provide uniform learning experiences for all students of Recollect schools in the country and thereby realizing the brand of education that the Order of Augustinian Recollects generate.

The Recollect Educational Apostolate of the Philippines has Fray William Villafior, OAR as its president who has the support of the Order of Augustinian Recollect led by Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial. This year, the Cebu-based Recollect-run school, University of San Jose-Recoletos under the helm of its president, Fray Cristopher C. Maspara, OAR provided the venue and other facilities and vehicles with personnel and faculty support. From its initial success, REAP expected to provide even more opportunities next year and beyond.

Historically, the OAR community is one of the first religious missionaries that settled in the country that has not only built colossal churches and convents that have attracted tourists in both local and international markets. **RO**

# Recoletos takes over family-owned school in Alfonso

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY—“OK LANG PO, FOR SO LONG AS IT IS RECOLETOS.”*

Those were the words of Mrs. Adelaida R. Leyran, matriarch of the family that owned the 73-year old Sacred Heart School of Cavite (SHSC) in Alfonso, Cavite, during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement at the Provincialate Office on July 11, 2019. She was expressing her gratitude to the Recoletos for having accepted the offer to own and administer the school.

Mrs. Leyran was the Second Party in the MOA made and entered by and between her and Fray Dionisio Selma, Prior Provincial and Board of Trustees Chairman of the San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite, as the First Party.

Founded in 1946 and located around 20 km from Tagaytay City (or around 50 km from Cavite City), the SHSC was originally named Cavite Highland Institute. Later it was changed to Sacred Heart School, then to Sacred Heart School of Cavite. And just like other institutions, the school also experienced a lot of highs and lows.

In one of those crucial moments of the school's history, the late Mr. Jaime Leyran, the patriarch, had intimated to his family that, in case of further difficulty in the school administration, the property should be given to a religious group that would be committed to continue its vision-mission.

Being an alumna of the High School Department of San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Manila, Mr. Leyran had recommended that it first be offered to the Recoletos Fathers.

During the MOA signing, Mrs. Leyran said with a sad note: “The school has been my home for more than 50 years. It's been my life.”

The Prior Provincial assured her: “Anyway, Ma'am, you will be with us as a family. Kasi ang karisma po namin is family.”

In accordance with the MOA, the name of the school shall not completely be changed within the four-year period from the signing of the MOA. But according to Fray Rafael Pecson, SSC-R de Cavite President, adding “Recoletos” to the school's current name is permitted.

With the opening of the new School Year 2019-2020, the SHSC-Recoletos which is a stand-alone Basic Education institution has just seen an increase in its enrolment.

Handled “in solidum” by the Recoletos de Cavite community, the school is currently administered by the following appointed religious: Fray Pecson as the School Director, Fray Dexter Palagtiosa as Campus Minister, and Fray Raymund Alcedo as the School Treasurer. **RO**



# SHSC Alfonso now a Recoletos Institution

By SSC-RdC Correspondent

*Alfonso, CAVITE*—IN A FORMAL TURN-OVER program attended by representatives from the Order of Augustinian Recollects, local government officials, administrators, students, faculty, and guests, Sacred Heart School in Alfonso, Cavite officially affixed “Recoletos” to its name, joining the Augustinian Recollect family of schools, August 8.

Not even the occasional downpour could dampen the mood in the SHSC-R covered court, venue of the turn-over program, which commenced with a Eucharistic Celebration officiated by Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial.

In his homily, Fray Selma gave an overview of the Province of Saint Ezekiel Moreno, which he described as a “family having a mission in different countries and parts of the Philippines.”

He asked the attendees to reflect on the things that enabled Saint Ezekiel Moreno to survive his missions; namely, prayer, the Mass, and Marian spirituality.

Fray Selma’s sharing also focused on the concept of the “heart,” a reference to the Sacred Heart after which the school is named. He said that Saint Ezekiel Moreno, as early as childhood, was a devotee of the Sacred Heart.

Moreover, Fray Selma called the heart the venue of all our thoughts and actions. He challenged those present to always have the heart of Jesus. “The heart of Jesus embraces everybody, not condemning, not discriminating,” he said.

He also explained the mission of education. He said that intellectual knowledge is “scaffolding

toward eternal happiness, which is God.” He said that education should not always be in the classroom, but something to be applied.

Fray Selma added that knowledge should be coupled with values. “Not just with words, but with actions, he said. “What we need are witnessing teachers, administrators, leaders.”

Present at the Mass were Ms. Irene Bencito, Executive Assistant to Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla, as well as Hon. Madonna Mojica-Pel, Vice Mayor of Alfonso, Cavite.

After the Mass, Fray Selma proceeded to the gate of the school for the ribbon cutting. He was accompanied by Fray William Emilito C. Villaflor, OAR, Second Councilor, and Fray Edgar P. Tubio, OAR, Fourth Councilor.

>  
*RAINY SPECIAL DAY.  
Fray Dionisio Selma,  
OAR inaugurates the  
formal turn-over of the  
Sacred Heart School  
of Cavite despite the  
downpour.*





This was followed by the unveiling of the marker by Fray Selma and Fray Villaflor.

The Recollect Fathers then blessed the rooms and facilities of the Sacred Heart School.

After the blessing, the turn-over program started.

“As I always say, this has been my home, the school has been my life, my home, my life for more than 50 years,” Mrs. Aida Leyran said, visibly emotional, in her turn-over message.

She thanked various people. In particular, she thanked the Augustinian Recollects and SSC-R de Cavite School President Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR. She said she felt Fray Pecson had already become her best friend in such a short time. She also thanked her family, extended family, and her husband the late Jaime Leyran. Finally, she thanked her Sacred Heart

School Family.

Mrs. Leyran wrapped up her speech, saying “It’s not the money and power that matter; it’s the love in your heart that brings your assignment to conclusion. Softly I will leave you, softly I will walk away, but surely I will miss you all.”

Fray Selma accepted the documents in the turn-over. He thanked Mrs. Leyran for her trust and confidence in the whole Recolecto family. “Rest assured that the sacrifices that the family invested in this institution will not return in vain,” he told her.

“This is not the end, but rather a beginning according to God’s plan,” Fray Selma added. “Our brothers are extending their congratulations and prayers.”

Fray William Emilito C. Villaflor, OAR also gave





*UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION. Mrs. Adelaida Leyran (second from left) is flanked by the new religious administrators of the now Recollect school SHSC (Fray William Emelito Villaflor, OAR, Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, and Fray Rafael Pecson, OAR)*

an acceptance speech as President of the Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines. He said that REAP accepts the added mission bestowed on it. He also said that they would gradually introduce and “blend the ideas of this school with the Recoletos educational philosophy.”

“We will work without ceasing to live up to these ideals,” Fray Villaflor said. At this point, he declared that Sacred Heart School was now subject to REAP policies and entitled to its stipulated privileges.

Fray Rommel L. Rubia, OAR, SSC-R de Cavite Vice President for Administration, then presented the Sacred Heart School of Cavite-Recoletos Religious Administrators. These include SSC-RdC School President Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR as Sacred Heart School’s new School Director, SSC-RdC Vice President for Finance Fray Raymund G. Alcedo, OAR as SHSC-R School Treasurer, and SSC-RdC Vice President for Formation, Mission, and Identity Fray Joseph Dexter D. Palagtiosa, OAR as SHSC-R Campus Minister.

Also mentioned in the introduction were other SSC-R de Cavite Religious Administrators. Namely, Fray James T. Bumangabang, OAR, Vice President for Academics, Research, and Innovation; Fray Samuel L. Eyas, OAR, Director of Basic Education; Fray Antonio

C. Zabala, Jr., OAR, Director, Safety and Security and Main Campus Minister; and Fray Vincent S. Cadeliña, OAR, Director, Facilities Management and General Administrative Services and Cañacao Campus Minister.

After this, a SHSC-R student and faculty member represented their peers in pledging their support.

Fray Selma then encouraged students who may feel moved by the Holy Spirit to consider a vocation as priests or nuns.

Fray Rubia gave the Closing Remarks. He said that just like Saint Pope John Paul II, he believes nothing happens by chance. Of the turn-over, he said, “I believe it was God’s plan.”

“Thank you, Ma’am Aida for entrusting Sacred Heart School to us,” Fray Rubia said. “Your legacy, Ma’am, will always be cherished and remembered.”

He ended his speech by telling the SHSC-R audience, “This is our assurance and promise. We will take care of you.” A lunch break preceded basketball games, first between the OAR Fathers and Brothers and SHSC-R Community members (the former won, 90-67), then between the SSC-RdC JHS Baycats and SHSC-R SHS (the latter won, 66-62). **RD**

# REAP LAMP 38 Meeting of Schools' Point Persons

By UNO-R Correspondent

*BACOLOD CITY*—IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL OF RECOLLECT EDUCATIONAL Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP) Life and Mission Project 38 Committee, which is tasked to publicize the social commitments of the Order, establish volunteer groups, encourage solidarity initiatives and increase ecological awareness. (cf. LAMP OAR, D.13), Recoletos school's point persons for Outreach and Community Development was held at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos last August 13, 2019.

15 representatives from different schools participated in the said meeting, with the Directors and Officers-in-charge reporting their respective schools Outreach Program and the initiatives that they introduced to the community in line with volunteerism, ecological awareness and solidarity activities.

The chairman of the Committee, Fray Anthony A. Morillo, OAR, welcomed the participants while Fray William Emilito C. Villaflor, OAR, REAP President, gave an orientation on the role of the committee and that of ARCORES to set the pace prior to the reporting of the different schools' representatives. In conclusion, the committee chair presented the recommendations and challenged everyone to come up with a Commitment Pledge which will summarize all that has been discussed. Fray Vicente Ramon, OAR, member of the committee, thanked all the participants for their active contribution to the meeting in his closing remarks.

The participants are the following: Mary Grace Depalubos (SSC-R Manila), Salvador Quitos (SSCR-

Canlubang) Fray Rouel Sia, OAR (USJ-R), Maryleh Concepcion (USJ-R Balamban), Renante Parallon (SPA,Valencia), June Siano (SPA-R, Caidiocan), Fray Vicente Ramon, OAR and Ma. Nita Bolo (CST-R), Eurylyn Celestial, Francis Stephen Javier, Jehda Hulampong, Anna Mae Gajete and Fray Anthony Morillo, OAR (CSNT-R), Maribel Gonzales and Ma. Joy Dela Cruz (UNO-R). **RD**



# Rio de Janeiro hosts 5<sup>th</sup> EDUCAR

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL*—THE 5<sup>TH</sup> EDUCAR ASSEMBLY THAT TOOK PLACE FROM November 18 to 22 in Rio de Janeiro brought together more than 80 Augustinian Recollect school administrators and faculty members from different parts of the Recoletos world. Fray Rafael Pecson, OAR, President of the San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite represented not only the Philippines but also the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

EDUCAR is an international educational network of the Augustinian Recollect Family present in more than a hundred educational centers worldwide. This year's five-day meeting analyzed, reflected, and proposed new paths and projects to come up with an Augustinian Recollect educational model.

The 80 delegates who had registered and attended were the most numerous of those assemblies convened so far. And these delegates were not only the ones connected with the Order of Augustinian Recollects; others represented the centers run by the Augustinian Recollect Missionaries, the Augustinian Recollects Sisters, and the Augustinian Recollects of the Heart of Jesus. Other schools, universities and learning homes committed to work together in a network.

The meeting featured different talks and presentations, as well as working groups that delved into various issues raised during the entire duration of this fifth edition of the EDUCAR assembly. Topics such as innovation in Augustinian pedagogy, the protection of children in the schools, good practices or the training of teachers, among others, were some of the issues discussed in the different work sessions. In addition, the winning projects of the 1<sup>st</sup> EDUCAR Pedagogical Contest were also presented. More than 60 projects were submitted and classified in different categories: preschool, primary, secondary, baccalaureate, university, and pastoral, sports, or educational projects.

In the said assembly, the educational institutions of Spain, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and the Philippines were represented. A series of conclusions and general commitments were drawn, which were hoped to help the development and advancement of the educational model of the Augustinian Recollect

family in the world.

## From regional to global

The I EDUCAR Meeting began as a regional assembly among several Augustinian Recollect schools in Guatemala, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Costa Rica. It was held in October 2014 at the Colegio Fray Luis de León de Querétaro (Mexico), taking advantage of the visit of the Prior General, Miguel Miró, and the Secretary General. Eleven administrators and teachers from different educational centers attended to share the context and challenges of education in each of their environments.

The satisfaction of the participants at the first meeting led to the second, a day of Augustinian Recollect Spirituality for school administrators and faculty in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The II EDUCAR Meeting was framed within the International Year of Education (2015-2016) of the Order of Augustinian Recollects.

The III EDUCAR Meeting, held in 2016, continued to involve more schools in Central and South America. The keys were the need for a pastoral plan for young people to make sense of their life and the search for a definition of “escuela en pastoral” (loosely translated in English as “pastoral ministry in the school”).

The IV EDUCAR Meeting, held in Bogotá, Colombia in 2017, worked on these same lines. In addition to presenting the EDUCAR International Educational Network, it faced different challenges: strengthening the Augustinian Recollect charism and the collaborative culture; finding support strategies for young people; promoting the Augustinian Recollect educational centers as evangelization platforms and analyzing the Educational Project of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. **RD**

[ education ]

## Lady Jaguars sweeps way to claim 2019 CESAFI volleyball crown

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

**"I'd rather call it Most Valuable Team kaysa sa MVP (player) because we all shared the same level of effort to win this season."**

DANIELLA ALFECHÉ  
(2019 CESAFI MVP)

CEBU CITY—THE LADY JAGUARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) swept their way to the top of the 2019 CESAFI women's volleyball competition, winning all matches against six other colleges and universities.

With a record of 11-0, USJ-R flawlessly defeated the teams from the other schools namely the University of the Southern Philippines-Foundation, University of San Carlos, University of Cebu, Southwestern University, Cebu Doctors University, and Cebu Institute of Technology University. It was in 2010 when USJ-R last reigned as the volleyball champion.

Among their opponents, Middle Blocker Daniella Alfeche said that facing the SWU Cobras was the toughest. The said team is their opponent at the championship match held on November 23.

*"Aside sa sila amo na kontra sa championship, complete sila sa players. They have a good setter, powerful spikers, tower blockers, and defensive liberos,"* she explained.

Alfeche of USJ-R was also crowned as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the 2019 CESAFI season.

*"Actually, mas happy ko sa pagka-champion namo. Bonus naman po ang MVP title and I'd rather call it Most Valuable Team kaysa sa MVP (player) because we all shared the same level of effort to win this season,"* she said.

Last year, USJ-R made it into the championship game but lost the 2018 crown to the USC warriors.

*"New system, new coaching staff, new players. I think everything naa sa team is new and that's what makes it different this year,"* Alfeche added.

The members of this year's team are Trisha Ibarra, Maybelle Cabaron, Jidelle Sabellano, Cherry Sumayang, Pamela Sumayang, Yvett Bejec, Andrea Obrero, Sheena Gajilis, Diana Jamandron, Almarie Pacinio, Debbie Fausto, May Francisco, and Jessa Tiongzon. Their team coach is Michael Simbajon. **RD**



# “Most Dedicated Teacher Award” of Cambridge University Press goes to a Recoletos educator

By Dave Brian Nacario

FOR THE FIRST TIME, a Filipino educator was recognized as one of the most dedicated teachers in the world by the Cambridge University Press.

Jimrey Buntas Dapin ranked third out of 4,000 nominations from around the world for the said award. He was a former junior high school teacher at the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R).

“I consider this achievement as a reward of the things I have done as a young educator. I feel honored and humbled as the first Filipino educator recognized as one of the World’s Most Dedicated Teachers knowing that I still have few experiences to share to be called such. So, this gives me a realization that service knows no age, it’s all about heartfelt, passionate, and dedicated service in everything that we do,” he told USJ-R.

He was nominated in October 2018 by his Josenian student Airi Nakazawa, whom he coached for an inter-school quiz bowl.

Fast-forward, he was shortlisted by educational experts of Cambridge University to be part of the top 50 nominees. Then, Dapin was chosen as one of the Top six finalists though online voting. After a week has passed, it was announced that Dapin ranked third after garnering 3,880 votes.



Mr. Jimrey Buntas Dapin

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIMREY DAPIN (FACEBOOK.COM)

“It was in USJ-R that I really discovered my full capacity and potential because of the strong admin support and state-of-the-art facilities. I became an adviser of Grade 10 St. Nicholas and Grade 10 St. Ezekiel on AY: 2016-2017 and AY: 2017-2018, respectively. Handling all those boys’ section, gave me a lot of memorable and unforgettable experience,” he recalled.

Dapin’s teaching methods and ideas were described as “out of the box” which enabled his students to have a whole new experience when it comes to learning their lessons. Dapin introduced different applications for the student to have a fun way learning and interacting such as Skype, Kahoot, Hour of code, Flipgrid and Aralinks.

“We’d anticipate every session as gives us the opportunity to experience their culture, and in turn, share our own. His class was always a breath of fresh air. He sparked the imaginations of his students, and touched the lives of many. He was a visionary, an innovator, and a believer. On behalf of his former students, I would also like for him know that we are blessed to have been given the chance to experience 10<sup>th</sup> grade social studies in the most impactful way, and we are sincerely proud of him,” Nakazawa shared.

At present, Dapin now works as an educational technology specialist at a publishing house in his hometown in Cagayan de Oro. **RD**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Recoletos International Research Congress garners 200 entries from across the globe

By Raine Olila

ON ITS THIRD RUN, THE REACH OF THE RECOLETOS RESEARCH CONGRESS (RRC) has extended farther compared when it first started in 2017.

Two-hundred entries were received this year. There were also researchers from 78 schools in India, USA, Vietnam, Taiwan, Singapore, and Philippines who took part in the said intellectual gathering. A total of 171 participants gathered.

University President Fray Cristopher Maspara, OAR mentioned in his welcome address that the first Recoletos Research Congress was the response of the Center for Policy, Research, and Development Studies (CPDRS) to the administration's call for a research congress that embodies the unique Tatak Rekoletto. He added that the RRC has become an annual event that grew more encompassing since its launch.

The first run was participated by Josenians researchers only. On its second year, the convention was dubbed "Recoletos National Research Congress" which saw researchers from all over the Philippines take part in the discussions. Now on its third installment, the congress further extended its reach internationally.

The three-day Recoletos International Research Congress was held on March 4 to 6. Its theme was "Multidisciplinary Research Towards Sustainable Development." This was aimed to put emphasis on the significance of synergy in research to attain sustainability.

According to Fray Maspara, it ensures a more global coverage of the different research areas and a wider dissemination of scholarly works.

"I believe this congress can be an important avenue to share interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives that have societal and global impact," he added.

He also encouraged the globally diverse

attendees to engage in intellectual discourses about the importance of research and scientific inquiry in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

For this year, the congress catered both professional and student researches. It has 15 categories such as Creativity and Recreation, Gender and Generation, Law and Justice, Well-being and Health, and Enquiry and Learning to name a few.



*POOL OF INTELLECTUALS. Participants (researchers) listen to keynote speakers at the Recoletos Coliseum.*

The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Napoleon Juanillo, the advisor of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He talked about shaping the intellectual capital of universities amidst the Industry 4.0. He further underlined the significance of intangible assets such as workers' knowledge, patents, copyrights, brands, and experiences to a company or an institution.

"Intellectual Capital is the currency of the new millennium, the key to success in the era of knowledge, and a cornerstone to the dynamic process of knowledge production, translation, value creation, and innovation," he said.

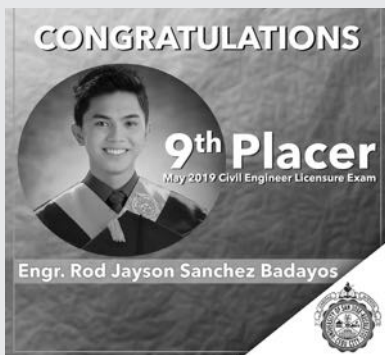
Juanillo also reiterated the importance of innovation in relation to a company's growth or an enterprise's competitive ability. Innovation, he said, is the mechanism behind competitive intelligence and competitive advantage.

Dr. Isagani Padolina, Director of Research and Development, and Quality Assurance and Business Development of Pascual Pharma Corporation, was the opening ceremony's plenary speaker. His topic was about Translational Research and Industry Linkage. He reiterated the need for a change in attitude,

## newsbits

### JOSENIAN TOPS 2019 ENGINEERING BOARD EXAM

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR



University of San Jose–Recoletos proudly congratulates Rod Jayson Badayos. With a rating of 92.30%, Engr. Badayos ranked 9<sup>th</sup> place in the recently concluded May 2019 Civil Engineer Licensure Examination.

Congratulations! Adelante!

\* \* \*

### USJ-R SEARCH FOR MATHEMATICIAN OF THE YEAR 2019

By USJ-R Correspondent

184 Senior High School students have tried, 16 of them remained, and only one came out as victor of the game. Nick Tyrone Mangaoang of 12- St. Joseph from the Basak Campus takes the throne with 36 points, as the search for the USJ-R SHS Mathematician of the Year finally come to an end. Sealing her ace at 2<sup>nd</sup> place is Niña Marie Colita of 12- St. Maria Goretti from the Main Campus, while Van Kristian Cuadra of 11- Bl. Vincent Soler from the Basak Campus takes the price for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place. It was a game well-played by all 16 of our very own Math wizards, and their victory is an honor well-deserved in the spirit of MATHevation.

Congratulations, winners! Kudos to all the participants!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Recoletos International...

(from page 125)

approach and culture to obtain the status of a research-based university and a knowledge-based nation.

“Whatever we are doing right now – the status quo, is not enough,” he remarked.

Padolina said iteration between the problem and the solution is hazed in Industry 4.0. This resulted to the need to go faster from problem solving to arriving at a solution in order to ensure success.

His talked was followed with a prerecorded video message from Fray Antonio Carron, OAR, General Secretariat for Education of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. He was not able to attend the congress due to prior commitments. He encouraged the participants to educate through the OAR way which is by means of education both mind and heart.

After the opening ceremonies and a quick lunch, the break out sessions took place at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of the La Salud Building. Research papers were presented followed by an open forum wherein the presenters answered queries from the audience facilitating a fruitful intellectual encounter.

One participant garnered the attention of other delegates due to his young age.

He was Dashell Sean R. Villanueva a Grade 6 student from Marian High in Kalibo, Aklan. He awed the audience with how he successfully presented his study entitled “Growth Promoting Property of Cucurbita maxima agar; A Media for Lactobacillus casei” with seemingly relative ease. Villanueva received the Special Commendation for Exemplary Presentation. He serves as an inspiration to all other young researchers to start early in the field of research.

Dr. Darryl Raymund Johnson Macer, President of the American University of Sovereign Nations, gave his plenary talk to the participants on the third and last day of the event. He discussed about the true meaning of research and its impacts on the progress of society. He also elaborated on how to play the publication game nowadays.

On the other hand, Taraji Belgacim talked about how to maintain the relevance of research for a more global future. Belgacim is the Lead English Instructor of Seattle College in Washington and a visiting professor. She expounded on how taking risks helps keep researches pertinent to the world.

To keep the participants enthralled during both the opening and closing ceremonies, the Adelante Dramatics and Cultural Ensemble (ADRAC) entertained them with their fascinating performances that showcased Filipino culture.

Some participants also joined the city tour prepared by the organizers after the closing ceremony. The tour let them see the rich culture and history of the Queen City of the South.

After the awarding of winners, the organizers announced the call for papers for the 4<sup>th</sup> Recoletos International Research Congress in 2020.

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[ education ]

# Greenpeace calls on USJ-R to increase demand to stop single-use plastic

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

TO INCREASE THE DEMAND TO STOP SINGLE-USE PLASTIC, GREENPEACE brought environmental speakers as well as the crew of their Rainbow Warrior ship to share to the academic community of the University of San Jose-Recoletos the horrid impact of plastic on the planet.

Greenpeace campaigner Abigail Aguilar shared that recycling is not enough. She quoted a study stating that only 9% of the manufactured plastic in the world can be recycled. Furthermore, she clarified that it can barely be called recycling as it would mean remaking the product to its original purpose. What happens, she said, is down-cycling or turning a recyclable plastic waste into something of a lower value.

“The problem are the consumers but companies are also accountable,” she said.

Mainstreaming of segregation systems is one of the ways that institutions and homes may adopt to help.

Aguilar added that pushing for zero-waste communities is one of the long-term solutions which can be done. To achieve it, both national and local legislation is needed to restrict single-use plastic.

“We are already unable to cope with the amount of plastic waste we generate, unless we rethink the way we manufacture, use and manage plastics. Ultimately, tackling one of the biggest environmental scourges of our time will require governments to regulate, businesses to innovate and individuals to act,” stated in a United Nations report.

Beau Baconguis of Break Free from Plastic Movement shared that there is also a need for the general public to show to both the government and companies that the demand to stop single-use plastic has increased.

“We need to change how we use and see plastic,” he said.

Tony Galon of 5 pcs Daily Habit revealed to the audience that the Philippines is the third largest contributor of ocean plastic in the whole world. He encouraged the Josenians to take their own countermeasures as not to further pollute the planet. Throwing one's garbage in the proper bins and picking

up at least five pieces of random garbage which comes along one way can be a start of a good pro-Earth habit.

“Plastic is already here. What we can do now is to stop or at least minimize it for the future,” he stressed.

Single-use plastics has been the go-to wrapper of the Filipinos. He encouraged the participants to instead use of alternative products which may be reused or at least biodegradable.

In the Greenpeace presentation, a single-use plastic takes about 500-800 years before it biodegrades.

To address the issue, the said environment group has partnered with the university's Institute for Non-Formal Education and Community Outreach Program (INFECOP) to gather students and attend Greenpeace' “Ship It Back: Campus Tour”. It is a forum which highlighted the impact of single-use plastics.

The forum was primarily participated by senior high school students at the Center for the Performing Arts on March 14.

Aside from the forum, Greenpeace also toured some Josenians to their Rainbow Warrior Ship. It is the world's largest ship which primarily depends on wind power in order to sail. It is considered as one of the world's greenest ships. **RD**





# Cash, GC from anti-environmental journalism campaign turned over to adopted community

By Julie Salmeron

AROUND P30,000 WORTH OF CASH AND GIFT CERTIFICATES WERE TURNED OVER to the council of Barangay Kamagayan by the Department of Journalism and Communication (DJC) on Valentine's Day.

The cash turned-over to the Council were those received by the Journalism and Communication interns during their on-the-job training programs at their respective media outlets. The money will be used to support community-based initiatives in Barangay Kamagayan, an adopted community of DJC.

This action is the Department's response against Envelopmental Journalism that has become a problem in the media industry. DJC Chair Dr. Nestor Godofredo Ramirez said that bribery has been considered as one of the barriers of those who are supposed to write and act as the watchdogs of the society.

DJC instituted in the internship manual that the interns must adhere to the Journalism Code of Ethics even if the media industry is laden with different forms of corruption. It has been DJC's standard operating procedure (SOP) to have the interns immediately refuse any forms of gifts or cash. In the event of the other party refusing to accept it back, the interns are to accept the money and turn it over to the Department together with an incident report.

For almost five years, the No Envelope Please policy of the Department have remained clear on its goal of retaining the intern's moral and social responsibility. The policy has become an intern's starting point on applying the ethical practice of Journalism that they can look back later on when they enter the media industry.

Before Project Kadasig, the interns were free to choose any charitable institution where they could donate the money or gift checks they have received. The receipt, under the name of the institution or the person who gave the money, will then be returned to

them to let them know that USJ-R interns do not accept any forms of bribery allowing them to hesitate from giving money in the future activities.

Project Kadasig is an initiative which aims to rebrand Junquera Street as a shoe repair and t-shirt printing district of Cebu City. It started in 2016. Now, it's partners and initiatives have expanded leading to other sub-projects such as the Kamagayan Football Team and Kamagayan Community Radio.

When Project Kadasig came to be, the money the interns received were then collected and turned over to the Kamagayan Council which helps the Barangay be able to materialize the needs of the children in their sports and games that represents Barangay Kamagayan.

Dr. Ramirez highlighted that the Department plans on sustaining the advocacy against Envelopmental Journalism for the next years to come. He also emphasized that the Josenian interns did not only resist temptation and stood up with the Ethics of Journalism. Above all, they were able to practice Integrity, one of the components of USJ-R's core values called I.N.S.P.I.R.E.

"They were able to show the public the value of being a true Josenian," he said.

In behalf of the barangay council, Councilor Rico Ramirez of the Social Services Committee received the cash and gift certificates. Together with him were Barangay Treasurer Chong Garcia and Coach Aldwin Joseph Empaces of the Kamagayan Football Team.

Vice President for Administration Fray Rouel M. Sia, OAR and Professor Karlon Rama also graced the activity. Also present during the ceremony were the DJC interns and the faculty members. **RD**

# Central Visayas launches International Year of Indigenous Languages celebration at USJ-R

By Kezia Wyn Ellis

SIX CEBU-BASED UNIVERSITIES COLLABORATED TO LAUNCH THE REGIONAL celebration of the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) as prescribed by the United Nations.

The celebration is expected to strengthen and reinforce the many standard-setting tools adopted by the international community which include specific provisions to promote and protect indigenous languages.

This after a UNESCO report stated that 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing. The fact that most of these are indigenous languages puts the cultures and knowledge systems to which they belong at risk.

Celebrating IYIL2019 will help promote and protect indigenous languages and improve the lives of those who speak them. It will contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

The Central Visayas launch took place on March 18 at the Center for Performing Arts of the University of San Jose – Recoletos in partnership with the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Cebu Normal

University, Cebu Technological University, University of San Carlos and University of the Philippines-Cebu.

“Language is dynamic because it changes everything”, said Dr. Ricardo Nolasco, the well-renowned MTBMLE advocate and UP Diliman linguistics professor.

He was the keynote speaker of the launching event. He added that communication plays an envitable role in any institution because it is a powerful way to attain more effective organization in the community and the country as a whole.

Other speakers were Dr. Genara Pacana of CNU on Research in Indigenous Languages, Dr. Lynnette Camello on Technology in Indigenous Languages, Dr. Cristie Ann Jaca of USC on Pre-Service Teachers and the Indigenous Languages, Dr. Aurelio Vilbar of UP Cebu on Students’ Role in Preserving Indigenous Languages, and Dr. Jestoni Babia of USJ-R COE on Community Involvement in Indigenous Languages. USJ-R CAS Department of Languages and Literature were also invited to share briefly their community-based project on MTB-MLE instruction.

The event was graced by Dr. Nolasco and the speakers, Dr. Grecia Bataluna of Cebu City Division, Dr. Nancy Berame of the private sector (NBCC Training Center), Dr. Ethel Abao of CNU CTE, Fray Leo G. Alaras, OAR of USJ-R, instructors and students of the Cebu-based universities USJ-R, USC, UC, and UV.

The committee of IYIL Region VII will be announcing the events that will help compose the numerous ways of promoting the indigenous languages in the region through social media. **RD**



# USJ-R grad tops May 2019 CPA exam, fulfills promise to dad

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

JOSENIAN JACOB RIZADA TOOK THE SIXTH SPOT OF THE MAY 2019 CERTIFIED Public Accountant (CPA) Licensure Examination.

His exam rating is 87.33 — the highest examination rating among all Cebu graduates who took the three-day examination on May 12, 19, and 20.

In October 2018, he finished Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and graduated Cum Laude in the University of San Jose-Recoletos.

USJ-R is the only Center of Development for Accountancy grantee in the Visayas.

*“Wala man ko nag-expect nga mo-top pero hopeful ko,”* he said.

The 22-year-old CPA narrated that he wished to top the licensure examination to fulfill his promise to his late father.

*“Before namatay akong papa, ni-promise ko niya nga mo-top ko sa board (exam),”* he recalled.

He lost his father due to cardiac arrest in 2017. They lost him eight days before his father’s 58<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Despite being heartbroken, Rizada moved forward. He used the oath he made on his father’s deathbed as a motivation to study for the licensure examination.

After finishing his collegiate studies which lasted

for four and a half years, he enrolled in an intensive review program at the CPA Review Center of USJ-R. Jimwell Sito who ranked ninth in the same exam, also reviewed at USJ-R for one semester with him before he reviewed by himself when the licensure examination was approaching.

He studied two to three hours more on top of the 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily review schedule in the university. Despite this, he makes sure that he has ample time to breathe and relax by playing Mobile Legends. On top it, he regularly attends a spiritual gathering.

*“Usual na man na nga mag-study hard. Have faith in God lang gyud. Pangayo niya,”* he added.

After passing the licensure examination, he intends to work at SGV. It is the auditing firm which sponsored his review program.

In the future, he also hopes to build a foundation which grants scholarships to indigent youth who hopes to study. **RO**

**“Usual na man na nga mag-study hard. Have faith in God lang gyud. Pangayo niya.”**

JACOB RIZADA,  
USJ-R Alumnus



# USJ-R tops Visayas, Mindanao in producing CPA passers

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

AMONG THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO, the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) has the highest number of passers produced in the May 2019 Certified Public Accountant Licensure Examination.

Forty-eight out of 87 Josenian takers passed the examination, yielding a 55.17% passing percentage. This is about three times higher than the national passing percentage which is at 16.47% only. There were only 1,699 who passed it out of 10,318 takers across the country.

Among the universities with over fifty examination takers, USJ-R ranks second in the country next to De La Salle University - Manila which has 61 passers of 72 takers.

The USJ-R CPA Review Center (CPAR) also produced two topnotchers from their reviewees this year. They are Jacob Rizada of USJ-R and Jimwell Sitoy of the University of Cebu who ranked sixth and ninth respectively.

CPAR is a review program which is open to all Accountancy graduates. CPAR Director Jun Brian Alenton said that around 75% of their reviewees are from different universities and colleges in the Visayas.



*ADELANTE! The University of San Jose-Recoletos makes another milestone by producing the most number of CPA passers in Visayas and Mindanao.*

He noted that the review program has not only helped hundreds of Accountancy graduates pass the licensure examination but also produced the cream of the crop in the country.

“We have topnotchers for five straight years and it’s always a challenge to maintain that record,” he said.

Alenton shared that the review program by USJ-R is specifically tailored to the timeline of the board exam. The University also flies in partners and mentors from the capital region to conduct the lectures.

In May 2019, the CPAR passing percentage is 21% which is higher than the national passing percentage. Despite this performance, Alenton said that this year’s performance is the “lowest in a decade”.

In the national context, a total of 8,285 failed the exam while only 1,699 passed. Of the 468 universities and colleges which produce Accountancy graduates, 180 higher educational institutions had zero passers.

Alenton cited that one contributing factor for this turn out is the sudden change from scientific calculator to a basic calculator. He recalled that the change was made a week away before the examination.

“I think it was necessary but it was too soon,” he remarked.

Addressing the emotional stability of the reviewees was also a challenge to the CPAR. Alenton said that many felt depressed as the CPA exam was approaching and their academic performance affected. In response, lectures were repeated and restructured to enhance retention and consistency. The regular review schedule is 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Mondays to Fridays. Wednesdays were given as a breather wherein the reviewees are given the freedom to review in their own pace or relax if desired. **RD**



# Fourteen Josenians make “biggest tapioca dessert in the world”

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

LAPU-LAPU CITY—THIRTEEN STUDENTS and a faculty member from the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) were chosen to make a gigantic mango dessert dubbed by the event organizers as the “biggest tapioca dessert in the world.”

They are Janwilliam Diola, Lance Jefferson Pacubas, Joden Malinao, Martin Gonzales, Christian Lawrence Rivera, Mharmel Chzai Borromeo, Hannah Mae Abad, Alliah Rose Cho, Flynn Ica Marie Celocia, Ricavienne Cual, Fretche Ann Luna, Kyle Anthony Memphin, and Marianne Dio. All of them are Hospitality Management students whose major is food and beverage.

Chef Richard Hao, who is a Josenian professor, personally handpicked the team members from among his current and former students. He selected them in terms of current skills and dedication to improving their practice of the culinary arts.

Meanwhile, Chef Hao was handpicked by the organizers of the first Mango Festival in Cebu because he is one of the prominent faces of the local culinary industry and its academic counterpart. He is also an active participant of different conventions, contests, and local initiatives which promote food tourism.

“Other schools claim they are the best in the hospitality and food & beverage but *asa ang ilang footprint? Kita (USJ-R) man ang i-tap,*” he remarked.

In an interview, the team recalled that 300 kilograms of mangoes were freshly harvested at Mactan Newtown on the day of the festival. This served as the main

ingredient. Fifty kilograms of tapioca, small sago made from cassava, were also mixed together with 50 liters of milk.

All ingredients were mixed in a giant cauldron with a diameter of seven feet and four feet depth. It was customized specifically made for the event.

The Josenian team took at least five hours to finish making the mango dessert. Chef Hao recalled that keeping the mixture fresh after that was their biggest challenge. To address it, proper segregation of labor to limit the time of preparation and preparing about 50 bags of ice cubes were key.

Diola, one of the students who prepared the dessert, said that he feels honored to have been part of something historical in the country. He expressed gratitude for having an opportunity to take part in a ‘big event’ which he can use as leverage when applying for a job in the future.

Hao said that exposing students in the real-world practices can level up the skills through firsthand experience and also help them find new inspirations in the field of food and beverage.

Meanwhile, Hao clarified that the dessert which they served is the biggest in the country to date.

The first Mango Festival was held on May 26 at Mactan Newtown in Lapu-lapu City. **RO**



WORLD RECORD. Proud Josenians making the biggest tapioca dessert in the world.

# Josenian wins Miss Universe Philippines crown

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

A 23-YEAR-OLD TOURISM ASSOCIATE GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN Jose – Recoletos bested forty beautiful ladies from across the country and won the coveted Binibining Pilipinas – Universe crown.

In effect, Josenian Gazini Christiana Jordi Ganados will represent the Philippines in the upcoming Miss Universe 2019 pageant.

She is the second Cebuana to win the crown. The first Cebuana was Pilar Pilapil from Liloan town who was crowned Miss Universe Philippines 1967 as reported in the local dailies. It has been 52 years since a representative from Cebu won the title.

In the university level, Ganados represented USJ-R and won the search for Miss Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation, Inc. (CESAFI) in 2017 as well as Mutya ng Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA).

Meanwhile, Ganados is the third Josenian to win a national title in the pageant industry.

The first one was Jamie Herrell who won Miss Earth Philippines 2014. She, later on, won its international version and was named Miss Earth 2014. Herrell was a student of mass communication in USJ-R.

The second one is Rogelie Catacutan who won Bb. Pilipinas 2015 Supranational. In the international arena, she made it into the top 20 of the Miss Supranational 2015 which was held in Poland. Catacutan is a nursing graduate of USJ-R. **RO**



PHOTO COURTESY OF GMANETWORK.COM

## newsbits

### USJ-R LAW CENTER PRODUCES NEW LAWYERS

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

University of San Jose-Recoletos announced the new set of lawyers that its Recoletos Law Center produced. Twenty-two aspiring Josenian lawyers were able to hurdle the 2018 Bar Examination together with twenty-nine lawyers from other Universities and Colleges in the Philippines who took their Bar Review at Recoletos Law Center.

Congratulations! Adelante!



### RECOLETOS LAW CENTER

Congratulations to our New Lawyers!  
(Reviewees and Josenian Graduates)



ATTY. CRESENTE D. ACUÑA II	UC	ATTY. MICHELLE MAE L. MABANO	USJR
ATTY. BENEDICT R. AGUIAR	SWU	ATTY. NORDEM B. MACABENTA	USPF
ATTY. ISABELLE ROSE B. ALCARAZ	USC	ATTY. LESSANDRO B. MARAON	College of Maasin, Leyte
ATTY. CARLOS ALFONSO B. AMORES	USJR	ATTY. RAY LAMBERT V. MENCHAVEZ	USJR
ATTY. MARGARET D. ARAULA	UC	ATTY. RHETT VINCENT M. MINGUEZ	SWU
ATTY. KRISTINE JOY P. ARGALLON	UC	ATTY. KATHLEEN CAMILLE H. NAJAL	USJR
ATTY. LOVELY JOY A. AVISADO	USJR	ATTY. MA. ALESSA REA S. NUNEZ	USC
ATTY. MARIA LOURDES C. BADAPOS	USJR	ATTY. POL S. OCHAVILLO	USC
ATTY. KARLA L. BALNEG	UC	ATTY. JOY IVEE O. ONG	UC
ATTY. MARY STEPHANIE G. BONTUYAN	UC	ATTY. GLACE G. ONGCOY	USJR
ATTY. JENNY VIEVE B. CABRADILLA	UC	ATTY. KEN EBBE T. PENIA	USJR
ATTY. MESSHEL C. CAMINERO	USJR	ATTY. NIKKO NUNO A. RAMIREZ	Foundation University, Dumaguete
ATTY. JONATHAN CHADWICK S. CAÑARES	USJR	ATTY. JOHN GABRIEL B. RAMOS	UC
ATTY. LUVERNIE N. CANETE	USJR	ATTY. LOUTHERA CHRISTIE L. RIZON	USJR
ATTY. HANS VINCENT C. CHUA	USJR	ATTY. CHERRY C. ROGIE	UC
ATTY. JONATHAN L. CLARUS	USJR	ATTY. NICHOL JOHN BURT A. RUAYA	Mindanao State University, Marawi
ATTY. JULIEFE P. CUENCA	USC	ATTY. ROSANNA P. SALA	USJR
ATTY. KIMBERLY JANE R. DY	USJR	ATTY. KATRINA MARIE C. SURABILLA	SWU
ATTY. EDWIN M. ESTORCIO	UV	ATTY. IAN D. SURBAN	University of Bohol, Bohol
ATTY. GERSON B. GAMAAS	USJR	ATTY. FLOREYN D. TALO	College of Maasin, Leyte
ATTY. PHOENIX MACKENZIE L. GOCUAN	USC	ATTY. EARNSWELL P. TAN	USC
ATTY. CLARICE R. GUAREN-DONAIRE	USJR	ATTY. MARC CHRISTIAN H. TANGPUZ	USJR
ATTY. RALPH RYAN A. LAGURA	Holy Name University, Bohol	ATTY. ROMEO CISCO A. TENEDORA	USJR
ATTY. JOSE MANUEL C. LONGOS	USJR	ATTY. CRISPER VINCENT T. TINGCANG	J.H. Cordillera State College, Zamboanga
ATTY. IAN JUDE A. LOPEZ	USC	ATTY. FEOVIE T. UY	USJR
		ATTY. CHRISTIAN L. VILLAMANTE	USJR

# Cebu City Council names bridge after a USJ-R HS alumnus/Josenian scoutmaster

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

EFFECTIVE THIS YEAR, THE BRIDGE WHICH connects Barangay Mambaling to the South Road Properties (SRP) is now named “Scoutmaster Sergio P. Damazo Jr. Bridge.” This after the Cebu City Council passed the ordinance naming the said bridge on June 25. It is located along Francisco Vestil Street.

Damazo was the scoutmaster of the University of San Jose – Recoletos (USJ-R) from 1953 to 2009 according to Yolandito Cagang, the current university scoutmaster. As early as 2011, the high school alumni community of USJ-R launched a signature campaign to urge the city council to name the new Mambaling flyover after Damazo. USJ-R alumnus and lawyer Paul Oaminal said in an interview that Damazo was a “scouting icon” in the Visayas and Mindanao. Naming the bridge after him “would remind the people of the values of scouting, primarily the sense of punctuality and discipline.”

Cagang recalled that the effort did not come into fruition at that time because of two main factors. First, the flyover over was a national project and therefore the city government has no authority to name it. Second, an honoree should have been dead for at least five years before a government infrastructure can be named after him. Damazo died on May 2, 2009 and therefore failed to meet the second requirement.

On the tenth death anniversary of the Scoutmaster, Oaminal wrote a letter to the council and requested the latter to revive the proposed ordinance and act upon it now that the five-year period has complied. This time, the legislative move was authored by James Anthony Cuenco.

The city council responded positively and passed the ordinance on the last session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Sangguniang Panglungsod. It was approved as a tribute to Damazo’s “exceptional contributions” to the academic and youth sector of Cebu.

USJ-R, too, has paid tribute to the Scoutmaster through the establishment of Museo de Sergio Damazo Jr. which is located at the Basak campus. **RO**



## newsbits

### BRIDGE NAMED AFTER A JOSENIAN INAUGURATED

By Byron Opida Sangco



Effective this year, the bridge which connects Barangay Mambaling to the South Road Properties (SRP) is now named “Scoutmaster Sergio P. Damazo Jr. Bridge.” This after the Cebu City Council passed the ordinance naming the said bridge on June 25. It is located along Francisco Vestil Street. Damazo was the scoutmaster of the University of San Jose – Recoletos (USJ-R) from 1953 to 2009 according to Yolandito Cagang, the current university scoutmaster. Officials from USJ-R and the Cebu City Government gathered yesterday, September 30, to launch the newly named bridge.

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**JOSENIAN SCOUTING ICON.** This bridge in Cebu City is now officially named “Scoutmaster Sergio P. Damazo Jr. Bridge.”



# Thundering Roar Heard Anew

By **USJ-R Correspondent**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN JOSE-RECOLETOS (USJ-R) Jaguars ended another 2019 Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation, Inc. (CESAFI) Partner's Cup game with a massive statement, after cruising to a dominating 82-67 win against the Southwestern University-Phinma (SWU) Baby Cobras on Saturday, July 6, 2019, at the Cebu Coliseum.

The slugfest started out with both teams trying to gain the upper hand as the game was close in the 1<sup>st</sup> Period, with the Jaguars edging the opposition in the first quarter, 21-16.

While the lead slowly crept up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Period, it was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter where the Jaguars went away, thanks to a lay-up by Kendrick Abarquez, which pushed them 53-36, and gave the Jaguars a comfortable 17-point lead from that point forward.

Kevin Guibao led the pack of Jaguars with 17 points, while Diether Go and David Basilad added 13 and 12, respectively. Together, the trio combined for 42 of the 82 total points scored by the Jaguars.

The Jaguars improved to a 5-1 record in this year's CESAFI Partners Cup, just behind the University of Visayas (UV) Baby Green Lancers, which is unbeaten at 6-0. **RO**



*WINNING MOVES. The USJ-R Jaguars sealing a win against the SWU Baby Cobras.*

## newsbits

### USJ-R CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRES UNDERGO FOOD SAFETY ORIENTATION

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad



Sixty-one representatives of the concessionaires in USJ-R were oriented on food safety practices and existing school policies to ensure efficient canteen operations.

The activity was conducted on July 21 at the Main Audio-Visual Room (AVR).

Local Health Officer Shaira Camille Labastida of the Department of Health-7 primarily discussed the tenets of Department of Education Order No. 13 which is also known as the Policy and Guidelines on Healthy Food and Beverage Choices in Schools.

The order includes the prohibition of selling products categorized as 'red' by DepEd.

Labastida said that it is important to serve nutritious food in the canteen to prevent a rise in the number of individuals affected by non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

Proper food handling, she added, must always be observed. To address this, she shared specific practices in the kitchen to uphold sanitation standards and prevent food contamination.

Nurse Janet Chiong, who serves as canteen inspector, presented to the audience a list of the things that she regularly checks as part of the university's food safety system.

Even if the concessionaires serve different campuses, the policies and guidelines for food safety are the same.



# University utilizes website for online event booking

By Jan Angelieka Marie Villapez

FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM FOR INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS was integrated into the official website of the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R).

It was first utilized by the Campus Ministry Office (CMO) for the Augustinian Recollect Spiritual Exercises (ARSE) for the academic year 2019-2020.

ARSE is a recollection activity and is a prerequisite for graduation in USJ-R. CMO used manual registration before the online booking system was put in place.

It was a move spearheaded by Fray Arian Josef M. Ocheda, OAR, the Vice President of Religious Affairs. He said that he wanted to create a system that will make the process faster.

Prior to the online booking system, he noted that the manual registration had record lapses and some handwritten information were not clear. They first thought of using Microsoft Excel last semester. However, CMO found it hard on their part because typing on the computer and separately giving a waiver. Moreover, their office turned crowded when graduating students gather to register.

The CMO sees the development positively because it's easy for them to trace the records and monitor the students.

When the first semester almost started, Fray Ocheda then approached Pae Rotsen Sabayton, a CMO staff, to make it online booking just like booking a ticket for a flight. The idea clearly based on what they have experienced in the past years.

To realize the concept, Sabayton She then approached the Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Center.

EDP Head Alexander Omangay said the idea was possible but they have to wait until June to get the

official list of the graduating students. While waiting on the final list, EDP slowly worked on the process. EDP Staff Nilo Pasague developed the system.

On July 4, Pasague received the needed data and uploaded the final list of graduating students. It took him two days to finish everything.

Immediately on July 8, the online booking system was introduced to the students through the official social media pages of USJ-R. On July 13, the CMO conducted an orientation at the main lobby so the students can better understand how to book. A how-to video made by the Public Affairs and International Relations Office was shown.

The system can be accessed by all college levels for the upcoming events but they can't view the events that are intended only for the fourth year and fifth-year students.

Since they are focusing on the spiritual formation of the students, they also want the students to leave this institution not just full of knowledge but with a good heart as well. **RO**



# USJ-R sends three CICCT students to Taiwan for Student Exchange Program

By Cyde Obrero

TO LEVEL UP THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE, THREE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE of Information, Computer and Communications Technology (CICCT) were sent to Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology (STUST). They are Ma. Thea Cabral, Leigh Ann Concon, and Bien Grenier Sasing. All of them are fourth-year Information Technology (IT) students.

They had their internship abroad from December 8, 2018 to June 22, 2019. On July 15, they visited University President Fray Cristopher Maspara, OAR to share their experiences and what are the projects they're assigned to.

Cabral and Concon were tasked to develop a program to run a coffee bean roaster using a web-based project connected to the blockchain which has three different sensors. Meanwhile, Sasing was assigned to enhance the program for Text Mining Artificial Intelligence which makes questionnaires for the examiners.

Sasing remarked that the student exchange program was about giving an opportunity to a student who wants to experience a different kind of internship and being able to go out of the country.

The three concurred that it was a memorable experience to stay in Taiwan. During their stay, they learned how to manage time, to be punctual, to accomplish the tasks assigned, and to cooperate since the project needs to be done as a team. They were tested how to cope up with the competitive environment.

The students also shared that they had to adjust with the food and how to communicate with people in Taiwan. During their first week, they can't understand Mandarin. Moreover, many Taiwanese don't speak in English so they used body language to communicate with them. To address this challenge, they took up a short-term course on Chinese language.

Nervous and overwhelmed at the same time, they still managed to adjust and develop their skills.

Cabral admitted that she felt nervous because they really don't know what to do. Effective communication should be done since they struggled with the language barrier with the people around them during their early weeks. Nevertheless, Taiwanese people are good and likely to have a clean environment. These people are easy to get along with during their stay.

"Grab the opportunity. Don't be scared. Be confident. Lastly, be optimistic of what the future holds," said the three when asked to give an advice to students who wanted to apply for a student exchange program overseas. **RO**



*Bien Grenier Sasing, Leigh Ann Concon, and Ma. Thea Cabral narrated their experiences and projects in Taiwan together with CICCT Chairman Jovelyn Cuizon.*

**"Grab the opportunity. Don't be scared. Be confident. Lastly, be optimistic of what the future holds."**

*BIEN GRENIER SASING, LEIGH ANN CONCON, AND MA. THEA CABRAL*



# USJ-R hosts Transportation Conference

By Niña Mae Oliverio

THE TRANSPORTATION SCIENCE SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES (TSSP) IN coordination with the College of Engineering held the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual TSSP Conference at the USJ-R Main Audio-Visual Room (AVR) on July 25 to 26. An off-campus technical tour was also held on July 27.

Feasibility studies and researches were presented during the conference. According to TSSP Vice President, Dr. Karl B. N. Vergel, the researches aimed to address the problem of the transportation and traffic in the different parts of the country.

On the event's first day, Workshop for Young Researchers took place. On the second day, the Conference Proper was held.

The panelists during the presentation of the researches were Ms. Evelyn N. Castro, Metro Cebu Development and Coordinating Board (MCDCB), Dir. Edgar B. Tabacon, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region VII; and the invited panelists, Dir. Efren B. Carreon, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Central Visayas and Dir. Shahlimar H. Tamano, Department of Tourism (DOT) Region VII.

Consequently, four Technical Session were held namely Session 1: Public Transportation, Session 2: Human, Vehicle and Traffic Flow Characteristics, Session 3: Mode Choice and Session 4: Transportation and Urban Planning.

Before the program concluded, awards were given to the Best Paper and Presentation.

Today, July 27, is the last day of the conference. The delegates had their Technical Tour at Cebu Link Joint Venture (CLJV) Compound in South Road Properties (SRP), Cebu City for the briefing of the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) Project this morning.

The theme for this year's conference is "Bridging the transportation infrastructure development gap in the Philippines."

The three-day conference was participated by the members of TSSP and some of the college students and professors from University of the Philippines-Diliman, De La Salle University, and Visayas State University, among others.

TSSP is an organization comprised of experts in the field of transportation who address the traffic and transportation problems in the country. **RD**



# USJ-R named ITF champion for the fourth consecutive time

By Jan Angelieka Marie Villapez

THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN JOSE-RECOLETOS WON THE grand slam title during the 2019 International Travel Festival (ITF) held at Ayala Center Cebu on July 13, 2019.

USJ-R is the first school which obtained the ITF title for winning four consecutive years.

Tourism and hospitality management students Lorenzo Isip and Glorynit Gail Blanco bagged the Mr. and Ms. Tourism Cebu 2019 titles respectively. They bested 16 other candidates for the crown. Khurly Seville Continedo (BSHM 1) was also crowned as the Ms. Tourism Cebu – 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up while Wilson Gloria Jr. (BSTM 1) was Mr. Tourism Cebu – 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up.

They were trained over a month including an intensive training on pasarela (walk and projection) as well as Q&A by their coach, Al Radomes.

According to Radomes, who is also a university professor, he has done what he needs to do after winning last year and that he decided not to compete this year. However, he challenged himself to join once more in order for USJ-R to be the first school to win the grand slam title. Thus, he stepped up with the challenge and decided to join again with the full support of Dean Edgar Detoya of the College of Commerce and Chairman Reo Yamuta of Tourism and Hospitality Management Department (THMD).

“As long as the school is willing to support, there’s no reason for us to



*CHAMPIONS... AGAIN. The University of San Jose-Recoletos took the stage and won another championship title during the 2019 International Travel Festival.*

## USJ-R ECO-BUS JOINS DENR'S NORTHERN CEBU ENVIRONMENTAL CARAVAN

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad



To strengthen the environmental awareness of the youth in Northern Cebu, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conducted an educational caravan on June 28.

The University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) was the only university invited to take part in the said endeavor. The school was given the privilege to share its expertise in showcasing its initiatives to fight climate change. Sample recycled materials made in the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) of the Basak Campus were brought to demonstrate outcomes of an effective solid waste management system.

Aside from demonstrating how to recycle paper, USJ-R also brought along its eco bus.

The bus is a mobile library filled with books about climate change. Its furniture like tables and chairs are made from recyclable materials like tires. It is also decorated with stickers which features what people can do to protect Mother Earth.

The said event was held at Don Celestino Martinez, Sr. Sports and Cultural Complex in Bogo City. It was participated by 13 schools from four local government units in Northern Cebu.



## USJ-R named ITF champion...

(from page 139)

say no. Definitely we will be back for next year,” he said

He added that time is always a challenge in preparing for the event. However, he has always been very passionate of what he does. He has mentored four successful Miss CESAFI candidates, four Miss Tourism crowns, and four crowns for Miss USJ-R Intramurals.

“Sash Factor – we always have this advantage. Establishing our name for three years was no easy feat. When everyone knew USJ-R is still joining, you know every school needs to step up on their game. What he felt this year was pure excitement and relief, knowing that USJ-R is still the school to beat,” Radomes said.

In addition to winning the pageant, the USJ-R Team 9 won as the Champion in the ITF Quiz Bowl. The members are Alexis Berdin, Shyne Guerra, and Josel Arong. USJ-R Team 5 also won as the third place in the quiz bowl. It was composed of Noverose Cabillan, Ralfh Lewey Saavedra, and Shaira Abrenica.



USJ-R also finished as the champion of the Dance Palabas 2019 category.

For the individual contests, April Benaro also won the second place in the Poster Making. For the Essay writing, Samuel Joseph V. Cendaña finished as third placer. Kristy Anne Degamo won the third place for Tour Guiding and Directing

category. Jobenalene Edera also placed third in the Tourism Singing Idol competition. For the Tour Packaging and Costing, Kyra Ethesia Cantero and Charisse Gay Alsado placed third as well.

The students were coached by faculty members from the Tourism and Hospitality Management Department (THMD) namely Radomes, Kim Niño Cantero, Khaterine Estoconing, and Pamela Alviola.

The ITF is an annual travel fair in Cebu which is intended for travel enthusiasts. It provides discounted travel deals to experience the different wonders of the world. The event was organized by MyEventology in partnership with Tourism and Hospitality Educators Association in the Visayas. **RD**

### newsbits

## USJ-R MAKES GRAND SLAM HISTORY IN GMA NETWORK EXCELLENCE AWARDS

By Delsa Tones

Journalism graduate Wenilyn Sabalo bagged the 2019 GMA Network Excellence Award (GNEA) for Communication.

The awarding ceremony was held earlier today at the GMA Network Center in Quezon City. As a prize, she received a trophy and P50,000.

This is the third consecutive time that a Josenian bagged the said national award. The first awardee was Lorraine Mitzi Alonzo Ambrad in 2017 and Mark Roland Romas in 2018.

GNEA is a search that recognizes excellence among college graduates who

demonstrated “exemplary leadership, stellar academic performance, and proactive social responsibility” according to the GMA website.

Sabalo finished as Magna Cum Laude in USJ-R in March 2018.

During her college years, she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Purveyor Publication which under the Department of Journalism and Communication. She was also the former President of Josenian Journalism Axis (JAX).

At present, Sabalo works as a reporter for Sunstar Cebu.



# USJ-R team wins 2019 PICPA Quiz Bowl for Accountancy Students

By Cyde Obrero

THE FIRST PLACE OF THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF Certified Accountants (PICPA) Accounting Quiz Bowl Level 2 was bagged by a Josenian team on July 17.

It is composed of Shiena Rose Vilbar, Mary Belle Cane, John Karlo Caminero, Dhan Michael Olmilla and Francis Honorato Matmat.

Meanwhile, the USJ-R Level 1 team placed sixth. It is composed of Hebban Tawantawan and Alexa Camille Bongabong.

The quiz bowl has two categories namely Level 1 and Level 2. Each category has three rounds namely easy, average, and hard.

When the participants recounted their experience, they said they took the lead but they had a difficult time answering the items on the later part of the contest. They confessed they have been struggling with the subjects which are not yet covered during their review.

To cheer themselves, the said Accountancy students would chant "Above Phoenix!" every time they get a correct answer. Phoenix is the name of their batch.

*"Pag himo sad mo ug chant. Bahalag ma wrong mo, chant lang,"* Matmat said.

It is expected that there will be a lot of new topics to be addressed for the next participants. They recommend preparing, not losing hope and creating a chant to help them ease the tension between the quiz.

The competition was tight as Team USJ-R tied with UC and USC in the last round. The team said that getting the right answer for the last question was instrumental for their win.

Looking back, the team spent a month to prepare for the exam with the assistance of their coach. The members went to concurrent practices and reviews. Each of them was assigned a particular subject to focus on. They prepared themselves spiritually as well.

The team also went through various contests in the previous years with older opponents to serve as their training ground.

The rigorous training is a testament of USJ-R's Junior Philippine Institute Accountants' (JPIA) - Quiz Bowlers' Society commitment to excel. **RO**



## newsbits

### USJ-R SIGNS PACT WITH RAFI TO TRAIN ICT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS ON JAVA

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad



Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) partnered with the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) to upscale the skills of the junior high school teachers teaching subjects related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

A total of twelve selected teachers benefited from the agreement. They are eyed to become "programmers-teachers" in accordance with industry standards.

To realize this, each of them underwent 240 hours of training on JAVA programming language which began on April 22.

RAFI collaborated with the university's College of Information, Computer, and Communications Technology (CICCT) in preparing the curriculum guide. The professors were also from USJ-R. The foundation also funded the initiative while USJ-R provided the training venue, tools, and other needed equipment.

Upon completion, the beneficiaries were given international level certification through the Recoletos Industrial and Technological Training Center (RITTC).

# Two USJ-R alumni win in WCOPA 2019

By Jan Angelieka Marie Villapez

*Long Beach, CALIFORNIA*—TWO GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN JOSE-Recoletos garnered multiple awards in the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Long Beach, California.

They are Vingenr Tan and John Willace Tubalde. The contest was held from July 12 to 21.

Forty-year-old Tan is an alumnus of USJ-R High School batch'99. He showcased his talent in the world stage as he competed in the Senior Vocal Division. He also participated in Group Production, Latin, Broadway, Opera, Variety, and Gospel. He received a Gold Medal for the Group Production, Bronze Medal for Latin, Silver Medal for Broadway, and Gold Medal for Opera.

On the other hand, Tubalde won four gold medals, two silver medals, one bronze medal, and two plaques for being named 'champion of the world' - division winner.

Tan and Tubalde are not the only ones from Cebu competing in the prestigious event.

They were joined by Majolica Santos, Christian Cayobit, Marl Dowling, and Erneville Vinculado. Team Cebu was together with their coordinator and Coach Sandra Namocatcat, who was assisted by vocal coach Denis Namocatcat. The group's National



Director is Gerry Mercado while the assistant National Director is Annie Mercado. They were the ones who screened the contenders from all over the Visayas.

The WCOPA Philippine representatives were also given a workshop by the award-winning singer Jed Madela, the first Filipino won the "Grand Champion Performer of the World" title in WCOPA 2005. He is also the Visayas Coach and Coordinator.

According to Tan, the contestants were from 74 countries. Meanwhile, there are 126 delegates from the Philippines competing for the different categories.



John Willace Tubalde



Vingenr Tan

WCOPA is the only Olympic-style international meet for aspiring performers that is held annually. It is not just a singing competition. It will also pit musicians, actors and models, dancers and variety artists who will compete before judges from the entertainment industry. "It is said to be an entertainment capital of the world."

For Tan, joining the WCOPA 2019 was his dream. His WCOPA 2019 journey taught him a valuable lesson which is to actualize one's dreams. **RO**



# USJ-R opens Sportsfest for employees on feast day of St. Ezekiel

By Cyce Obrero and Frence Debbie Nombrado

TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST DAY OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO, EMPLOYEES OF THE University of San Jose – Recoletos gather at the Basak Campus to launch their annual Recoletos de Cebu Sportsfest.

“Let us not limit the giving of our unselfish service within our classrooms and our offices only but let us strive to show our concern to others in the way we interact with our co-teachers, co-employees, and members of the bigger community as well,” said Fray Rouel Sia, OAR in his opening remarks.

Moreover, University President Fray Cristopher Maspara, OAR expressed his well-wishes to the Josenian community before he officially opened the activity on August 19.

The USJ-R employees were divided into five groups namely Team San Ezekiel, Team San Jose, Team Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Team San Augustin, Team San Nicolas. Each team picked representatives to compete in different competitions.

Here are the winners of the different contests:

## MISS SPORSTFEST

**Champion:** Ms. Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad (San Nicolas)

**1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up:** Ms. Khaterine Estoconing (San Agustin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up:** Ms. Therese Anne Luzelle Dela Cerna (San Jose)

## MISTER SPORTSFEST

**Champion:** Mr. Jan Hector Obando (San Ezekiel)

**1<sup>st</sup> runner up:** Mr. Dan Ian Niño Jaducana (San Jose)

**2<sup>nd</sup> runner up:** Mr. Nelson Villamejor (San Agustin)

## DANCE PALABAS

**Champion:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Engineering, RITTC, JHS)

**1<sup>st</sup> runner-up:** San Jose (SHS, CRE)



*BATTLE OF THE DOCTORS. Dr. Julius Dequillo raises the hand of triumphant Dr. Jackielyn Cabrera after the hosts announced that she won the Josenian Idol singing contest.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up:** San Nicolas (OPS)

## JOSENIAN IDOL

**Champion:** Dr. Jackielyn P. Cabrera (San Nicolas)

**1<sup>st</sup> runner-up:** Dr. Julius P. Dequillo (San Ezekiel)

**2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up:** Ms. Richelle P. Kahanding (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)

**3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up:** Mr. Rualdo “Al” A. Radomes (San Agustin)

**4<sup>th</sup> runner-up:** Ms. Pia Joy Bohol (San Jose)

This event aims to showcase the different expertise of Josenian employees in entertainment and sports. Moreover, the event is also hoped by the administrators to strengthen the “familial bond” among the members of the USJ-R community.

The Recoletos de Cebu Sportsfest will culminate on September 17. **RD**



# Josenian student wins Best Paper Award in International Conference on Nursing Education

By Cyde Obrero

THIRD-YEAR NURSING STUDENT MERY KATRIEL PEDROZA WON THE BEST PAPER in Podium Presentation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial International Conference on Nursing Education, Innovation and Research (ICNEIR) on August 3.

She represented USJ-R in the student category. Her study is entitled “The Dynamics of Socio-Economic Dimensions of Violence Against Women: Global View Through Cluster Analysis.”

Data from the top ten countries with the highest number of reported incidents of violence against women were observed and analyzed. The results showed that there is a positive correlation between the number of cases and population.

Pedroza’s study states that whenever the population is increased, there is a competition of employment and poverty. Added with gender inequality index (wherein the population of men was higher than the women), violence is likely to increase.

Her adviser, Professor Melvin De Castro, said that Pedroza’s study title seems irrelevant to nursing at first glance but it truly is. He explained that the topic was relevant to the field of nursing because it touches some aspects of mental health. Since nurses are the front liners in hospitals and communities, nurses should be aware enough on how to communicate and aid their patients who are victims against women and children.

Pedroza’s study was first conceptualized during her Nursing Informatics course in summer 2019. She prepared the paper for three weeks along with her co-authors Nashia Apawan, Leizl Mauricio, and Sister

Aileen Chuca.

In two weeks, the team was able to interpret the data and developed a theory called the Dynamics of Socio-Economic Dimensions of Violence Against Women: Global View Through Cluster Analysis.

It was the first time for the College of Nursing (CON) to join the ICNEIR. The said event was

organized by the Nurse Educators Practitioners Guild (NEPRA) on August 2 at Bayfront Hotel.

De Castro confessed that his advisee doesn’t have a background in research but it was impressive because his student was able to present the study confidently. He felt the fear and anxiety of his student since it was her

first time to compete for her paper and representing the university for this big event.

He also expressed that oral defense panel members and advisers should inspire the students more to develop their paper or study. The atmosphere must be more interactive wherein students can learn more and grow rather than a hostile grilling experience.

With the financial help of the Center for Policy, Research and Development Studies (CPRDS), the CON is thankful to have represented USJ-R in research competitions. Their goal is to publish the journal outside the university or country.

CON is looking forward to attending and competing at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Nurses (ICONS) 2019. **RD**



*Mery Katriel Pedroza*

# Josenian educator tops August 2019 guidance counselor exam, gets third PRC license

By Jan Angelieka Marie Villapez

JOSENIAN EDUCATOR EDGAR LUCERO Beronque landed on the fifth spot of the August 2019 Registered Guidance Counselor (RGC) Licensure Examination. His rating is 88.55%. He is the only taker from a Cebu-based school who secured a slot in the top ten list.

Aside from being a licensed guidance counselor, Beronque is also a licensed psychometrician and a psychologist. Now, he has a total of three licenses from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

RA 9258 that states, “No person shall engage in the practice of guidance and counseling without a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid Professional Identification Card or a Special Permit.”

This law motivated Beronque to take the exam for counselors because he works at the University of San Jose–Recoletos as a junior high school guidance counselor.

It was his first attempt to take the licensure examination and he was glad that he was able to make it to the top. He grabbed the opportunity to take this year’s examination because it was held in Cebu not in Manila way back two years ago.

“Wala gyud ko magdahom kay para nako lisod man gyud, abi nako og dili ko ka pasar. Ni hangyo gyud ko sa Ginoo nga ipapasar lang gyud bahalag 75% basta maka-kapyot lang,” Beronque said.

As for his preparations, he took discipline for his self to do lots of readings. He even asks permission to not accept any loads this semester to have extra time to cater to his review sessions. The only technique he did was reviewing. It helps him to be trained on how to answer and how to analyze the questions. He added that all of his sleepless nights and anxieties paid off.

He already started reading earlier in January but he started his reviewing session last May towards the end of August. He was also assisted by Joan Paula Geniston, who placed 9<sup>th</sup> during the Guidance Counselor Licensure Examination last year.

There were 286 out of 458 who passed the examination given by the Board of Guidance and Counseling in Manila, Cagayan De Oro and Cebu.

The results were released by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on Monday, (September 2) just two working days from the last day of examination. **RD**



Edgar Lucero Beronque

**“Wala gyud ko magdahom kay para nako lisod man gyud, abi nako og dili ko ka pasar. Ni hangyo gyud ko sa Ginoo nga ipapasar lang gyud bahalag 75% basta maka-kapyot lang.”**

EDGAR LUCERO BERONQUE

# Josenians represent PH in tri-country workshop on robotics in Taiwan

By **Frence Debbie Nombrado**

SIX JOSENIANS REPRESENTED THE PHILIPPINES ON A TRI-COUNTRY WORKSHOP on building self-driving cars and robotics in Taiwan on August 12 to 16, 2019.

They are Jay Ann Dela Cerna, Francis Louie Alolor, Noel Daniel Seldura, Kevin Cerdon, Jesury Thomas Gadiane, and Temothy Homecillo, BS Information Technology students of the College of Information, Computer, and Communications Technology (CICCT).

The students were accompanied by CICCT faculty members namely Engr. Carmel Tejana and Ahdzleebee Formentera.

They participated in the third International Project-Based Learning (i-PBL) multinational training camp.

Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) Chairman Juvilyn Cuizon said that it was the first time for the Philippines to join the i-PBL since the training camp for the past years has been between Taiwan and Japan only. Considering the partnership agreement between STUST and USJ-R since 2018, USJ-R was invited to join the i-PBL.

With this development, three universities take part in this workshop. They are USJ-R from the Philippines, Osaka Institute of Technology (OIT) from Japan, and Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology (STUST) from Taiwan. All of which have varying backgrounds.

The third International Project-Based Learning workshop was subsidized by the Ministry of Education Office of Higher Sprout Project and STUST.

According to CICCT Dean Gregg Gabison, the focus of the workshop is to provide students with the ability to build self-driving cars and robotics.

Seldura, one of the participants, said that the workshop is about how to work with a ROS (Robotic Operating System) that enables the robots to follow lanes using visual recognition without human intervention.

To test the results of their robots, students competed against each other during the last day of the workshop. The groupings were mixed with other universities to challenge students to cross borders where they can observe how other students work and eventually learn from them.

The competition has five categories: (1) self-propelled car racing, (2) robotic arming, (3) road obstacles (slope/tunnel), (4) fastest time without the obstacles, and (5) map navigation.

The Josenians admired Taiwan because they gained new experience through ROS with the cultural exchange with Japan and Taiwan. They also gained a strong network among the workshop's participants. Moreover, they were able to experience a cultural tour of the nation and they enjoyed the food because it was affordable but delicious.

In 2021, the University of San Jose- Recoletos (USJ-R) will be hosting the i-PBL multinational training camp through the tripartite agreement among the three universities namely OIT, STUST, and USJ-R.

The CICCT dean said that hosting the said event will be a heavy task but it is worth it because the university will be able to get a lot of inputs back in terms of new content that professors cannot deliver on a normal classroom setting in Cebu. It will also allow the school to dig deeper into the research area especially in robotics with the application of self-driving.

The tripartite agreement focuses on student exchange, faculty exchange, and research.

For a university who is aiming for global status, Gabison said USJ-R is willing and open to engaging more in non-traditional schemes. **RD**

# USJ-R opens first Grand Marian Exhibit, features 41 images

By Cyde Obrero

FORTY-ONE IMAGES OF THE BLESSED MOTHER MARY UNDER HER DIFFERENT titles were displayed at the USJ-R chapel from September 2 to 7.

This is the first time that the University of San Jose-Recoletos organized a Grand Marian Exhibit.

VP Religious Affairs Fray Arian Josef Ocheda, OAR said that the purpose of showcasing the different images of the Blessed Virgin Mary was a prelude to her birthday on September 8. The second reason is catechetical which means to introduce to the Josenian community the titles of Mary and to remind them that she will always be in our daily lives. Lastly, the activity hoped to strengthen the spiritual beliefs of Josenians and to get closer with Mama Mary.

He was happy to see the outcome that people would visit the Main chapel to pray and ask for guidance. He was glad that Josenians appreciated the exhibit.

*"Nalipay ko na appreciated ang exhibit sa mga Josenians unya daghan nisulod sa chapel,"* he expressed.

It was primarily intended for Josenians but the exhibit was also open to all who wanted to visit.

As a liturgist, Fray Ocheda wanted to introduce the practice of conducting a Marian Exhibit since it was part of his previous assignments.

The preparation for the said activity took two months. First, it was conceptualized during the meeting he attended with the Campus Faculty and Staff Ministry (CFSM). He challenged one of the representatives and pointed out Professor Emerson Aller. They had their preliminary meeting for the Marian Exhibit in the last week of July.

The initial number of images of Blessed Virgin Mary was only thirty-eight.

CFSM members also recalled that they had difficulties in looking for the right venue. The first chosen venue was the main lobby. However, it did not

push through because of the security risk and these images will be exposed in the environment – pollution. The second venue picked was the Noberto Quisumbing Hall but there are classes on weekdays which makes it not a feasible option. Finally, the venue selected is the chapel at the main campus.

The organizers then coordinated with the security to receive the images loaned by the Carmareros, the private individuals who owned the different images.

For the next year's celebration for the birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary, Fray Ocheda is looking forward to having more images. Moreover, the next exhibit will be more advertised to the public. The Campus Ministry Office (CMO) is also eyeing the possibility of conducting an exhibit at a bigger venue.

The event theme is "Mary, Mother of God, The Light and Inspiration to the Josenian Youth." **RO**



>  
Fray Leopoldo Estioko, OAR, together with Fray Arian Josef Ocheda, OAR, opens the First Grand Marian Exhibit at the Main Chapel.





# USJ-R features annual exhibit: “Moving Forward with One Mind and One Heart”

By **USJ-R Correspondent**

THE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT CENTER OPENED THEIR ANNUAL exhibit showcasing the services of the office. The theme for this year is “Moving Forward with One Mind and One Heart.” The exhibit ran from September 24 to 27. It was held at the main lobby.

In the afternoon, they had their Fashion Gala as part of their activity for this week. The scheduled activity for September 26 was SPDC Got Talent. These events showcase the different talents of the students. Here are the following winners for their contests:

## Fashion Gala 2019

- 1<sup>st</sup> Placer:** Tunhay Collection
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Placer:** La Moderna Filipinianas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Placer:** El Elemento
- 4<sup>th</sup> Placer:** Collection de Politica

**3<sup>rd</sup> Placer:** Fariola, Jimabel

## Interpretative Dance

- 1<sup>st</sup> Placer:** Cubs (Baby Jaguars)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Placer:** Diwa
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Placer:** Bloque Uno

## SDPC GOT TALENT 2019

### Spoken Poetry Category

- 1<sup>st</sup> Placer:** Alesna, Jewel Mae
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Placer:** Bontilao, Crystal Anne

## Acoustic Jam

- 1<sup>st</sup> Placer:** Chelsea and Kath Duo
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Placer:** Sound Check

The purpose of these activities is to raise awareness with regards to the services of the SDPC offered to the students. **RO**

## newsbits

### LOCAL SUPERHEROES, PINOY MYTHICAL CREATURES HIGHLIGHT NINTH ENG'GRANDE

By Jan Angelieka Marie Villapez

Heroes clashed with the local characters in Philippine folklore on the annual evening show of the College of Engineering (CoEng).

Dubbed as ENG'GRANDE, the organizers set the theme to “Pinoy Super Hero vs. Pinoy Mythical Creature.” It was held at the Center for Performing Arts (CFPA) on August 23, 2019.

Six engineering departments presented their ten-minute acts which resembled different Pinoy heroes and mythical creatures.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering was hailed as the Eng'Grande 2019 Grand Champion featuring “Ang Panday.”

The Department of Industrial Engineering placed as the first runner-up portraying the “Pedro Penduko.” The Department of Electrical Engineering won second place representing the “Cardo and Friends Volume 1.”

Meanwhile, the Department of Electronic Engineering was announced as the third placer imitating the “Super

Inggo x Encantadia.” The Department of Computer Engineering was declared as the fourth placer with their chosen show “BERTeng Kabisote.” Lastly, the Department of Civil Engineering won fifth place for impersonating “Captain Barbel x Agta”.

The faculty members also showcased their talent in dancing and singing in a separate production number.

The event was organized by the Engineering Consortium, the council of presidents in CoEng.

# USJ-R reopens playground at Basak campus

By Mariah Zandra Tañiza

AFTER GETTING A FRESH LOOK, THE PLAYGROUND of the USJ-R elementary department was reopened this year.

The materials and equipment used for the playground are child-friendly and are not hazardous according to Campus Planning. During the construction, the department heads made sure that the playground is safe and that all the sides are covered with foam to avoid injuries.

It was first opened in 2018. It was closed because it was affected by the construction of the La Salud building.

Elementary Principal Jergen D. Orias said that it has been their long-time dream to open a playground like this for the children to enjoy. She said that the playground is a very good addition to the department and is also a good marketing strategy because it is the first thing that visitors notice.

Every time some outsiders visit the campus, Orias said that people always praise the facility.

"I often hear children say: Mommy nice kayo diri because nice ila playground," she shared.

Orias explained that play is an important part of the growing life of the children. When playing, children develop important aspects most especially social, physical, and intellectual. When children utilize the equipment found in the playground, they develop an understanding of how things work especially for the pre-school students.

The children can play inside freely but there are guidelines that are stipulated. Aside from what is posted inside the playground, advisers were instructed to explain the guidelines to the children before letting them play inside.

There is no age limit as to who can use the playground. As long it is a grade school or a pre-school student of USJ-R, he or she can play for free.

**R**



## newsbits

### 'GREENEST MAN ON THE PLANET' SPEAKS TO JOSENIANS ON LIVING GREEN

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

To inspire Josenians to live an eco-friendly way of life, tips on how to reduce carbon footprint were shared by Matthias Gelber aka the Green Man on October 17.

Gelber was voted as the "Greenest Man on The Planet" in 2008. He has also published a book titled "The Greenman's guide to green living and working."

"There are simple practical things that we can do (to live a green life)," he said.

He encouraged the members of the audience to start by bringing their own tumblers in school. Another act that can be done is refusing to use single-use items that are not needed like extra napkins or plastic wraps.

"The next time you visit a store or hotel, ask yourself first if do you really need it (before taking it)," he added.

Gelber also shared that Josenians can do an energy audit at home through smart metering to track power consumption and to be able to strategize ways to minimize it.

The audience was primarily composed of USJ-R administrators, faculty, and support staff members. With this premise, Gelber took the chance to impart what ways can be done for the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) to become a more eco-friendly university.

He advised USJ-R to utilize its system and resources to make projects which reduce electricity and waste. He added that low-cost steel structures that can add shade will also help. To solidify the efforts, he urged the administration to form a committee that focuses on the promotion of eco-friendly practices in school.

# Jaguars Settle for Silver Finish in CESAFI Volleyball

By Dominic Villagas and Francis Albaracin

AT THE HEIGHT OF WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE FINAL STAGE IN THE CEBU Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. (CESAFI) Volleyball tourney, both the University of San Jose-Recoletos Women's and Men's Volleyball teams conclude their 2019 CESAFI season with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish overall at the Southwestern University-PHINMA (SWU-PHINMA) Coliseum, last October 28, 2019.

In the first game of the afternoon, the USJ-R Jaguars Men's Volleyball Team bowed down in three sets, 0-3, against the UC Webmasters Men's Volleyball Team. After a blowout 15-25 loss in the first set, the Jaguars upped their tenacity but fell short in the next two sets, 19-25 and 20-25, giving the UC Webmasters their second win in a row, and the CESAFI 2019 championship trophy in the Volleyball Men's Category.

In the final game however, despite dominating the first set, 25-17, the USJ-R Women's Volleyball team fell short in the next three sets, 21-25, 14-25, and 12-25, against the powerhouse University of Southern Philippines Foundation (USPF), ending their do-or-die Game 3, 3-1. Despite falling short in their quest for the title, senior Middle Blocker of the USJ-R Women's Volleyball Team, Danivah Sheilo Aying, said she is still proud of the heights their team reached. *"Ang ako maingon rajud sa amoa team karon Cesaifi 2019 is proud ko. To think nga daghan bag-o sa amoang team pero nakaya namo. Each one of us gave our best jud. Individually we are strong but together we are stronger. Og sa tanan namo kahago og mga sacrifice kay wala jud mi nakalimot og pasalamat ni Lord sa tanan nga amoang nadawat."* The 2019 CESAFI Season repeats the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish of the USJ-R Women's Volleyball Team last year, as rivals USPF Panthers secured their three-peat campaign. The USJ-R Men's Volleyball Team however, improved their 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish as they finished as the runner-up to the 2019 Men's Volleyball champions, UC Webmasters. **RO**



# PH Recoletos schools benchmark on USJ-R guidance counselling program

By Marjorie Laborte

GUIDANCE PERSONNEL FROM FOUR SISTER SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES OF THE University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) underwent a two-day upskilling program on December 5 and 6, 2019.

This activity aims to help the guidance personnel get a better grasp of their work, especially those who are new in the position. On the first day, USJ-R invited Dr. Michelle Cellona as a resource speaker to talk about mental health issues usually encountered by students and tips on how to address them. On the second day, the participants discussed some future plans.

The schools which participated were San Sebastian College- Recoletos (Manila), Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos (Talisay City, Negros Occidental), Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos (San Carlos City, Negros Occidental), and San Pedro Academy-Recoletos (Valencia, Negros Oriental). The personnel from USJ-R Basak, Balamban, and main campus also participated.

According to Nelbha Iglesia, Director of the Student Development and Placement Center (SDPC), the personnel working for the respective guidance offices are the caregivers to the students' mental health and they cannot give what they don't have. So, it should start at their cores— the person who gives that.

She added that the event was one way of linking other sister schools from all over the Philippines so the guidance professionals can benchmark on each other's best practices. To actualize this, each participating school showcased their services and programs. Furthermore, concerns were discussed to come up with feasible solutions.

"Eventually this will lead to the union among counselors from OAR schools and Father (Alaras) wanted to have a program for that," Iglesia said.

Moreover, the activity aims to enrich the spiritual, professional, personal development, and social by helping each other especially those in smaller institutions.

She continued that USJ-R through the SDPC wants to host a program wherein all guidance counselors from Recoletos schools in the Philippines will participate. It could be a five-day program that can be started with a recollection and the rest are activities related to their profession. The goal of this plan is to unite Recoletos schools.

To realize this, the University will still have to submit it a proposal to the Recoletos Educational Association of the Philippines (REAP) for approval. **RO**

**"...the event was one way of linking other sister schools from all over the Philippines so the guidance professionals can benchmark on each other's best practices. To actualize this, each participating school showcased their services and programs. Furthermore, concerns were discussed to come up with feasible solutions."**

MS. NELBHA IGLESIA,  
SDPC Director



## Josenian Debatistas named champions at 5<sup>th</sup> VUBP tournament

By **USJ-R Correspondent**

THE DEBATE TEAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN JOSE-RECOLETOS CHAMPED the 5<sup>th</sup> Visayas Universities Debate Championship – British Parliamentary (VUBP) held in Dumaguete City.

Both the college and senior high teams were hailed overall champion in their respective categories. Individual awards were also given.

### SENIOR HIGH DIVISION

#### Grand Champions:

Aaron Alcuitas (Overall Best Speaker)  
Brylle Abella (2<sup>nd</sup> Overall Best Speaker, Finals Best Speaker)

#### Grand Finalists:

Garfield Greg Lim (8<sup>th</sup> Overall Best Speaker)  
Kirby Alex Milan (7<sup>th</sup> Overall Best Speaker)

#### Semi Finalists:

Ashley Mandal (9<sup>th</sup> Overall Best Speaker)  
Vernon Tan

### COLLEGE DIVISION

#### Grand Champions:

Jade Angelique Alcomendras (Best Speaker of the Finals, Overall Best Speaker)  
Kristoffer Francis Milan (Overall Best Speaker)

#### Grand Finalists:

Linoel Hahn Lantaca (4<sup>th</sup> Best Speaker)  
Stacey Marie Castañares (9<sup>th</sup> Best Speaker)

#### Reserved Break:

Clark Peter Castillo (7<sup>th</sup> Best Speaker)  
Angelou Gudian (9<sup>th</sup> Best Speaker)

The competition was held on October 25 to 27 at Silliman University.

It was the third time that the Senior High Debatistas competed and won the championship. The same goes with the College Debatistas. It was their fourth time to compete and win the tournament. This makes them the grand champion for four consecutive years.

Their opponents in the finals were UP Visayas Ilo-Ilo and UP Visayas Miagao. The Josenian Debatistas described their experience as tough and challenging.

“One of the biggest challenges that I encountered was facing my opponents because I considered them as veterans in the debate,” said Alcomendras. **RD**

## newsbits

### CHED RENEWS AUTONOMOUS STATUS OF USJ-R

By Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) granted the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) two more years to be autonomous.

This means that USJ-R can implement changes or make new course offerings without the approval of CHED until 2021 according to VP Academics Fray Leo Alaras, OAR.

“Once the School Board approves, we only need to inform CHED,” he said.

Once the granted status is about to expire, CHED conducts a reevaluation if a school should be granted a renewed

autonomous status.

A Philippine academic institution that has been identified as a university can further be classified depending on the level of control CHED has on them. The autonomous status is the highest in the vertical typology. In order to be granted the said status, CHED evaluates two areas: (1) commitment to excellence and (2) institutional sustainability and enhancement. Each of these areas has its own set of criteria.

During the assessment conducted by CHED in 2019, Alaras said that USJ-R performed well in the areas of research

and having a number of Centers of Development (COD) and Centers of Excellence (COE). Moreover, he said that the university's ISA certification helped.

ISA stands for Institutional Sustainability Assessment (ISA). It is an internal quality assurance tool for Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in the Philippines. According to the official website of CHED, it is designed to get the HEI to look at and reflect on its outcomes while recognizing the importance of quality inputs and evaluate its performance against its vision, mission, and goals.

# Revisit, Renewal, Refocus

By USJ-R Correspondent



*Balamban, CEBU*—“THE TALAVERA HOUSE OF PRAYER-RECOLETOS BECAME our haven for three days,” Fray Sixto Bitangjol, School Director of USJ-R Balamban Campus reported. “These days tested our patience and dedication in going deeper on what we had wanted for the University of San Jose-Recoletos, Balamban.”

**“The three-day evaluation on our life situation in Balamban was unfolded, unearthed, or even to say, exposed without hesitation. It was like putting ourselves into a barrage of examinations and investigations.”**

FRAY SIXTO CIRIACO BITANGJOL, OAR,  
Campus Ministry Director, USJ-R  
Balamban

Last June 24 - 27, 2019, the “21-knowledge navigators” or mentors went into the mindboggling “REVISIT, RENEWAL, AND REFOCUS” sessions on the Vision - Mission and Core Values of USJ-R Balamban. Revisit, Renewal and Refocus became the mantra of the participants in the seminar-workshop. Fray Emilio P. Jaruda, Jr., OAR, Prior of the Recoletos de Balamban Community and the CMO Director opened the important activity through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The first day started with an orientation on what would transpire on the three-day stay in Talavera House of Prayer. The invited speaker challenged every participant to be more reflective and open to each other so that the sharing will come smoothly. Dr. Debbie Grafil, the invited speaker, oriented the participants on the various tasks that they were to undergo.

Fray Bitangjol disclosed: “The three-day evaluation on our life situation in Balamban was unfolded, unearthed, or even to say, exposed without hesitation. It was like putting ourselves into a barrage of examinations and investigations. The activities never came easy each day as we had to spend an overtime in order to finish the assigned task for the following day. However, teamwork made the work easier and successful.”

After three days, the “knowledge navigators” went back contented yet still loaded with unfinished business on what to do next as they lacked time to wrap everything in the three-day seminar-workshop. But, as Fray Bitangjol put it: “We promised, we will finish [our tasks] with a valuable output!”

Adelante! **RD**

# USJ-R de Balamban joins Lingaw Sadya Festival

By USJ-R Correspondent

*Balamban, CEBU*—THE TOWN OF BALAMBAN EXPRESSES ITS PRAISE AND thanksgiving to their Patron Saint, Francis of Assisi, through “Lingaw Sadya” Festival. This Annual Festival is on its third year and widely participated among the different sectors of Balamban both from private and public sectors. “Lingaw Sadya” is also an avenue to celebrate with spiritual meaning the different activities in preparation for the big fiesta celebration of the town.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, the 12 Contingents prepared themselves for the most awaited showdown in Street Dancing and Ritual Showdown. USJ-R Balamban was third on the list to do share their prowess in the Lingaw Sadya Festival. The Administrators, Faculty and Staff supported the Josenian Contingents or simply dubbed as, “Banay Josenian” during the different performances. Behind the superb choreography is Mr. Harley Tan, Senior High School MAPEH Teacher of USJ-R Balamban together with his assistants, Mr. Charles Dennis Dumdum, another MAPEH Teacher of the Junior High School Department. Mr. Jade Butaya and Mr. John Jason Labasano provided technical assistance especially in the voice over recording.

Before the start of the Ritual Showdown, the Religious Administrators—Fray Sixto M. Bitangjol, OAR, School Director, Fray Domingo Saladaga, OAR, the newly appointed Prior of the Community and Fray Agustin Culaton, OAR together with the lay administrators, faculty and staff led the entrance of the dancers and propsmen inside the Balamban Oval/Sports Complex. It was a display of unity and teamwork. It was a morale boosting

to the participants. As the 24 Festival Dancers with the propsmen started their performance, literally, they wowed the audience at the Balamban Sports Complex which was undeniably one of a kind rendition, as accounted by many. Fairy tale dramatic theme was used to showcase the image of the world today—a world of good and evil—and it is through the intercession of the omnipotent power of an intercessor

that healing is possible. It is an invitation to see from fantasy to a real leap of faith.

The most awaited announcement of winners was a complete surprise for the “Banay Josenian” when it gathered awards in all categories. The Best in Costume was the first to be announced and was given to

USJ-R Balamban. It was followed by the Best in Street Dancing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Best in Ritual Showdown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and Best in Audio and Festival Float, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.

Added to the pride of USJ-R Balamban’s participation in the Lingaw Sadya was Josenian’s Lingaw Sadya Festival Queen that garnered an award as the First-Runner Up and Best in Cocktail Wear, represented by Ms. Rachel Tingal, a Senior High School student.

Congratulations! Adelante! **RO**



# UNO-Rnews

THE CRADLE OF EXCELLENCE

[ education ]

## Two UNO-Rians named among “The Outstanding Students” (THOS) 2019

By Johanne Bursky Reduble

**BACOLOD CITY**—TWO STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-Recoletos (UNO-R) are finalists of Junior Chamber International, Inc. (JCI, Inc.) The Outstanding Students (THOS) 2019. They are Carmen Jesusa B. Legaspi (College category) and Hazel Lorraine Herida (High School category).

Legaspi is from the College of Arts and Sciences and is currently the Governor of the College. In her previous years, she also held positions such as First Year Class Representative of the Mass Communication Society AY 2015-2016; Senator of the UNO-R Supreme Student Government (UNORSSGO) AY 2016-2017; President of Sowing Legacy Movement UNO-R Chapter and Vice President of Mass Communication Society AY 2017-2018. She is also a consistent Dean's Listee of the College of Arts and Sciences and is an Academic and Dependent Scholar of this university. She joined the other nine Finalists for the THOS Awards 2019 Finalists' Forum last January 26, 2019 at Ayala Capitol Central. Three Students will then be selected and dubbed as the THOS Awardees 2019 for the College Category on February 16, 2019 at Ayala Capitol Central Activity Center.

Herida is a Grade 10 section St. Possidius student. She is very thankful for the experiences and learning's she gained as one of the THOS finalists. She is the daughter of Henry and Lorelli Herida. Hazel Lorraine is planning to take up ABM for Senior High School and pursue her dream of becoming a CPA-Lawyer.

The THOS Awards 2019 will be on February 16, 2019 at Ayala Capitol Central Activity Center. **RD**





## TWO GUESTS FROM ICU-JAPAN TO VISIT UNO-R

By UNO-R Correspondent

Two academic officials of Ibaraki Christian University, Ibaraki, Japan will be visiting the University for a Possible Partnership on February 15, 2019. They are Dr. Naomi Ueno, dean of the College of Literature and Ms. Jenny Numadate, staff, Department of Contemporary English. They will be here to discuss possible tie-ups with our programs. They want to establish a long-term program exchange for Their HM students to have their OJT programs in Negros and other students to have short-term programs in English.

## CCJE HOLDS CULMINATING ACTIVITY FOR NOHS IMMERSION STUDENTS

By UNO-R Correspondent

The College of Criminal Justice Education conducted Culminating activity as part of sending off the senior high students of NOHS who had their immersion at the college for two weeks. In the program which they themselves prepared, they give their feedback's and testimonies through their team leaders, Christian Jaye Mallorca for Team A and Aram Alexies for Team B and each team showcases their talents through an intermission number. They also organized games under the supervision of Intern Officer Mary Joy Despi and Intern Battalion Commander Emman Gabriel Gauzon and some Intern Cadets prepared for the Boodle fight during their luncheon. The food was sponsored by the Dean. Parreño of the dean and the senior high students brought with them their softdrinks. The program ended by having their group pictures with the dean and intern.

# College Sportsfest opens

By Johanne Bursky Reduble

UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-RECOLETOS officially opened Sportsfest 2019, February 11, 2019 at University Gymnasium. The program started with a parade of seven Colleges together with their Athletes and the College Ambassador and Ambassadors.

Fray Don H. Besana, OAR, University President said, "to all athletes as we start our sports festivities this week. I would like you to enjoy this day, play with all your heart, compete but compete in a healthy way. Sportsmanship is very important. Show respect to opponents and to the officials of the game. Sports is for health. Sportsmanship will remind us all that winners should remain humble and those defeated shall remain with their dignity."

Meanwhile John Lewis Pabilona, UNORSSGO President, said that the aim of the Sportsfest 2019 is to develop the spirit of sportsmanship and foster unity and friendship. Main purpose is to apply their skills and talents in sports and to expose and develop the physical well-being of the students not just in academic but also in non-academic and extra-curricular activities. Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR, Vice President for Student Welfare, declared the Sportsfest 2019 to officially open. The declaration was followed by the Oath of Sportsmanship and Search for Mr. and Ms. Sportsfest 2019. **RO**



*Fray Don Besana, OAR, the University President, opening the Sportsfest with messages of camaraderie.*

# STEP holds TESOL seminar welcome program

By Dr. Nena Samillano  
and Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos

THE SPECIAL TECHNOLOGICAL AND Educational Programs (STEP) office welcomes its five Korean students for the Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Seminar on January 10, 2019 at room SA 104, UNO-R.

This educational program for the Koreans is in partnership with Jason English Language School (JELS). Among the students of TESOL who came from two universities namely Dong-A University and Koojie University are Park Sojeong, Jang Seolah, Jeong Yebin, Cho Sungmok, and Kim Hyeonah. The program started with the usual opening formalities and was followed by a welcome message by Dr. Nena P. Samillano, director of STEP. Then, Mr. Kyoungpill Cho, the school owner of JELS presented the official students of the said program. The students were also able to experience a campus tour headed by Mr. Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos, staff of STEP and went back to the venue for the orientation and the essentials of Language Teaching by Dr. Adelyn Sia. Moreover, the STEP office invited eight Grade 11 students under the advisory of Ms. Ernestine Lavilla to attend the program. The TESOL seminar will end on February 1, 2019. **RD**

## newsbits

### UNO-R JOINS 20<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF GJJSP

The University represented by Ms. Catherine Sebastian of the UNO-R Scholarships' office joined the Gado and Jesse Jalandoni Scholarship Project (GJJSP) 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, February 8, 2019 at LCC-Bacolod. The four GJJSP scholars at UNO-R are Joylyn Baylon (BS Psych), Ellen Mae Elaco (BS Accountancy), Lee Ann Galila (BSED), and Alaica Marino (BSCS).

# STEP Staff represents Philippines in TJIYLC 2019

By Johnny Jade Veniegas

MR. ELMEER MEEYNARD CALIMPOS, staff at the Special Technological & Educational Programs (STEP) was selected to be one of the 550 delegates from 110 countries to join in the Telangana Jagruthi International Youth Leadership Conference (TJIYLC) 2019 at Hyderabad, India last January 18-20, 2019. Calimpos is the only Filipino delegate in the conference. He is spirited, humble and dynamic when sharing his stories of love, legacy and leadership in the international stage.

Children are dearest to his heart and most of his causes embrace children, like what his philosophy which says "It is better to build up a child than to repair an adult." TJIYLC 2019 was a great opportunity for him to widen his partnerships and collaborations for his founded organization, Bacolod CORE. TJIYLC is a partnership- driven program for young leaders across the world that can make a positive impact in their communities and the world at large through the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

TJIYLC brings together leaders from different walks of life and serves as a point of confluence for young professionals, students, innovators, and policymakers to come together and build consensus around SDGs and other critical development agenda. **RD**

# UNO-R IS shines at UP Research Fair 2019

By Mrs. Cindy Gabutas

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-RECOLETOS INTEGRATED SCHOOL (UNO-R IS) Senior High School Department shone bright at the University of the Philippines Academic League of Chemical Engineering students, Inc., Research Fair 2019 at UP Diliman, Quezon City, January 31 - February 2, 2019.

Emerged as champions for the Youth Science Convention Calyx: Case Study Competition were Dymme Jerah Barrera; Jerrylle Siasat; and Thea Gillera with Mr. Jude Xerxes Herbolario and Mrs. Ma. Cindy Gabutas as advisers, with the study entitled "Compostable Food Packaging from Blue Swimmer Crab Chitin and Lato Seaweed Cellulose in Sustainable Farming."

Surfacing as qualifiers in the Research Competition: Life Science Category (Top five studies) are Ariane Dolino, Janieross Lamboso, Althea Anne Almira, Nick David Corcino with Mr. Herbolario as adviser and Mr. Randy Catague as Technical Consultant, with the study entitled, "Pesticidal Activity of Rambutan against Rice Grain Bugs".

Named as qualifiers for Exhibit and Project Presentation, Reserch Competition: Applied Science Category (Top 24 studies) were Dame Rose Besonia, Nikki Ivy Bombio, Ma. Kathleen Christina Borja, and Kollin Danao with Ms. Joy Borcelas as adviser, with the study entitled, "Harvesting Human Kinetic Motion into Piezoelectric energy via Piezoelectric Transducer."

Also surfaced as qualifier in the Life Science Category (Top 24 studies) was the study entitled, "Chlorophyll

Pigmentation Levels between Varieties of White Rice." The researchers are Carmel Therese Perez, Kristoffer Zuniga, Jr. with Mr. Herbolario as adviser.

Delegates to the Youth Science Convention were Abigail Cordova, Chris-Ino Angelo Pacardo, Gaia Aubry manalo, Gretel Faith Haro, Isiah Miguel Villanueva, Jess Aldrey Loriezo, Joellan Chris Arlos; Joshua Steven Calvo; Nikka Hermedalla, Ricci Fernandez, and Roden John Titong. Mrs. Gabutas and Ms. Methozela Iligan joined as advisers.

Meanwhile, two UNO-Rians joined in the Philippines Federation of Chemistry Societies, Inc., Ateneo de Manila University, 18<sup>th</sup> Philippine National Chemistry Olympiad 2019 National Finals, held January 26, 2019 at ADMU. Arthur John Tabligan won the silver medal in the national finals and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Regional elimintions while Jhanna Jeanne Salmorin, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Regional leg, was one of the representatives for the Region. Mr. Herbolario and Engr. Rosemarie Nepangue were the coaches. **RO**



# Fray Gealon and seven Faculty Members finish their Graduate Studies

By Carlos Legaspi Jr., Ph.D.

FRAY RONEL P. GEALON, OAR, WAS CONFERRED WITH the Degree of Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling. His thesis entitled, “Career Preference and College Readiness of Senior High School Students” was named as Outstanding Thesis.

Seven Faculty members of the university were also conferred with their graduate degrees last April 6 during the 73<sup>rd</sup> Commencement Exercises of University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos. They were:

Methozela Iligan, MAEd-English;

Joseph Karl C. Tatlonghari, MAEd-English;

Rudelyn C. Cañada, MAEd-Natural Science;

Edahmae M. Rayo, MAEd-Natural Science;

Kareem Glade H. Abellar, MAEd-Early Childhood Education;

Joebel G. Imperial, MAEd-Social Science; and

Harry S. Magluyan, MAEd-Social Science.

Congratulations! 



## newsbits

### CBA, CAS AND KDC VOLUNTEER FOR CEAP SUPCOM

By UNO-R Correspondent

The Hospitality Management of the College of Business and Accountancy, the Mass Communication Department of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Kasadyahan Dance Company volunteered during the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) SUPCOM Mid-year Assembly at the L' Fisher Hotel February 3-7, 2019. The Mass Communication students were tasked to document the programs and proceedings while the HM students are tasked to help in the local tour on the 6<sup>th</sup>. KDC performed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> night and presented the rich culture of Negros through dances. Carmen Jesusa Legaspi; Andrea Amisola; and Geela Charice Reyes were the Mass Communication students who helped in the documentation while Rosebelle Cajolo; Kizelle Ann Gellesania; June Steve Barredo; John Gaspillo; and Shane Gabrielle Cristuta. The participants had their thanksgiving Mass at the Oratory on the 6<sup>th</sup> and had a campus tour where Mrs. Mely Flores gave them a talk regarding the Greenheart hermitage, the Museum of Heritage Trees and the Earth Chapel.

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*MILESTONE. Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR tops the billboard with another degree which shall prove useful in his ministry.*



## newsbits

### 25 STEP/RITTC TRAINEES JOIN TESDA TIP 2019

By Dr. Nena Samillano  
and Mr. Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos

Twenty-five Food and Beverage Services (FBS) NC II trainees of UNO-R Recoletos Industrial and Technological Training Center (RITTC) under the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) of TESDA joined the Training Induction Program (TIP) on May 7, 2019 at the Annex Building, New Government Center, Bacolod City. The objectives of the said activity are mainly to introduce the TWSP pursuant to the Omnibus Guidelines for 2019 TESDA scholarship program; to discuss the brief history of TESDA in Negros Occidental, its mission, vision, and goals; and to emphasize the value of commitment in the course of the training provided by the schools and institutions. Ms. Beverly R. Insular, senior TESDA specialist, led the orientation on the roles of TESDA and its implementing guidelines of TWSP. Fourteen (14) training providers in Bacolod City with their respective scholars, trainers, and administrators participated in the TIP. Further, the program is in partnership with the City Government of Bacolod and the Association of Technical Institution of Negros Occidental (ATINO) led by Dr. Nena P. Samillano, the organization secretary. Mr. Kent Kevin P. Novillas, trainer in FBS NC II, was also present in the TIP. The program ended with the TESDA Hymn presented by Ms. Jenie Y. Notchite, TESDA Support Staff. The master of ceremony was Mr. Elmeer Meeynard D. Calimpos, STEP/RITTC Staff.

[ education ]

## UNO-R Institutional Planning 2019

By Carlos Legaspi Jr., Ph.D.

THE PLANNING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE (PQA) held the Institutional Planning 2019 last April 22-23 at the President's Hall. The Father President enjoined all religious and lay administrators to attend the activity through Memo no. 66.

The activity opened with the opening formalities with Fray Ronel P. Gealon, OAR leading the prayer, Fray Don Besana, OAR for the Opening Remarks and Dr. Elmer Haro read the rationale of the activity. After which the whole day was devoted to the revisitation to the Nine Key themes which are: Human Capital Management, Research Culture, Collaboration and Partnership, Corporate Social Responsibility, Accreditation and Certification, Campus Sustainability, Program Marketing, Management Efficiency, and Evangelization.

The day ended with the report on Manual updates and PAASCU interim visit report on administration and the Arts, Education and Business programs. The second day of the activity opened with the presentations of the Accomplishments, challenges and opportunities for AY 2018-2019. The afternoon sessions were on the presentation of the calendar of activities for academic year 2019-2020 and the faculty-employee in-service training. Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR, Vice President for Academics closed the two-day planning activity. **RO**



# 25 UNO-R Alumni are now Engineers

By Carlos Legaspi Jr., Ph.D.

TWENTY-FIVE UNO-R ALUMNI ARE NOW ENGINEERS FOR HAVING PASSED their respective Licensure Examinations. Twenty hurdled successfully the May 2019 Civil Engineering Licensure Examination, five successfully passed the Registered Electrical Engineering (REE) Licensure Examinations and five for the Registered Master Electricians (RME).

The twenty new Civil Engineers from UNO-R are:

- Spencer Jay G. Alegada
- Ryan Cristian S. Apla-on
- Lyka R. Cahilig
- Gian Isabella S. Cape
- Diane Mae A. Catalan
- Angela Joy S. Donoso
- Remy M. Famoso
- Caryl Joy L. Guanco
- Joanna S. Jardinero
- Toni Haze J. Javelosa
- Jesus Antonio D. Jugos
- Williamson S. Llave

- Kloie R. Macaya
- Francis R. Octaviano
- Quesse M. Odtohan
- Roland Rofel C. Posecion
- Anabelle R. Razo
- Kinah S. Reyes
- Carlos B. Senador, Jr.
- Jessie Ian E. Tumalak

The five UNO-Rians, who successfully hurdled the April 2019 Registered Electrical Engineering Board Examinations are:

- Jury S. Bayson

- Ronnel V. Juarana
- Ryan Anthony J. Panisales
- Starraine Shaica Y. Songcayawon
- Michael Steven C. Veniegas

The five Registered Master Electricians are:

- Jury S. Bayson
- Ray Joseph M. Dumdum
- Ryan Anthony J. Panisales
- Michael Steven C. Veniegas
- Lee Angelo C. Villaespin **RO**

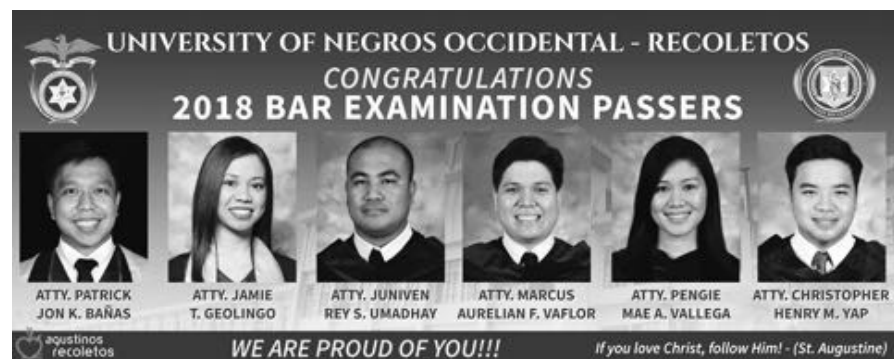
# UNO-R produces six new Lawyers

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE SCHOOL OF LAW OF UNO-R HAS SIX SUCCESSFUL 2018 BAR PASSERS.

They are Atty. Patrick Jon K. Bañas, Atty. Jamie T. Geolingo, Atty. Marcus Aurelian F. Vaflor, Atty. Pengie Mae A. Vallega, Atty. Juniven Rey S. Umadhay, and Atty. Christopher Henry M. Yap.

Only 1,800 out of 8,701 or 22.07% successfully hurdled the 2018 Bar exams. **RO**



# Fray Almayo talks about Recoletos Branding

By Avelino Kalalang, III

IN A BID TO CREATE A CLEAR AND CONSISTENT VISUAL IDENTITY FOR THE University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, the UNO-R Human Resource Management and Development Office held a Seminar on Recoletos Branding—a half-day session conducted by Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR and attended by Academic Non-Teaching Personnel, Non-Teaching Personnel, and Maintenance Personnel on May 27, 2019 at the UNO-R President's Hall.

On February 7, 2017, Fray Miguel Miro, OAR, Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects and his team published the Official Identity Manual of the Order as a process of revitalization, and instrument of communion in the Augustinian Recollect Family. Inspired by this endeavor, the Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines assembled a Committee on Visual Identity—a group represented by different OAR schools who will oversee Recoletos branding as a whole without sacrificing the uniqueness of each institution. This movement prompted the creation of programs that will underscore or enhance a REAP Institutions lack of a clear visual identity.

Recoletos Branding addressed the lack of clarity

about the UNO-R's image and will spearhead the adoption and spread of UNO-R's official branding on campus and across Negros Occidental. The session included basic explanations on design theory, color theory, typography, and Visual Identity which will communicate UNO-R's overall message, and set of values to Increase visibility and recognizability, enhance brand image and reputation, Express organizational structure, and inspire a sense of belongingness. The Recoletos Branding seminar is part of the three-topic UNO-R In-Service Training 2019 for ANTP, NTP, and Maintenance Personnel. UNO-R INSET 2019 topics included MS Office 365: Tools for Office Operation held on May 20, and ISTV-Succeeding in Business held on May 30, 2019. **RO**



# UNO-R, STI-WNU and RC launch SOAR 2.0

By Carlos Legaspi Jr., Ph.D.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-Recoletos, STI-WNU, and Riverside College launched the second edition of the SOAR, a collaboration Journal, at the Chalet 1 and 2, May 31, 2019.

The Opening remark was done by Dr. Randolph L. Asistido, STI-WNU Research Director while the rationale was given by Dr. Mona Freda Secondes, UNO-R Research Director. Three Research projects were presented. UNO-R's "Travel Guard"; Riverside College's "Bacteria Infested Water Sources and Their Capacity to Produce Electrical Charge"; and STI-WNU's "Tasked -based Approach in Teaching Reading to Grade 8 Students of STI - West Negros University. After each presentation, School heads gave their message: Dr. Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr. for Fray Don H. Besana, OAR (UNO-R); Mr. Samuel Z. Lee (Riverside College) and Mr. Mark S. Molina, SFRIM (STI-WNU).

UNO-R's entries for the journal are "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Awareness and Confidence Assessment" by Ryan Depalobos; Ivan Saligumba; Maria Chona Bejo; Mr. Isaiah Tan; Mr. Lester Sapar and Dean Sheila Arnibal; "Development of Automated Segregator for Offie Waste Management" by Neri Anne Ignalaga; Mejoy Pagunsan; Marnelli Joanne Vallejo; Engr. Rue Gustilo; and Engr. Christopher Alunan; "The Effectiveness of Behavior Modification techniques practiced by Special Education Teachers to Children with Autism" by Christian Batallones; Joyvil Casiple; Mary Joy Flores; Xeniah Gentiles; Ma. Patricia Rivera; Mrs. Cecile Marie Pacis; and Dr. Nieves Pepito; "Social Media Jargons" by Nikka Joy Atienza; Carmen Jesusa Legaspi; Johann Bursky Reduble; Mrs. Ma. Judy B. Legaspi; and Dr. Nieves Pepito; and "Travel Guard: A Mobile Application for Travelers." by Haime Hurrissa; Mark Edward Panabe; Renz Owen Santillan; Mr. Alvin Mananquil and Dr. Elmer Haro.

RO

## newsbits

### UNO-R CCJE INSTRUCTOR IS NOW CSP

By UNO-R Correspondent



Mr. Edwin N. Moradilla, a faculty member of the College of Criminal Justice Education, attended the training on Certified Security Personnel (CSP) at Iloilo Grand Hotel, April 22-25, 2019. CSP training is conducted by the Philippine Society for Industrial Security International, Inc. (PSIS). The main objective of the activity is to train and enhance the skills of the participants in the practice of the security profession. Mr. Moradilla was given a commendation by the PSIS for ranking second among the 49 participants with a grade of 94.36%.



JANUARY-DECEMBER 2019



## UNO-R secures ECC

By Ms. Mely Flores

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources (DENR Regional Director, Dr. Sofie T. Manuel, CESO V, met with University President, Fray Don H. Besana, OAR, last June 7, 2019, at UNO-R, to turn over the school's Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

The ECC makes UNO-R the first university and school campus in Negros Occidental to have been granted with the certification which was issued by the DENR Environmental Management Board (EMB) Region 6. It also certified that the UNO-R Campus Site Development Project, which underwent DENR-EMB's three level technical evaluations and one public hearing, had obtained positive evaluation by complying with all the requirements of the government agency's Environmental Impact Assessment.

The ECC also outlined the university's commitments to implement the measures and provisions as summarized in the document and the DENR-EMB's approved Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) submitted by UNO-R.

With the ECC, UNO-R now takes the lead in the pursuit towards campus environmental sustainability in the province, vigorously committing itself to create a positive impact on the environment and the community. The Regional Director was accompanied by Engr. Anne Marie A. Delariarte, OIC-Chief, Clearance and Permitting Division, & Gladys Gayle Kitane, Admin Asst of DENR-EMB R6. **RD**



## Father President leads institutional Mass of the Holy Spirit

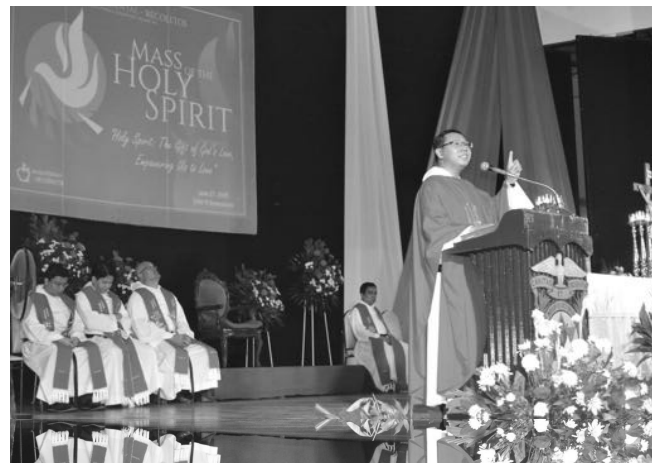
By UNO-R Correspondent

FRAY DON H. BESANA, OAR, University President led the Con-celebrated Mass in honor of the Holy Spirit to usher Academic Year 2019-2020.

He was joined by Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR; Fray Jose Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR; Fray Jose Alden B. Alipin, OAR; and Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR. In his homily, Father President reminded everyone that the greatest power from God is the Holy Spirit.

He should be the inspiration of everyone. He also reiterated the things that symbolize the Holy Spirit: Water, Air and Fire—Water as the source of life; Air as the source of breath, and Fire as the source of heat. Fray Besana also reminded everyone as young people, we should feel that we are empowered, beloved and gifted. As empowered, we need to believe that God is always with us and He gives us power. As beloved children of God, we should feel the Holy Spirit as a spirit of love. Like the love for our parents, we need to show God our love for Him. And As gifted, God has given us all the gifts and the greatest of which are the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Father President also reminded the faculty to strive to be loved rather than be feared. He reminds them that they are pedagogues and the primary thing to do is to being the students to the great teacher – Christ. He also reminded the students that the university looks at your values over your grades. We need God, we ask for God and for the Holt Spirit. We ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit (all seven of them) to be bestowed upon all of us. **RD**



# UNO-Rian recognized as “Global Changemaker”

By Glazyl Masculino (Manila Bulletin, Published June 15, 2019)

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, GLOBAL Changemakers, has given a 21-year-old climate advocate from Bacolod the title “global changemaker” for the initiating a solution to address climate change and plastic pollution. Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos was the only Filipino chosen to represent the Philippines in the week-long Global Youth Summit in Switzerland in July this year. He was among the 60 young people chosen from 1,294 applicants from different countries in the world to join the network of “global changemakers” comprised of at least 1,000 young leaders whose works have impacted over four million people.

The Global Changemakers is based in Zurich, Switzerland, and maintains a presence in 180 countries. As a child advocate for climate, Calimpos said he wants his fellow “changemakers” to reach out to the children of their community since it is evident that mortality rate across the globe is rising because of the changing climate. “I want to attend this summit because I firmly care for my country which is one of the largest polluters of the ocean in the whole world,” he said. Calimpos started his advocacy after he saw children diving in a degraded sea side full of single-used like diapers, napkins, sando bags, sachets, and feces during his visit to one of the communities in the province in November 2017. “It was ultimately heart breaking when my team knew that they were doing such act – competing for trash – just to earn even just a small amount of money,” he said. Calimpos, who founded the Bacolod Core: Children Optimization for the Revitalization of Environment, is pushing for a multi-step learning process to the children in their formative stage by inculcating values of environmental stewardship through education, experiential learning and exposure for a sustainable and balanced ecology.

The Bacolod Core: Children Optimization for the Revitalization of Environment formed in February 2018 is a local youth-led organization with a heart for building a community of environmentally conscious children for the children to their children, the nation, and to God. Calimpos encouraged him to join the Negrosanon Young Leaders Summit Wave 2 and later to form the Ecological Saturdays Initiative, a multi-step learning process for children age nine to 12 years.

One of Bacolod Core’s projects is the Core Bamboo Coin Bank. The group volunteers teach children to save for themselves and their community instead of buying candies and junk food. Calimpos said he will highlight the power of small communities and encourage the people to think globally and act locally during the summit to extend the project to other communities. **RD**

## newsbits

### UNO-R OPENS LL.M. IN CONSORTIUM WITH SSC-R

By Carlos Legaspi Jr., Ph.D.



The University of Negros Occidental–Recoletos School of Law inked a Memorandum of Agreement with the San Sebastian College–Recoletos, Manila Graduate School of Law to offer Master of Laws last June 17 at the UNO-R President’s Conference Room.

The signing of the MOA was done between Fray Don H. Besana, OAR, President of UNO-Recoletos and Fray Nemesio Tolentin, OAR, President of SSC-Recoletos, Manila with Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR; Fray Henry Santiago, OAR; Dean Rodel A. Taton, LL.M, DCL and Dean John Paolo Villazor, MSc as witnesses.

The MOA states that UNO-R will offer Master of Laws in consortium with SSC-R, Manila. The whole program consists of 36 units (12 units – basic, 15 units – areas of specialization/concentration, three units elective and cognates and six units – thesis). The LL.M program opens August, 2019 at UNO-R School of Law.

# STEP–RITTC conducts community outreach in RESOURCE

By Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos

TWENTY-FIVE (25) COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF RECOLETOS SOCIAL OUTREACH Center (RESOURCE) Handumanan participated in the community outreach of the STEP–Recoletos Industrial and Technological Training Center (RITTC) with the theme “Lectures and Workshops on Home and Family Living” held on June 22, 2019. The program started with the usual opening formalities and was followed by the lectures and workshop conducted by Ms. Analie Alamo and Ms. Cris Ann Bani Bani, both RITTC alumni.

The objectives of the program are to conduct lectures and workshops to the household members of RESOURCE- Handumanan on housekeeping and table etiquette; to inspire the community members to go beyond the modern mentality of a Filipino family; to provide better understanding about housekeeping and table etiquette so they can engage well even outside their homes; and to promote collaborative strategies to increase their level of participation in terms of cleanliness and orderliness not just in their respective households but in the entire community as a whole.

Meanwhile, there were thirty-nine (39) volunteers

representing the present batches of the Food and Beverage Services NC II and Housekeeping NC II under the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) and Private Education Scholarship Financial Assistance (PESFA), respectively. Also, it was attended by the alumni of RITTC.

Further, the activity was in collaboration with the University Community Development Office (UCDO), the outreach arm of the university and RESOURCE Inc., the adopted community of UNO-R. The master of ceremony was Ms. Irish Ewican, TWSP FBS NC II trainee. **RD**



# UNO-R launches EDUCAR/REAP Logo and Motto

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-RECOLETOS LAUNCHED THE EDUCAR and the Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines logo and motto for academic year 2019-2020.



Fray William Villaflor, OAR, OAR Councilor, Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno; Prior of Recoletos de Bacolod and UNO-R Vice President for Finance led the unveiling of the logo during the Mass of the Holy Spirit for Grades 11 and 12 last June 26, 2019 at the university Gymnasium. While, Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR led the unveiling during the Institutional Mass of the Holy Spirit last June 27, 2019. The theme for this 2019, according to the guidelines of the Order for the sexennium of the OAR General Council, is about the final reconfiguration phase of the Augustinian Recollect provinces. This academic year, the Augustinian value of "COMMUNITY" is highlight.

The reflections of Fray Antonio Carron, OAR, General Councilor of the Order, on how to really understand the theme through the mind of our Father, St. Augustine was read during the launching. These reflections are: First, the main pillar of Christianity, that St. Augustine emphasizes, is that of the community. Second, to live the community is to delight with the other, to be part of his life and to let the other be part of our life: this is the

union of hearts and the union of lives. Third, for St. Augustine, the community does not remain on the human understanding, but it is more of the union of lives, union of hearts directed towards God. Fourth, the presence of God gives meaning to community life. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for different peoples, from different contexts, with different concerns and objectives, to reach a union of hearts. And fifth, we are reminded of the inspiration of St. Augustine by the primitive community of Jerusalem that led him to found his first community, offering them the guidelines to live in harmony with a single soul and a single heart directed towards God.

The meanings of the symbols in the logo were also explained. The logo shows a group of people clearly differentiated by the colors, but all with the same heart. This is a universal design adopted by all communities in the four provinces of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. Let this be the logo in all our endeavors and activities in the university. EDUCAR is the international educational network of the Augustinian Recollect Family with presence in more than 100 educational centers around the world. **RO**



# UNO-R, SMART renew partnership

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNO-R AND SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC., has been renewed through a new Memorandum of Agreement for the SMART Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP) signed July 5, 2019, at the University President's Hall.

During a simple program, Dr. Owen Martir, Dean of the College of Engineering, gave the welcome note and the highlight of the MOA. Dr. Martir said that after 16 years, we renew the commitment of the University and SMART with each other. He outlined the four key points in the MOA. First, Smart's commitment to improving their facilities in the campus; second, UNO-R will be helped by SMART for the student internship program and the Faculty immersion; third, the provisions for the ECE Laboratories; and fourth, the construction of a new "futuristic" tower. Meanwhile, Ms. Stephanie Orllino, SMART Communications, Inc., Education Program Head, SMART Public Affairs, in her message, said that they will provide UNO-R with the latest trends of the industry.

This MOA will not only provide software and digital technology but hardware as well. As their company shifts to contemporary tools, they will retool and repurpose the people involved in this

partnership. She made mention of the global trend that is 5G technology. On the other hand, Fray Don H. Besana, OAR, university president, thanked the Lord for finally, we have the MOA signing. He said that the present administration is geared towards evangelization and with the MOA we are promoting values through communication. He said the partnership is "simply amazing" and with this, we now have "the power to lead".

Evangelization means building communities and it will be easier for us to do for we have the advantage in communication. He also reminded those present to embrace innovation and that we have to be leaders of innovation. He ended that the partnership is for the glory of God. The signing was done by Fray Besana, OAR for the university and Ms. Orllino for SMART Communications. This was witnessed by Mario Tamayo; Cynthia Capua, Senior academic Partnership Supervisor - Technology group; Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR and Dean Martir. **RO**



# UNO-R has 11 new Nurses, 35 new Criminologists

By UNO-R Correspondent

46 ALUMNI OF UNO-R SUCCESSFULLY HURDLED THE JUNE 2019 NURSING AND criminologist licensure examinations.

11 alumni from the College of Allied Medical Health Sciences successfully hurdled the June 2019 Nursing Licensure Examination. The new Registered Nurses are:

- Noel Anthony Badajos
- Sonaya Bani
- Maria Chona Bejo
- Felerie Colisio
- Jela Espinosa
- Denise Garganera-Navarro
- Hingel Grace Manzanares
- Erma Joy Meguiso
- Ivan Saligumba
- Isaiah Tan
- Vanessa Villano

The university has thirty-five (35) alumni who successfully hurdled the June 9-11, 2019

Criminologist Licensure examinations. The new Criminologists are:

- Arcillas, Kenneth Joe B.
- Atienza, Erwin Job M.
- Baldo, Cydney Chase T.
- Belodo, Edmar Z.
- Bernardo, Berlyn Joy B.
- Bonete, Karl Anthony J.
- Catahay, Charyl Jan T.
- Constantino, Sheilo M.
- Cordero, Matt M.
- Dadivas, Rodel V.
- De la Torre, Arlyn B.
- Escaro, Christine Joy L.
- Escollar, Nathaniel Patrick
- Ferrer, Ana Rose D.
- Guillergan, Charlie Louise
- Hinojales, Shannele Marie
- Labanon, Rodel J.

- Lava, Shalom
- Lumawag, Roselyn P.
- Mallillin, Rhea A.
- Miag-ao, Jazmine Faith
- Morden, Kenneth G.
- Mortales, Hope P.
- Muzones, Eunice D.
- Pedrosa, Larry M.
- Pido, John Alan
- Postrano, Jesan Y.
- Supera, Francis Angelo A.
- Tamon, Mark Eduard V.
- Teves, Klarez Marie J.
- Viñas, Engelo M.
- Yude, Stephen D.
- Zaragoza, Aliana Gebrielle H.
- Callao, Dondy F.
- Manzanaris, Marlon S. **RO**

## newsbits

### DILG, UNO-R MOA SIGNING FOR 2019 CSIS

By UNO-R Correspondent

The Department of Local Government – Region VI and the University of Negros Occidental–Recoletos inked a partnership for the 2019 Citizen Satisfaction Index System (CSIS). In a short program held at the University President's Hall on July 12, 2019, the Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Fray Don H. Besana, OAR and Atty. Ferdinand Panes, CESO V, Provincial Director, DILG Negros Occidental, representing Engr. Ariel O. Iglesia, CESO IV, Regional Director, DILG–Region VI.

In the MOA, UNO-R is made as DILG Local Research Institute (LRI) and UNO-R will extend its technical expertise by providing a team of qualified experts to DILG in the conduct of the CSIS for the Municipality of Binalbagan. UNO-R will gather data, interpret them, and make the final report to be submitted to the DILG.



# UNO-R and RESOURCE Teams visit Korea

By Dr. Richelle Verdeprado, RSW

AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT FOR A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY with the Global Workers in Daegu (GWD), representatives from the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos through the University Community Development Office (UCDO), and its partner community, the Recoletos Social Outreach Center (RESOURCE) were invited for a talk-concert and other productive activities and exposures in Daegu, South Korea from June 24 to July 1, 2019.

The main objective of the visit is to report about the case of RESOURCE Handumanan during the Talk-Concert seminar with the theme, “The Caritas Spirit Based Practice of Foreign Aid.”

Fray Ronel P. Gealon, OAR, Vice-President for Administration of UNO-R and RESOURCE president, who also headed the visiting team gave a talk about “The Meaning of Solidarity in God’s Love.” Dr. Richelle H. Verdeprado, RSW, head of the Social Work Program in undergraduate level and in graduate school shared about the application of Social Work Practice in the different programs supported by the GWD, specifically the Food for Work and the Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) which benefit the RESOURCE residents. The concert also aims to share experiences and ideas about community-based social work practice in Daegu and Bacolod, community development and leadership.

The Talk-Concert which was held on June 26 was attended by the social workers and leaders of the Caritas Daegu. It is also part of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Caritas Daegu. Other members of the visiting time aside from Fray Gealon and Dr. Verdeprado were Ms. Elinor Mariano, RESOURCE Bookkeeper, Aaron Kim Gil, RESOURCE Social Worker; Mr. Joey B. Jolito, UCDO Coordinator in the Campus Ministry Office; Ma. Joy de la Cruz, UCDO Staff; and Ms. Ophelia B. Caytiles, UCDO Coordinator in the Integrated School. They were welcomed in Daegu by the Secretary-General of the Caritas Daegu, Catholic Archdiocese of Daegu, Korea Fr. Hongdo Park Cyril, Chairman of the Association of Social Welfare Facilities in Caritas Daegu Mr. Albert Song, Jee-Woong Kim, President of the Global Workers in Daegu and all members of GWD.

Moreover, the team was able to be oriented about the different social welfare agencies in Daegu offering developmental services and assistance, especially for children, the elderly, those with special needs, those who are differently able and those who would need livelihood support. They were also able to visit the Community Welfare Center Haksan and Caritas Daegu Office. A bench-marking at the College of Nursing of Keimyung University was also done, with the team taking a look at the different modern facilities in their college and in their library and also in their newly-opened hospital.

On June 27, the the visiting team was able to visit Chilgok Multi-Culture and Chilgok Senior House. Fray Gealon also presided a Mass for the Filipinos working in Daegu at the Assistance Center for Foreigners. The team also visited the Seongju and Ansim Social Welfare Center, St. Joseph House and museums in Daegu.

The Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Archdiocese of Daegu on June 30 was also co-celebrated by Fray Gealon. It was a heartfelt Mass especially that it was attended by many Filipinos who are working in South Korea. **RO**



# Nurse delivers baby on international flight

By Marchel Espina

DELIVERING A BABY 35,000 FEET IN THE AIR WAS NEVER IN HIS THOUGHTS WHEN he booked a flight home from Dublin, Ireland.

Francis Dominic Mendoza, 25, of Barangay Tangub in Bacolod City, was just enjoying his flight when he noticed some of the passengers were uneasy.

On Tuesday, the plane, Qatar Airways, was already traversing Thailand and was on its way to Manila, Philippines when a 37-week pregnant Filipina went into labor mid-flight.

Using improvised instruments, Mendoza went to help deliver the baby. "We wrapped the baby in a blanket and I monitored the vitals of the mother," he said.

He said the pilot and the cabin crew asked him if it was safe for the mother and the baby to endure three more hours of flight or would it be better to carry out an emergency landing in Bangkok, Thailand.

"The mother is stable and there are no visible signs of bleeding. My concern was if she will have bleeding along the way, and the baby is at the risk of hypothermia due to plane temperature and develop an infection," he said.

He said the mother and her baby were turned over to

medical responders at the Bangkok airport after an emergency landing. Their flight continued on to the Philippines after an hour, he added.

He said there was no medical doctor on board the plane. "There was a psychiatrist, but she couldn't do more because it's not her field," he added.

He said the mother, who was alone during the flight, was very thankful for a successful delivery under the circumstances.

"Many people think that what I did was a heroic act. But I only did what a nurse should do when confronted in a situation like this," he said.

Mendoza was just returning home after working as a nurse for a year in Ireland.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in 2013. He said he really wanted to be a nurse growing up.

"This is my calling, this is what I want," he added.

RD

**"Many people think that what I did was a heroic act. But I only did what a nurse should do when confronted in a situation like this.... This is my calling, this is what I want."**

FRANCIS DOMINIC MENDOZA,  
UNO-R Alumnus



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISAYANDAILYSTAR.COM



## STEP-RITTC TRAINEES GET 100% PASSING RATE

By Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos

Twenty- four (24) trainees of the UNO-Recoletos Industrial and Technological Training Center (RITTC) under the TESDA Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) passed the National Assessment for Food and Beverage Services NC II held on July 12-13, 2019 at VMA Global College and Training Centers, Inc. The following are the passers or certified workers for Food and Beverage Services NC II:

- Myra A. De la Cruz
- Alonna Rose V. Doblas
- Irish M. Ewican
- Benito G. Fajarillo
- Marvie C. Fernandez
- Mike- Aven N. Franco
- Darlene Joy A. Genezira
- Dave R. Gestupa
- Jennelyn E. Gonzaga
- Denise S. Idzenga
- Joy B. Lopez
- Mary Joy G. Maglaya
- Michael Angelo P. Moleño
- Romella Ariane S. Muyco
- Jerome L. Nambatac
- Joshua M. Nieves
- Jomar M. Pialago
- Elaine A. Rodrigazo
- Relyn B. Roldan
- Quennie F. San Jose
- Angelica M. Santia
- Honeylyn M. Segodine
- Camille Y. Tayactac
- Joebemil G. Villatima

Their trainer was Mr. Kent Kevin P. Novillas. Moreover, they will receive their National Certificate II during their Graduation Ceremony tentatively scheduled August 12, 2019.

[ education ]

# REAP Meeting in the University

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-Recoletos hosted the meeting of financial officers of educational institutions that belong to Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP) last July 18-19, 2019 held at the VP-Academics Conference Room. The meeting was on financial reporting and the REAP Accounting Manual. It was a response to the Life and Mission Project 2019 - 2022 which states that "Continue and strengthen the strategic collaboration among Recollect schools, which will include but not limited to: c) sharing of best practices in school management/ administration," (LAMP PSEM, 37c)

Fray William Villafior, OAR; Ma. Luisa Catague, CPA; Mary Jane Barayoga; Fe Ortaliz, CPA; and Carina Barayoga attended the meeting for UNO-R. Participants from the other schools were Helen Goc-ong, Accounting staff of USJ-R, Balamban; Maria Stella Ferraris, Bookkeeper of CST-R, San Carlos City; Juliet Apolinario, Bookkeeper of CNST-R, Talisay City, Neg. Occ.; Germiniana Tubag, Bookkeeper of San Pedro Academy, Valencia, Neg. Or.; BB Girl Juliet Yu, Bookkeeper of San Pedro Academy- Recoletos, Caidiocan, Valencia, Neg. Or.; and Ma. Lorna T. Roque, MBA, Internal Auditor of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province, Quezon City. **RO**



# MOA Signing between IC University and UNO-Recoletos

By UNO-R Correspondent



*LOCKED AND LOADED. University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos and Ibaraki Christian University signed a MOA which seeks to have a joint cooperation that will benefit their respective constituents.*

A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WAS SIGNED BETWEEN IBARAKI Christian (IC) University represented by Mr. Hiroshi Shoji, IC President and University of Negros Occidental- Recoletos (UNO-R) represented by Fray Don. H. Besana, OAR, UNO-Recoletos President at the Presidents' Hall of UNO-R on August 7, 2019.

Fray Jose Alden B. Alipin, OAR, VP-Academics gave the opening remarks. Then, Dr. Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr., Director of External Affairs read the Memorandum of Agreement. IC University and UNO-Recoletos agreed for a study abroad program for IC University students, which will be beneficial for both institutions. The primary purpose of this program is to allow students to improve their English Language abilities and their understanding of other cultures. Five IC students are now enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) Program namely; Yuta Fukuda; Daiki Konatsuzaki; Yume Okazaki; Ayaka Sakamoto; and Miku Taguchi. ESL Program is under the UNO-R Special Technological and Educational Program (STEP) Office.

Fray Besana, OAR, delivered a message as he emphasized the significance of collaboration in attaining global peace and understanding. He further

said that what is important in any partnership is friendship, the friendship that St. Augustine defined as "To love and be loved is the most important thing for me." While, Mr. Shoji gratefully conveys his thanksgiving to the partnership built by both institutions.

Among the guests of the program are the Dong-A University students, Korea, who are enrolled in Teaching English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Seminar, Mr. Cho Kyoung Pill and Ms. Marah Yusay of Jason English Language School (JELS), ESL Professors, and lay administrators.

Furthermore, the Kasadyahan Dance Company (KDC) performed a cultural Filipino Dance to the visitors and the program ended with a fellowship. The master of ceremony was Mr. Elmeer Meeynard D. Calimpos, staff of STEP. **RO**

# STEP-RITTC holds Training Induction Program

By Dr. Nena Samillano and Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos

TWENTY-FIVE (25) TRAINEES OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES (FBS) NC II under the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) were inducted as official scholars of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on August 2, 2019, at UNO-R Little Theater.



The program started with the usual opening formalities and was followed with welcome remarks from Dr. Nena P. Samillano, Director of Special Technological and Educational Programs (STEP) Office. Dr. Samillano greeted the trainees for having been successfully qualified to the program after series of interviews and requirement verifications.

She emphasized that among the enormous number of applicants who tried to be part of the 25 slots, they were blessed to have been part of the program that will run for two to three months.

The essence of the Training Induction Program (TIP) was discussed by Ms. Ellen Elio, Senior TESD Specialist of TESDA Negros Occidental Provincial

Office. Ms. Elio introduced the history of TESDA, operations manual, and the existing structure and officials from national to provincial level.

Also, she discussed the roles of TESDA on the implementation of the scholarship program and the important guidelines that need to be considered from the training to assessment.

Further, she highlighted the essence of the scholarship and the sense of commitment towards passing the national competency assessment after two to three months of training.

The program was closed by singing the TESDA Hymn. The master of ceremony was Mr. Elmeer Meeynard D. Calimpos, staff of STEP. **RO**


# UNO-Rian passes TM Level 1 National Assessment of TESDA

By Elemeer Meeynard Calimpos

MR. RYZEL MARK P. GASPARILLO, RMT, DA, PASSED the Trainers Methodology (TM) Level I National Assessment of Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) held on August 4, 2019, at TESDA Regional Training Center (RTC), Talisay City.

Mr. Gasparillo underwent assessment which involved written, oral questioning, and demonstration on the TM Level I core competencies such as planning training sessions, facilitating learning sessions, supervising work-based learning, conducting competency assessment, maintaining training facilities and utilizing electronic media in facilitating training. Thus, he was qualified to be a Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Trainer, Technical Trainer, Training Facilitator, Coordinator and Competency Assessor in Visual Graphic Design (VGD) NC II.

According to Mr. Gasparillo, his preparation for the assessment was a bit challenging for he needs to manage his time in teaching while finalizing his portfolio on the said qualification.

Currently, he is planning to work out on his National TVET Trainer Certificate (NTTC) Level I so he will be able to teach VGD in the university. Also, he wanted to take photography as additional competency. Hence, with the implementation of the K-12 TEC-VOC tracks Program and TVET programs of UNO-R Recoletos Industrial and Technological Training Center (RITTC), teachers who wish to apply for a teaching slot shall be asked to submit requirements based on the standards provided by TESDA. Furthermore, Mr. Gasparillo is a Part-Time Faculty at the College of Allied Medical Health Sciences (CAMHS) in this university. 



Ryzel Mark P. Gasparillo, RMT, DA

## newsbits

### 36 NEW PHARMACISTS FOR UNO-R

By UNO-R Correspondent

Thirty-six alumni of the UNO-R, College of Allied Medical Health Sciences, Pharmacy program successfully hurdled the August 2019 Licensure Examinations. The 36 new pharmacists are:

- Aianna Claire S. Abellana
- Jerielle Jade T. Aragon
- Mariz T. Beboso
- Frances Rose R. Bolivar
- Kristoffer Den G. Britania
- Micah Lou C. Calamba
- Kent Alvin R. Coriento
- Dessa Jane C. Dangallo
- Tenesse T. Elinon
- Angelme T. Gabutero
- Aileen Joy Q. Jebora
- Jessa Joy B. Germinal
- Erika Francine S. Gison
- Blessed Hope N. Halili
- Rhem Catherine B. Jakosalem
- Josie Rose D. Maningo;
- Limgel Ron B. Margen
- Khristian Earl S. Palic
- Qieyi O. Panoy
- Nicole P. Pavillar
- Abigail Karen Y. Piezas
- Ferlyn M. Pondaes
- Christine T. Rabeje
- Daniel B. Rapista
- Aira Andrea B. Salmorin
- Arianne Loise S. Villarente
- Kristine A. Yanson
- Einha Carmela G. Zulueta
- Jomyr Abarro
- Kyra June Chavez
- Janine Danay
- Claire Ann Eraldo
- Ellaine Marie D. Radan
- Christine Joy Serna
- Czarina Marie Y. Sespene and
- Julie Ann G. Silva.

(data from CAMHS and PRC)



# UNO-R celebrates Solemnity of St. Augustine

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATED THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. Augustine, August 29 with a community Mass at the Oratory and was followed by a family day celebration.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was presided by Fray William Villaflor, OAR, Local Prior and VP-Finance, with Fray Walthrode Conde, OAR; Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR; Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR; Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR; Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR and Fray Jose Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR. Fray Jadulco was the preacher. In the introduction, Fray Villaflor told everyone of the influence of St. Augustine in our life of prayer, learning, and service.

Fray Jadulco shared in his homily that St. Augustine whose heart and mind are always directed towards God, was both full of excitement to see God and fearful of leaving his community. He was excited to see God for he longs for it. He feared for this community was under attack by the Vandals but his human weakness will not permit him that on August 28, 430, he surrendered himself to his Creator.

Fray Jadulco ended his homily by sharing the message of God through the acronym for Our Holy Father St. Augustine. **O** stands for Oneness, unity, and communion; **H** stands for Heaven—our predestination. All of us are predestined to go to heaven. This is the place prepared by God for us but we need to work for it. **F** refers to our fidelity in God and in our companions. It is also our faithfulness to our work. **S** stands for sainthood or holiness. We are all called to be “saints” and **A** is Asking; we need to ask ourselves if we are willing to embrace service and oneness. After the Mass, a procession of the portrait of St. Augustine from the Oratory to the Main lobby followed. **RO**



## newsbits

### UNO-R HONORS TOP NINE AND NEW SOCIAL WORKERS

By UNO-R Correspondent



The university with the College of Arts and Sciences and Social Work Department honored the 9<sup>th</sup> placer and passers of the 2019 Social Work Board examinations at the Presidents' Hall, last September 11, 2019. The program opened with the formalities and Dean Annabee M. Claur, PhD gave the opening remarks with the statement of the CAS Governor that the College is so blessed. Father President gave the message to the Passers. He reminded the new social workers to really face the real world when they are already in the field.

Atty. Dolores Nalumen, RSW introduced the new social workers. Recognition of the passers followed. 9<sup>th</sup> placer Kaye Eunice Lamera, RSW gave her response in behalf of her fellow passers. She offered everything to God and thanked all the people that helped her and her companions achieve their goal. Dr. Richelle Verdeprado, RSW, MSSW shared the joy with the passers in her closing remarks.



# UNO-R celebrates Feast of St. Nicholas

By Virlin Matti

THE DAY OPENED WITH THE EARLY MORNING A PROCESSION AROUND THE jurisdiction of the Oratory of St. Nicholas de Tolentino, September 10, at 6:00 AM. This was followed by a Concelebrated Fiesta Mass presided by Bishop Patricio Buzon, SDB, DD, Bishop of Bacolod. He was joined by Fr. Ronald Quijano, Sacred Heart Seminary Rector; Fr. Julian Bermejo; Fray Don Besana, OAR; Fray William Villafior, OAR; Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR; Fray Joel Alve, OAR; Fray Jay Parilla, OAR; Fray Glynn Ortega, OAR; Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR; Fray Rouel Sia, OAR; Fray Emilio Jaruda, OAR; Fray Dominador Mercado, Jr., OAR; Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR; Fray Walthrode Conde, OAR; Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, OAR; Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR; Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR and Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR.

The Bishop shared in his homily that the journey to holiness must start from each one of us. The Heart and Soul directed to God is a total commitment. Love of God must not be inferior. Attachment to material things should be avoided. We must give our whole self to God—Heart and Soul. “God first” is not easy. God never asks something that we cannot do. Our Baptism with the Holy Spirit has made us sons and daughters of God. We must be Holy. God calls us to holiness—God is holy, so, we must be holy. The Holy Spirit is the very source power of God. He added that the Consecration is a great miracle of the transfiguration. The Priests has been given the power to can transform the bread and wine to the body and blood of Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that moves us. Love of God.

According to St. Paul, the Holy Spirit is the outpouring up the love of God in our hearts. We love God above all and with the presence of the Holy Spirit, Nothing comes between us and God. We have to rise above ourselves. We let the Holy Spirit work in us. “Gaudete Exultate” reminds us that “We are

all called to be Holy”. How do we respond to the call? We live our lives in love, we are witnesses of God’s love. Love of God, neighbors, self in the proper places. We have to be Holy as you are called by bringing out yourself. Let the glory of God shine upon you.

The Bishop also said “Do not imitate the lives of the Saints literally” but immediately added that we have imitated the virtue. They lived in their own time. Their lives are responses to their times. What we need from the virtues they practice. We are Peacemakers—called to bring peace. The Church calls us to Stand with the needy, we need to be sensitive to the poor—healing of the body and soul. Special Gifts—“Become a Saint by being the best of what you are” as written in “Christus Vivit.” So, we sing to the world, it needs to hear our joy.

After the Mass and before the panecillos were distributed, the service awardees were presented. **RO**



## newsbits

BSSW ALUMNA IS 9<sup>TH</sup> PLACE  
IN SOCIAL WORK BOARD EXAM

By UNO-R Correspondent



Ms. Kaye Eunice Lamera, Social Work Alumna and Cum Laude, Batch 2019, placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the August 2019 Social Work Licensure Examination. UNO-R got 63.64% over-all passing percentage (28/44) over the national passing of 46.30% (2,723/5,880). For the first takers, UNO-R got the passing percentage of 71.43% (25/35).

Congratulations!

\* \* \*

UNO-R MEDTECH IS CHAMPION  
IN THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COLLEGIATE  
QUIZ BEE

By UNO-R Correspondent



UNO-R Medical Technology Department is the champion in the 13th Quiz Bee of the USLS College of Medicine last September 10, 2019. Members of the team are Trishia Dianne Llera, Kathleya Faith Cobing and Arriane de Jesus. The team is coached by Ms. Czarina Mae Ferrer, RMT. (news from CAMHS)

UNO-R produces new  
Master Electricians and  
Electrical Engineers

By UNO-R Correspondent

46 ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY SUCCESSFULLY PASSED the licensure examinations in the field of electrical engineering. UNO-R has produced 17 new Master Electricians, 28 Electrical Engineers, and one Professional Electrical Engineer.

Seventeen alumni of the UNO-R College of Engineering passed the 2019 Licensure Examinations for Master Electricians. The new Registered Master Electricians are:

- Hernani V. Abindan, Jr.
- Mark Christian G. Baldonado
- Jean Rose C. Baylon
- Jhelyr B. Benotapa
- Jezreel D. Caberoy
- Sean Matthew M. Casiano
- Winston L. Dalida
- Jameson N. Embao
- Kristian D. Espino
- Joven Jay P. Javier
- Yrelle Denn L. Marte
- Joy Ann P. Mijares
- Clinton E. Montaña
- Kelvin Deen M. Orada
- Coney Marie L. Saude
- Chot J. Valladolid
- Louie Zambales

Adding to the list of achievers, twenty-eight Electrical Engineering alumni successfully hurdled the September 2019 Electrical Engineering Board examinations. The new Registered Electrical Engineers are:

- Jean Rose C. Baylon
- Jezreel D. Caberoy
- Alvin Morris C. Caniezo
- Sean Matthew M. Casiano
- Herl Andro B. Casiple
- Alexander G. Catalogo
- Winston L. Dalida
- Ann Janiloe M. Diamante
- Jameson N. Embao
- Kristian D. Espino
- Raphael P. Espino
- Collin Joy F. Guerra
- Charles Michael F. Lacson
- Ellaine Mae P. Macainan
- Michael Vincent S. Matapaja
- Joy Ann P. Mijares
- Clinton E. Montaña
- Kelvin Dean M. Orada
- Arthur Philip G. Pabon
- Hilbert T. Sabobo
- John Lery D. Sanglap
- Daryl V. Senio
- Kim Albert G. Taleon
- Chot J. Valladolid
- Renzo D. Villaruel
- Louie A. Zambales

UNO-R has also one Professional Electrical Engineer in the person of Engr. Jigz James M. Baya, PEE. **RO**

- Sean Karlo O Amparado
- Mark Christian G. Baldonado

(data from the College of Engineering)

# 99 new Medtech from UNO-R

By UNO-R Correspondent

99 ALUMNI OF THE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT SUCCESSFULLY hurdled the September 2019 Medical Technology Board Examinations. The new Medical Technologists are:

- Ablao, Angel Anne B.
- Agudaña, Keynna Marie B.
- Alison, Juris P.
- Alvarez, Ma. Lothel S.
- Ancha, Reymark V.
- Angolo, Am Ray T.
- Antenero, Brennt Lee F.
- Aristosa, Ariane T.
- Artajo, Jason P.
- Asparo, Daniela Rona
- Ayalin, Alyssa Nicole M.
- Balabag, Mariel Mae T.
- Baldago, Kezaiah Bianca U.
- Bañares, Vinz Jane E.
- Bangay, Andrebelle Hope
- Belleza, Danlie C.
- Belmonte, Thea Noreen T.
- Beniabon, Mario Dixon Jr. B.
- Bingco, Jennydel T.
- Cabalfin, Faith M.
- Cabrestante, Rizagine E.
- Cajipo, Claire Harvi C.
- Camaira, Elke Louise C.
- Cañete, Jamella Keith P.
- Cañete, Pearl Helle Q.
- Carmona, Mara Aila G.
- Castillo, Kathleen Louise T.
- Crisostomo, Axel George B.
- Dadivas, Darla Marie C.
- Dalipe, Joshua Glenn G.
- Dawa, Maraih Nicole A.
- Dawal, Izeln M.
- Decena, Andrea P.
- Dela Cruz, Krizia Mae L.
- Delina, Nikki P.
- Deocares, Peachy Andrea S.
- Deto-On, Clarise Kyel C.
- Diagmel, Prince Andre C.
- Dolatre, Roszel Heart D.
- Dolor, Merryken T.;
- Dominise, Ma. Carmen A.;
- Egca, Chilton Al L.
- Ellaga, Czarina Louise J.
- Esquilla, Kimberly M.
- Estella, Paolo Francisco J.
- Fernandez, Stella Mariz T.
- Flores, Eduard Jun G.
- Frondoza, Cristy Y.
- Gabriana, Marian Eliza H.
- Garibay, Icy Runielle B.
- Gomez, Maeryger D.
- Gonzales, Hedy Jane S.
- Grajo, Mary Kay S.
- Guanzon Woodro Jr. G.
- Guzon, Judy Jon V.
- Hervias, Maria Angelica V.
- Hontillano, Janelle Marie A.
- Hugo, Carla Teresa J.
- Jose, Terence Raphael M.
- Junio, Alwyn Jyd R.
- Kee, Dana Jean P.
- Lamela, Uriel Marie S.
- Lescano, Bea Tracy S.
- Liguán, Tria Rose S.
- Lin, Irene S.
- Limauag, Pauline B.
- Martir, Kristine Mariel A.
- Mendoza, Joshua L.
- Mesa, Ma. Desiree Faith M.
- Mondia, JohnMark V.;
- Naig, Ariane C.;
- Namacpacan, Darlyn E.;
- Nolido, Keith Adrian G.;
- Ocampo, Tisha Celice Erika G.;
- Opina, Charisse B.
- Opiz, Von Carlo T.
- Peñas, Michelle D.
- Plaza, Therese Alther O.
- Puig, Ma. Bebiana Carmen P.
- Quirao, Phillinne D.
- Ramas, Jewel Mae B.
- Reyes, Areen Mae J.
- Robles, Coke Grace T.
- Rodriguez, Damica V.
- Rojo, Justine L.
- Roma, Melliza L.
- Salvarino, Janelle Faye D.
- Sandoval, Trescha Ann T.
- Sarabia, Joseph Emmanuele C.
- Segovia, Patrizhia Mae G.
- Stansell, Jenna Mae G.
- Tañoso, Maria Angela B.
- Tiberio, Jessa Marie L.
- Udasco, Shaina May C.
- Villagomesa, Eream Danielle A.
- Villarosa, Mae Angela A.
- Villaruz, Shaznee Loise C.
- Villena, John Benedict A.
- Yangco, Marthia Ainnah T.

Congratulations! 

(data from CAMHS, Medtech Dept.)



# UNO-R RBGS and LGU-Hinuba-an sign MOU

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT of Hinoba-an signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the proposed Graduate Extension Class for Master of Public Administration and Governance (MPAG).

These extension classes will start on the second semester of Academic Year 2019-2020. The university was represented by UNO-R President Fray Don H. Besana, OAR; Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR, UNO-R VP -Academics and RBGS Dean; Dennis Madrigal, Ph.D, RBGS Associate Dean; and Mrs. Merlita Caelian, Ph.D, Program chair for PhD DvM and MPAG.

The Hinoba-an LGU in behalf of the Municipal Mayor, was represented by SB Jason Tupas; SB Daph Anthony Reliquias; SB John Ray Reliquias; HR Ginalyn O. Herradura; and RBGS student Jose Yusay III, MPAG. The MOU which signified the intention of both parties as approved by the UNO-R School Board and the LGU-Hinoba-an Sangguniang Bayan was signed in preparation for the MOA signing. According to SB Daph Anthony Reliquias, "This is definitely another milestone in our development process and a manifestation of commitment to provide more opportunities for education." **RO**

*"PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP." UNO-R and Hinuba-an LGU sign a Memorandum of Understanding which is seen "to provide more opportunities for education."*

## newsbits

### UNO-R HOSTS FIRST PAPSAS-REGION VI ASSEMBLY

By UNO-R Correspondent

The university hosted the First Philippine Association of Practitioners of Student Affairs and Services, Inc. (PAPSAS) Regional Convention, October 9, 2019, UNO-R President's Hall. The program opened with the opening formalities where Fray Don Besana, OAR, University President, gave the words of Welcome. Speakers for the day were Dr. Margen Java, CPU Director of Student Development and program, on "TOSP: the CPU experience"; Maria Elena B. Yumang, CSASS, PAPSAS Board of Director and President of PAASA-CHED CDP SAS-Visayas and Dr. Edna Gladys T. Calingacion, CSASS, Silliman University, Dean of Students, on PAPSAS Orientation; Dr. Dexter Paul Dioso, PSASS, UNO-R DSA on Presentation of Research Instrument and Results of the Paper entitled Compliance with Policies and Guidelines on Student Affairs and Services. Dr. Dioso also discussed the Highlights of CMO 63 s.2017 otherwise known as the Policies and Guidelines on Local Off-Campus Activities. The program was put to a close by Dr. Ely Ciasico, President of PAPSAS Region 6 with her Closing Remarks.



# UNO-R I.S. sparkles in CMLI

By Ms. Zonavieve Catalan, MAEd

THE UNO-RECOLETOS INTEGRATED SCHOOL (N-6) joined the 40<sup>th</sup> Graders Convention with the theme SPARK: “Strengthening Proactive Advocacy on Revitalized Knowledge of Filipino Moral Values towards a Stronger Nation” at the Teachers’ Camp, Baguio City, September 26-30, 2019. Eighteen public and private schools all over the Philippines participated in the five-day National Graders Convention with simultaneous competitions for excellence and entertainment.

UNO-R was named champion in four categories:


- Essay Writing in English – Angel Mae Villarente
- News Writing in English – Ilyasviel Ryine Sotocinal
- Storytelling in English and Mini Me – Jackie Almasa

UNO-R got three second runners-up:

- Spelling Bee in English – Julia Marte
- News Writing in Filipino – Adia Therese Ola
- OPM-solo – Jaimie Ann Cloe Digon

Three made it to the finals: Reader’s Theater; Poetry Writing in English and Filipino; Ms. Graders Con 2019; and two special awards: Best in Effective Public Speaking Workshop; and Best in Journalistic Writing Workshop. The delegates were trained by:

- Mr. Michael Aglubat,
- Ms. Joan Bravo
- Mr. Allen Peter Montano, MAEL
- Ms. Grace Placios
- Mr. Karl Pastor
- Mr. John Carlo Tomesa, MAEd
- Ms. Zonavieve A. Catalan, MAEd

They were accompanied by Mrs. Mary Jane Concel, MAEd, Student Affairs Coordinator, and Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, OAR. 

## 33 NEW MECHANICAL ENGINEERS FOR UNO-R

By UNO-R Correspondent

UNO-R has produced 33 new Mechanical Engineers in the recent Mechanical Engineering Board Examination. The new Mechanical Engineers are :

- John Michael P. Aguirre;
- Rustom A. Ariza;
- Jeric E. Basco;
- John Paul V. Bernabat;
- Rica S. Caramihan;
- Allen S. Castor;
- Jarell Jerrickson L. Coronel;
- Benzantonie de Jesus;
- April John G. Deo;
- John Louie S. Desales;
- Elvin V. Escanuela;
- John Rainier A. Espende;
- Jude Immanuel S. Gallego;
- Arturo C. Guilicaña, Jr.;
- Eccirus John D. Lascano;
- Jan Danielle C. Magalona;
- Ramil John S. Magdalera;
- John Theeodore M. Maturan;
- Mark Mateo Maturan;
- Nico Joles E. Mendicor;
- Rey Stephen S. Olorga;
- Karl Roven B. Pineda;
- Jordan B. Plumo;
- Vincent O. Reyes;
- Stephen Paul J. Rosario;
- Joemar D. Solatorio;
- Naren Jan E. Su-ay;
- Martin Ken L. Sy;
- Kerwin S. Tan;
- Michael Vincent B. Tanalgo;
- Peter Paul B. Tanzo;
- Jurley J. Tejero; and
- Rigil Kent T. Velasco.

(List courtesy of Engr. Christopher Taclobos, University Registrar)

## Reflective Gospel Concert for OAR Mission in Sierra Leone, Africa

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE STUDENT CATHOLIC ACTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, UNO-R CHAPTER, WITH the participation of the Religious Education Department, Campus Ministry Office and Integrated School Department, organized a concert for a cause with the title “One Heart, One Voice: A Reflective Gospel Concert”, held at the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Oratory, UNO-Recoletos, Bacolod City.

The main purpose of the said gospel concert was to raise awareness among young students in terms of their missionary consciousness. It also aimed to raise funds to help and support financially the OAR missionaries and to aid their missionary projects in Sierra Leone, Africa. According to Mr. Joey Jolito, SCAP Alumni President, this is the response of the alumni to the three big events in the university this year, namely: the Year of the Youth, the Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Maximum Illud of Pope Benedict XV, and the Declaration of October 2019 as Extra Ordinary Month of the Mission by Pope Francis. Also, the University Week celebration was anchored on the theme, “One Soul and One Heart Directed towards God.”

Various local singing groups and musicians (from Bacolod) sang and performed in the said concert, namely: Jubilate Deo Chorale (SCAP alumni and REED faculty members), Strings Authority (Mr. Nimrod Villamarzo- violinist and Mr. Noel Genorage, Jr. – guitarist), Java Loca (Mr. John Michael Tambasen, Ms. Rich Ann Penoroya and Charles Tan), and the Singing Priests (Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR, Fray Jose Teodulco Jadulco, OAR, and Fray Leo Alaras, OAR). The concert ran from September 5-6, 2019 with four shows—one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Students from the Junior High and Senior High Departments, Tertiary Level, Graduate School, teaching and non-teaching personnel, and a great number of guests watched the said concert.

Miss Jamicha Trujillo, secretary of the Campus Ministry Office said, “Based on what I have heard from the from the four REED students, they were so amazed to watch the performances and inspired by the set of song selections, video presentation from Sierra Leone, and the live video message from the missionaries in Africa. Furthermore, the title of the

concert shows that the UNO-R community, indeed, is united for the noble purpose of helping the mission in Sierra Leone, Africa.”

Fray Ronel P. Gealon, OAR, spiritual director of SCAP alumni expressed his gratitude to his brother religious administrators and the whole UNO-R community for their whole-hearted support for the success of the show. The SCAP alumni and other support groups are looking forward to a sequel concert with the same aim and objective of helping other missionary communities administered by the Augustinian Recollects of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

To the Praise and Love of the One God! – St. Augustine **RD**



## Seven UNO-Rians join RSPC

By UNO-R Correspondent

SEVEN UNO-R INTEGRATED SCHOOL LEARNERS JOIN the Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC), this coming November 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2019 at Iloilo National High School, La Paz, Iloilo City.

The IS (N-6) qualifiers are:

- Daniel Symon P. Dizon for Copy Reading and Headline Writing in English
- Ion Nathaniel F. De Paula for News Writing in English

Their coach is Mr. Allen Peter Montano, MAEL.

The IS (7-10) qualifiers are:

- Lovella Dylin Y. Hechanova for Feature Writing in English
- Christian Gelotin for Sports Writing in English
- Kristine Cassandra O. Cawaling for Editorial Cartooning in English
- Xavier Romeo C. Emnace for Editorial Cartooning in Filipino
- Krystel I. Felicisimo for Feature Writing in Filipino.

Coaches are Allen Peter Montano, MAEL, and John Carlo A. Tomesa, MAEd. (data from Ms. Zonavieve Catalan, MAEd) **RO**



## UNO-R gets 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in LEGO Robot Final Round

By Ms. Zonavieve Catalan, MAEd and Mr. Joel Nedamo

THE TEAM, MENTORED BY MR. JOEL L. NEDAMO AND composed of Caryl Joyce J. Andarza, Kristine Laverne R. Gapiz, and Jeniña Claire M. Yulo got the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Lego Robot Competition during the Final Round of the Inter school Competition on Cyberland Cyberbot Challenge 2019. The completion was held at the UNO-R President's Hall, October 17, 2019. **RO**

## TWO JHS ALUMNI TOP PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

By UNO-R Correspondent

Two alumni of the UNO-R Junior High School topped the 2019 Board Examination for Physical Therapists. Mr. Takuya N. Aiuchi got 2<sup>nd</sup> place while Ms. Valerie Mae G. Tolentino got the 6<sup>th</sup> place. The two graduated from UNO-R High School in 2014. They took up BS Physical Therapy at Riverside College.

\* \* \*

## UNO-R PRODUCES 17 NEW PSYCHOMETRICIANS

By UNO-R Correspondent

The University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos College of Arts and Sciences produced 17 new registered Psychometricians. UNO-R got the passing percentage of 56.67% in the October 2019 Psychometrician Licensure Examinations.

The seventeen new Registered Psychometricians from UNO-R are:

- Jan Bethel Alson
- Angelee Alike D. Añonuevo
- Ma. Rishelle M. Arsenal
- Jirec A. Bacongco
- Collin Grace A. Claro
- Michaela M. de la Rosa
- Archie C. Estriba
- Jovilyn Joy B. Guanga
- Kylla Queena U. Lamboson
- Vanessa J. Libron
- Yezil Rhose Angelei M. Lusaya
- Rey Mark S. Malihan
- Jireh Amethyst P. Melgar
- Liana Anne R. Reynes
- Aleana Marie L. Rubiato
- Ma. Rica Torreno
- Ena Jenn Tortogo

We are proud of you! Keep it up!



## newsbits

### I.S. SENDS 19 PARTICIPANTS TO THE CYBERLAND CYBERBOT CHALLENGE 2019

By UNO-R Correspondent

Nineteen learners from the UNO-R Integrated School participated in the Inter-School Cyberland Cyberbot Challenge 2019, Cyberland International Education Center last October 4, 5, and 6, 2019 at the UNO-R President's Hall. The participants were:

- Yoshiki Takiguchi
- Sherwin Jacildo
- Geamar Mikhail G. Manderico
- John Paul M. Valdegamo
- Shania Dela Rosa
- Elmer Kent Eupalan
- Leander Iva S. Matullano
- Jose Christian Tulio
- Neil Bryant T. Alferez
- Arielle Allaizah L. Ballega
- Aee Miguel Lalisán
- Jed Aisher M. Quilantang
- Christian Dee V. Perez
- Justin Brian Silab
- John Michael Yson
- Precious Ramiragen S. Batiancila
- Ericca Felize P. Juanico
- Gene Josef Manuel U. Pedrosa
- Ralph Gabriel T. Cabale

The coaches are Mr. Joel L. Nedamo, Mr. Jonathan Mandia, Russell Buslay, and Mrs. Antonette Del Oeste.

UNO-R had nine participating teams.

[ education ]

## UNO-R joins National University Games

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE UNIVERSITY JOINS THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY Games at the University of San Agustin, Iloilo, October 20-27. The university will participate in Basketball (men); Football (men); Volleyball (men and women); Beach Volleyball (men and women).

The UNO-R Rams Basketball team is composed of:

- Nico Abaquita
- Joshua Abkilan
- Bruce Amaguin
- Jay-R Bayona
- John Louie Caduhada
- Clif Jason Carian
- Nico Claridad
- Christian Gamao
- Jemwel Malojo
- Carl John Mejica
- Leonard Mustre
- Jear Ninal
- Elmer Orano
- Clint Quires
- Fritz Tagamolila

UNO-R Football team is composed of:

- Philip Adeva
- Marcelino Alisbo
- Perkins Bernal
- Jaycarl Caracas
- Jemel Carbon
- Argie Mar dela Cruz
- Gyles Encabo
- Julio Eriman III
- Dave Garcia
- Vinz Guanga
- Mon Shadrock Jocson
- Jason Juayang
- Emel Jhun Lanasa
- Junard Lumawag
- Myljun Maghari
- Jericho Mahusay
- Lordenino Mayagma

- Jaque Monterde
- Lydse Olevorio
- Aldren Palomo
- Justin Jose Quinones
- Jules Strebel
- John Sumaylo
- Abraham Agocejo
- Percy Cari-an
- John Michael Delmo
- Lawrence Garcia
- Christian Gevero
- Michel Lopez
- Marvin Paulite
- Julianmar Perez
- Joshua Perucho
- Nikole Angelo Villacura

The Men's Volleyball team while the Women's volleyball team players are:

- Kyla Gallego
- Charlene Gonzales
- Ellen Jito
- Rixi Maligmat
- Jessalen Moises
- Johana Puzon
- Coleen Tigoylo
- Karen Tilanas
- Gelimae Villanueva

Seeing action in Beach Volleyball men are:

- Clyde Jereza
- Rubin Clarence

and for the women division:

- Jessalen Moises
- Gelimae Villanueva **RO**

# UNO-R participates in ASAM 2019

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL –RECOLETOS WILL PARTICIPATE IN the National Augustinian Schools Athletic Meet (ASAM), October 27-31 at the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City. The UNO-R contingents will see action in Men's Basketball (College), Men's and Women's Chess, Men's and Women's Table Tennis, Men's and Women's Volleyball, Basketball High School boys and girls, Football High School boys, Football Elementary boys, and the Table Tennis High School Boys.

The UNO-R RAMS Basketball team, mentored by Rolando Aledron and Jorge Sausa, is composed of Niko Abaquita, Niel Joshua Abaring, Joshua Abkilan, Bruce Amaguin, Stanly Bargamento, George Batal, Jay-R Bayona, Nico Claridad, Carlo Desucatan, Christian Gamao, Lattrell Latido, Jemwel Malojo, Carl John Mejica, Leonard Mustre, Jear Ninal, Elmer Orano, Clint Quires,; and John Rivera.

Ericson Rios-mentored Chess team members are Lyster Franz Andador, Spencer de Guzman, and Reu Bethel Lucenara for men and Krizia Marie Carmona, Nazareth Gumban, Jean Rose Sangco, and Ira Jade Tenerife for the women. Table Tennis team members are Jaypee Campos, John Marcel Concha, Elmer Locsin, Allan Jay Maranon, Dealbert Paulma, and Joshua Valdez for men's division while for women's division are Cyrene Canoy, Catherine Dela Cruz, Kimberly Dela Cruz, Rossana Dogomeo, Kimberly Naragdao and Ruhamah Ravello with Gy Canonero as coach.

Jason Delmo's protégés Abraham Agocejo, Fercy Cari-an, John Michael Delmo, Lawrence Garcia, Christian Gevero; Clyde Jereza, Luke Patrick Lim, Michel Lopez, Marvin Paulite, Julianmar Perez, Joshua Perucho, Clarence Rubin, and Nikole Angelo Villacura composed the Men's Volleyball team. On the other hand, the Women's Volleyball team players are Kyla Gallego, Charlene Gonzales, Christine Jamantoc, Francheska Jumayao, Jaryl Ledesma, Rixi Maligmat, Jessalen Moises, Johana Puzon, Karen Tilanas and Gelimae Villanueva.

The team's assistant coach is Lycca Maxine Yu. The High School Basketball Boys Team is composed of Louise Arcojada, Kharl Celeste, Ranier Karl Estrada, Angelo Gonzaga, Wellard Iral, Dave Jayme, Edison Jumayao, Adrian Kwan, John Labrador, Kris

Ian Lopez, Jerod Jay Matinong, Pascual Emmanuel, Rob Denver Requiron, Isaiah Tornea, and Kyle Villarososa.

Mr. Rios champion team – Basketball High School Girls will once again dominate the games. The team members are Kezia Crisna Aragon, Beatrice Zhea Baylen, Danielle Gwen Dusan, Nicole Angely Epacta, Angeline Espartero, Franchesca Espina, Marianne Aiyu Fernandez, Roshell Gialogo, Brymielette Ligaya, Kiara Isabelle Mejica, Larian Krizia Sauce, Rachel Mae Sulitas, Claudia Mae Christine Sumido, Kolyn Marie Talapiero, and Ricci Jen Verzosa.

Luis William Clauor-mentored team is composed of Jance Alojamiento, Chrismark Cantos, Luis Clauor, Dominic Austin William Dreyfu, Rey Gerard Javelona, Jiem Junsay, Ezekiel Macote, Jose Victor Manalo, Edrian John Mayuga, Derrick Raphael Montelijao, Nathaniel Andre Resuma, Christian Rufin, Joshua Samolde, Jefferson Tolimao, Juan Karlo Torres, Franco Torrevillas, and Andrei Uy, for Football High school boys. Playing as UNO-R Football Elementary boys are Maji Rense Bacharo, Aleic Wil Bilbao, Lucas Santino Dilag, Yael Espello, Aethan Hontiveros, Arne Jaena, Clive Jance, Luis Jocson, Jaime Katipunan, Rounin Clyde Magalona, Balam John Mondia, Rhybel Pateno, Carl Jaden Quebrar, Ansbert Tayapad, Cris Edward Tolimao, Czar Trinidad, Jed Andrei Tulale, and Shan Martin Villanueva.

Kyle Joshua Batisla-on, Justine Legislador, Jone Gerard Lorayna, and Kina Lear Sol comprise the RAMS Table Tennis (HS) boys with coach Gy Canonero. *(data from the Sport's Office)* **RO**

# UNO-R joins 2019 Bacolod City Division SciLympics and SIP Congress

By Jude Xerxes Herbolario

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL RECOLETOS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL students joined 2019 Bacoldo City Division SciLympics and Science Investigatory Project (SIP) Congress, from October 14 to 16, 2019 at Domingo Lacson National High School. Entries that placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will represent the Division of Bacolod City to the 2019 Western Visayas Regional SciLympics and Science Investigatory Project Congress at the Division of Bago City on November 6 to 8, 2019.

The UNO-Rians who brought back the prize were:

- Trisha G. Cabanillas - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Best Poster, Best Presenter Life Sciences (Individual)
- Joellan Chris S. Arlos - 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE, Best Poster, Best Presenter Robotics and Intelligent Machines (Team)
- Isaiah Miguel B. Villanueva - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Best Poster, Best Presenter Robotics and Intelligent Machines (Team)
- Jiru Rose B. Vergara - 5<sup>th</sup> Place Physical Scienc (Team)
- Owen Roger L. Pregil - 5<sup>th</sup> Place Physical Science (Team)
- Kezia Celayne I. Bayona - 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Robotics and Intelligent Machines (Team)
- Eliana Flor J C. Sustento - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Robotics and Intelligent Machines (Team)
- Rica Sophia M. Villacanas - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Life Sciences (Individual)
- Joshua Steven B. Calvo - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Best Poster, Best Presenter Robotics and Intelligent Machines (Individual)
- Patricia Nicole T. Barazan - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Life Sciences (Team)
- Lorenz Ann T. Guanzon - 4<sup>th</sup>

Place Life Sciences (Team)

- Xynnel Vann T. Datorin - 4<sup>th</sup> PLACE Life Sciences (Team)
- Ma. Ella G. Bagaforo - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Life Sciences (Team)
- Dane Claudelle D. Abalayan - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Life Sciences (Team)
- Francis Raymund O. Garcia - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Life Sciences (Team)
- Jerrylle T. Siasat - 5<sup>th</sup> PLACE Life Sciences (Individual)
- Rodan B. Valenzuela - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Robotics and Intelligent Machines (Individual)
- Kimberly A. Germia - 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Best Poster, Best Presenter Life Sciences (Team)
- Hiede Grace B. Lotayco - 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Best Poster, Best Presenter Life Sciences (Team)
- Angel Nina O. Hechanova - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Best Poster, Best Presenter Life Sciences (Team)
- And as participant was John Paolo Amiel A. Quebrar SEM09 Life Sciences (Individual).

Congratulations! **RO**

## newsbits

### PALS ELECTS SCHOOL OF LAW DEAN AS VICE-PRESIDENT

By UNO-R Correspondent

Last October 18, Atty. John Paolo A. Villasor, Dean of UNO-R School of Law, was elected Executive Vice President of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS).



Atty. John Paolo Villasor

# Pres. Duterte appoints Alumnus to JBC

By UNO-R Correspondent

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE Philippines appointed former Judge, Honorable Franklin J. Demonteverde as a permanent member of the Judicial and Bar Council of the Philippines. According to the message of Dean John Paolo Villasor, "With Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) Member representing the IBP, the Hon. Franklin J. Demonteverde, the highest-ranking UNO-Rian in the national government today. As a constitutional office, the JBC's primary task is to screen and recommend appointees to the Judiciary, from Chief Justice to Municipal Trial Court Judge, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Legal Education Board for the President's consideration. Only those appearing on the JBC

list may be appointed by the President to the Judiciary, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Legal Education Board. (As embodied in the Philippine Constitution, Art. VIII, Sections 8 & 9)"

Congratulations! **RO**



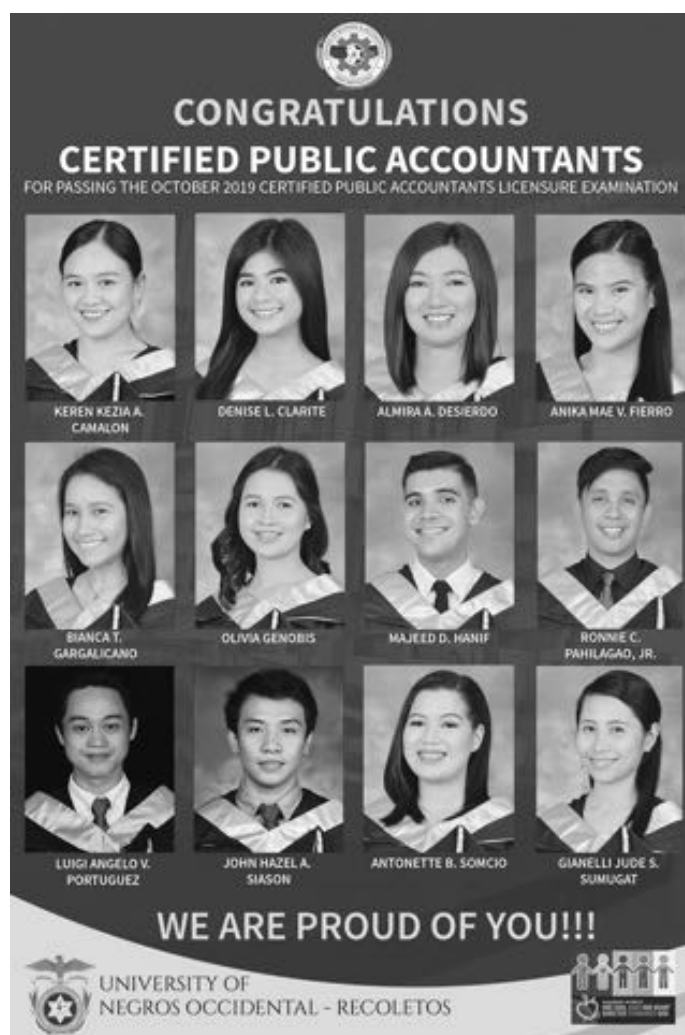
## 12 UNO-R alumni successfully hurdle CPA Licensure Exams

By UNO-R Correspondent

TWELVEALUMNIOFTHEACCOUNTANCY Department successfully hurdled the October 2019 Certified Public Accountants Licensure Examinations given last October 5, 6, and 12, 2019. The national passing percentage is 14.32% while UNO-R got 54.55%, which makes UNO-R number one in Negros Occidental in passing percentage.

The new Certified Public Accountants are:

- Keren Kezia A. Camalon
- Denise L. Clarite
- Almira A. Desierdo
- Anika Mae V. Fierro
- Bianca T. Gargalicano
- Olivia Genobis
- Majeed D. Hanif
- Ronnie C. Pahilagao, Jr.
- Luigi Angelo V. Portuguez
- John Hazel A. Siason
- Antonette B. Somcio
- Gianelli Jude S. Sumugat **RO**





# SSC-Rnews

BRAVO BASTE!

[ education ]

## SSC-R Graduate School of Law-Master of Laws (LLM) program goes around the country

By SSC-R Manila Correspondent

MANILA—THE GROWING DEMAND FOR MASTER OF LAWS IN the country placed SSC-R in a great position to provide for the legal needs of the members of the faculty of schools of law throughout the country. The Legal Education Board's Memorandum No. 1 provides that "Within a period of five years of the promulgation of the present order, members of the faculty of schools of law shall commence their studies in graduate schools of law."

✓  
*LEGAL BINDING. SSC-R Manila's Graduate School of Law enters into consortium agreements with other leading schools in the country.*

In the light of the need of the members of the legal profession, SSC-R ventured to enter into consortium agreements with University of Cebu College of Law, University of San Jose-Recoletos also in Cebu City and Tarlac State University in Luzon. It will likewise open soon in San Sebastian College Recoletos-Surigao in Mindanao and with other Recoletos schools and partners in the country that are still undergoing negotiations.

The Graduate School of Law boasts of the highly qualified professors who are mostly doctors in law and have Master of Laws acquired abroad and in the country. The LLM program employs different approaches in the courses offered ranging from face to face sessions ran as workshops and employs technology in the aspect of learning and research.

The Graduate School also emphasizes to students to heighten legal research and publication to contribute to the legal literature in the country. **RO**



## Aspiring Sebastianian Lawyers pass 2018 Bar Exam

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

THE COLLEGE OF LAW OF SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-Recoletos Manila proudly announced the list of 2018 Bar Examination passers. Twenty-three Law graduates from San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila and three from San Sebastian College-Recoletos Surigao Campus hurdled the 2018 Bar Exam and enlisted their names in the roster of new Lawyers who will take their Oath on June 13, 2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila:

- Ma. Angeli Graciella W. Agutaya
- Euan Paulo C. Añonuevo
- Erika L. Ara
- Desiree D. Balolong
- Annie Hazel D. Basada
- Rex Norman E. Briones
- Bonifacio D. Chavez, Jr.
- Ivy Evangelista
- Ramel M. Galo
- Aldrin B. Gregorio
- Karlo Krisanto B. Inocencio
- Virgil Maverick B. Lastimosa
- Vanessa P. Mallari
- Tecelyn B. Maramag
- Aurea Elein M. Montalla
- Christian Wilfred D. Morales
- Roger S. Ranigo, Jr.
- Ruth Gallile C. Regio
- Plaridel A. Robles, Jr.
- Raymond R. Rogacion
- Kevin P. Romero
- Theodore U. Sy
- Virson A. Vispo

San Sebastian College-Recoletos Surigao Campus:

- Richelle B. Dedumo
- Cristine Mae N. Tabing
- Ma. Flordelin Tating-Ensomo

Congratulations! Bravo Baste!

RO

### newsbits

#### SEBASTINIANS' PANATA: CLEAN SSC-R SURROUNDINGS

By SSC-R Manila Correspondent



Some members of the Sebastianian Community had their PANATA 2019 to the Poong Nazareno, not by joining the annual Traslacion, but by voluntarily cleaning the areas surrounding the San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila. Fray Tony Limchaypo, OAR, VP for Student Welfare, led the group in the said activity which started around 5:00 am. A simple breakfast (lugaw with egg, pandesal, and coffee) which energized the group after the one-hour clean-up activity.



## San Sebastian College-Recoletos Manila

### College of Law

**CONGRATULATES OUR**

## *New Sebastianian Lawyers*

ATTY. AGUTAYA, MA. ANGELI GRACIELLA W. ATTY. AÑONUEVO, EUAN PAULO C. ATTY. ARA, ERIKA L. ATTY. BALOLONG, DESIREE D. ATTY. BASADA, ANNIE HAZEL D. ATTY. BRIONES, REX NORMAN E. ATTY. CHAVEZ JR., BONIFACIO D. ATTY. DEDUMO, RICHELLE B.* ATTY. EVANGELISTA, IVY	ATTY. GALO, RAMEL M. ATTY. GREGORIO, ALDRIN B. ATTY. INOCENCIO, KARLO KRISANTO B. ATTY. LASTIMOZA, VIRGIL MAVERICK B. ATTY. MALLARI, VANESSA P. ATTY. MARAMAG, TECELYN B. ATTY. MONTALLA, AUREA ELEIN M. ATTY. MORALES, CHRISTIAN WILFRED D. ATTY. RANIGO, JR., ROGER S.	ATTY. REGIO, RUTH GALLILE C. ATTY. ROBLES JR., PLARIDEL A. ATTY. ROGACION, RAYMOND R. ATTY. ROMERO, KEVIN P. ATTY. SY, THEODORE U. ATTY. TABING, CRISTINE MAE N.* ATTY. TATING-ENSOMO, MA. FLORDELIN* ATTY. VISPO, VIRSON A.
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\* SSC-R Law Surigao Extension

# SSC Stags send UP Maroons crashing back to earth with Filoil romp

By Randolph Leongson ([www.spin.ph](http://www.spin.ph), Published May 17, 2019)

SAN SEBASTIAN SENT UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CRASHING BACK TO EARTH after scoring a 73-64 win on Friday in the 2019 Filoil Flying V Preseason Cup.

RK Ilagan drilled four treys to finish with 18 points to go with five rebounds, and two assists to lead a flying start by the Golden Stags in the summer tournament.

Allyn Bulanadi added 16 points and seven boards as Jessie Sumoda collected 13 points and three rebounds for the NCAA team.

San Sebastian also capitalized on UP's errors, turning the Fighting Maroons' 15 turnovers into 11 easy points as it posted a 15-point lead in the third quarter.

UP cut it down to as low as seven, 71-64, after a Juan Gomez de Liano trey, but Emmanuel Bonleon ended the frame with a lay-up to make it a 73-64 affair.

Ilagan and Bulanadi then took over in the playoff period as the Stags kept a safe distance between them and the Maroons.

*"Alam naman natin kung gaano sila kalakas, but I guess they are not in game form at marami pang injury. But I know come the UAAP, gagaling yan at team to beat*

*yan,"* said coach Egay Macaraya.

Ricci Rivero carried UP with 19 points, six rebounds, and two assists, while Jun Manzo chipped in 12 points, three dimes, and two boards.

The Fighting Maroons sunk to an even 2-2 in Group A.

The scores:

**SAN SEBASTIAN 73**—Ilagan 18, Bulanadi 16, Sumoda 13, Calahat 8, Bonleon 6, Dela Cruz 4, Villapando 3, Altamirano 3, Calma 2, Desoyo 0, Loristo 0, Suico 0, Baclay 0, Tero 0, Isidro 0, Are 0.

**UP 64**—Rivero 19, Manzo 12, Akhuetie 11, Ju. Gomez de Liano 8, Murrell 6, Prado 4, Jaboneta 2, Gozum 2, Spencer 0, Tungcab 0, Gob 0.

Quarters: 19-13, 37-31, 56-52, 73-64. **RD**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPIN.PH



## RECOLETOS LAW CENTER IN MANILA HAILS NEW LAWYERS

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

The Recoletos Law Center housed in San Sebastian College–Recoletos, Manila proudly announced the 2018 Bar Examination passers who took their Bar Review at the said center. Among these new lawyers, Atty. Mary Ivy M. Pacala, from Dr. Vicente Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation, Tacloban was the 20<sup>th</sup> placer in last year's Bar Examination.

There are two Recoletos Law Centers in the Philippines, one in Manila and the other one is in Cebu City which is part of the University of San Jose–Recoletos. Both review centers were able to produce good number of lawyers in the recently concluded Bar Examinations.

Congratulations! Bravo Baste!

\* \* \*

## SSC-R MANILA RECEIVES PAASCU RE-ACCREDITATION

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

The Grade School and Junior High School Departments of San Sebastian College–Recoletos Manila received a Level III re-accreditation from Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities. The validity of this re-accreditation will be until May 2024.

In his Facebook post, Fray Nemesio Tolentin, OAR, President of SSC-R Manila, thanked the whole Sebastianian Community “for [the] support and cooperation, hard work, sacrifices, prayers and love for SSC-R.”

Congratulations! Bravo Baste!

# SSC-R gets back up as they win against CSJL

By Athena Jannaerah Rumias

THE GOLDEN STAGS WERE BACK WITH A VICTORY after their nerve-wracking game against the Letran Knights, last August 20, 2019 at the Filoil Flying V Center.

After the three cancelled games, the Golden Stags were now back with determined hearts and minds. Without their head coach, Coach Egay Macaraya, the San Sebastian Golden Stags still topped the first three quarters.

But with great strategies, the Letran knights were able to keep up with them as the scores tied at the end of the fourth quarter. Six players of the Golden Stags team including Rk Ilagan, the stags' key player, were fouled out and were not able to play for the overtime.

Through their astounding determination, the Golden Stags managed to put an end with a score of 102-101 in an intense game when Bulanadi and Villapando teamed up to shoot their winning shot. **RD**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABS-CBN SPORTS



[ education ]

# Capobres stepped up for a W against JRU

By Byron Opida Sangco

AFTER THREE CONSECUTIVE LOSSES, THE SAN SEBASTIAN GOLDEN STAGS survived the surge of JRU, Thursday, October 3, at the Filoil Arena.

Alvin Capobres led the team with a score of 21 points, 9 rebounds, and two assists with the support of JM Calma with a double-double of 12 points, 19 rebounds, and 0 assists. The two teamed up to help the team during their game struggles from the 2<sup>nd</sup> up in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

In addition, RK Ilagan got 11 markers, four rebounds, six assists, while Rommel Calahat added eight markers

and 11 rebounds.

Winning against the Heavy Bombers was a much-needed win for the Golden Stags so that they could stay on the top four.

Nonetheless, the San Sebastian Golden Stags' game showed how tough they went through to get the needed win against Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers. **RO**

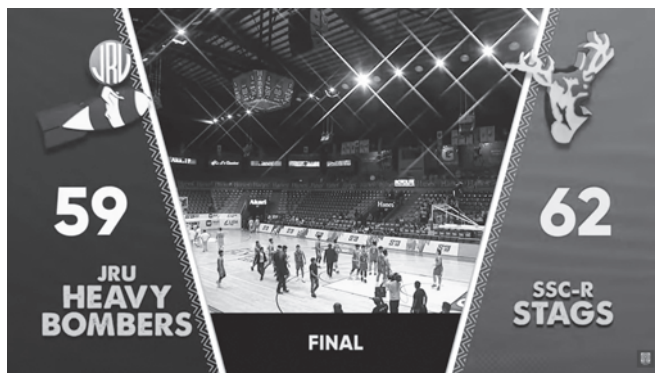


PHOTO COURTESY OF ABS-CBN SPORTS

[ education ]

# SSC-R Staglets win Championship Game

By Byron Opida Sangco

CONGRATULATIONS 13U FOR winning the Championship game! The San Sebastian Community will always be proud and grateful for your countless efforts and remarkable skills that the whole team poured in each game.

Bravo Baste! **RO**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SMART CITY HOOPS MANILA

# SSC-RdCnews

SIEMPRE BRAVO  
SIEMPRE BRAVO, SIEMPRE BASTE!  
SIEMPRE BASTE!

[ education ]

## Recoletos de Cavite celebrates feast of St. Sebastian

By Mrs. Maria Soledad Tubay

CAVITE CITY—JANUARY 21, MONDAY, WAS A RED-LETTER DAY FOR THE SAN Sebastian College–Recoletos de Cavite community celebrating the feast of St. Sebastian. This year the feast fell on a Sunday, January 20 coinciding with the celebration of the Feast of Sto. Niño.

The highlight of the festivities was the concelebrated Eucharistic celebration with Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, as main celebrant. Fray Selma commended the community for the activities chosen to celebrate the feast. In his homily, he emphasized the relevance of St. Sebastian and his martyrdom in the present-day realities and consciousness of the millennials.

In keeping with the advocacy of awakening the spirit of generosity and selflessness the Sebastianians

were invited to participate in the bloodletting project of the Recoletos Community Outreach Program (ReCOP) office and the CMO's Alay ng mga Sebastino sa mga Caviteño offering during the Mass, and the merienda cena where even the passersby were invited to partake of the simple delicacies the community members prepared. After the merienda cena a procession from Cañacao to the main campus ensued. The image of St. Sebastian was the main feature of the procession, joined by the images of St.

Augustine, St. Ezekiel Moreno, Our Lady of Consolation, St. Magdalene of Nagasaki and St. Nicholas of Tolentine.

Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR (SSC-RdC School President), Fray Rommel L. Rubia, OAR (Director, HRMDO) and Fray Vincent S. Cadeliña, OAR (Property Administrator) were the concelebrants.

The Students' Night culminated the whole day affair. Talents, students and faculty, from the Senior High School department were featured in the night's music and dances. **RD**



[ education ]

# Baste Cavite Celebrates 53<sup>rd</sup> Founding Anniversary

By Mrs. Maria Soledad Tubay

THE WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION (FEBRUARY 18 - 23) of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Anniversary of San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite began with a concelebrated Holy Mass at the Main Campus chapel presided by no less than the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Imus, Reynaldo G. Evangelista, D.D. Bishop Evangelista brought back to the Sebastinian community the martyrdom of its patron, St. Sebastian, who bravely faced death in the hands of the pagan Emperor Diocletian for bringing Christ into the lives of the Romans. In keeping with the theme of the celebration, Weaving the History of San Sebastian, Bishop Rey urged the Sebastinians to be courageous witnesses of the Church and steadfast in their faith.

## ***Ayer, Ahora y Mañana***

A parade from the Main to the Cañacao Campus followed, with the student participants literally wearing different colorful hats while the teachers and staff held hand props. The field demonstration held at the Recoletos 4<sup>th</sup> Centennial Gymnasium showcased the dancing skills of students from Basic Education to the collegiate level. Modern and Spanish dances were the features of the dance exhibitions.

Ayer, Ahora y Mañana exhibit opened at 2:00PM at the Main Campus with Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR gracing the opening. Students from HUMMS 12 walked the guests through the time line of the OAR Fathers' presence in the Philippines (1606), specifically, in Cavite City (1616), to the founding of San Sebastian Junior College (1966) to the present. The mini exhibit essays the evolution of the school from a two-storey building in a single campus to several multi-storey buildings in two big campuses. The achievements of the graduates are also featured.



## ***53 YEARS AND COUNTING.***

*San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite marking its special day with a Mass presided by Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista, D.D.*





One new activity included in this year's celebration was the Christ the Light relay where the students lining up from the Main to the Cañacao Campus passed a torch symbolizing Christ's light. The relay culminated with the Christ the Light Youth Prayer Rally. Two alumni, Ian M. Guiao and Benelita Sanchez, spoke before the crowd sharing their experience of God's love. Mr. Guiao just graduated from college and is continuing serving the Church by training young boys to become altar servers. Sis. Bennie Sanchez of Batch 1996 has an Asian award for her humanitarian services and she has been featured in the Youtube for her activities.

#### **Debate**

A Holy Mass also ushered in Tuesday, February 19, which was dedicated to Educational Exploration (EDEX) featuring academic competitions including

Mind Quest, Spelling Bee, Essay Writing, Poster Making, Picture Quest, and Student Debate. There were simultaneous contests for BED students at the Cañacao campus and SHS and college students at the Main campus. All the competitions revolved around the theme of the celebration except for the debate that had the proposition, Resolve: That the age of criminal liability be lowered to 9 years. The affirmative side eventually won the debate. A variety show, Sayawit, followed EDEX. Students, employees and faculty members gamely joined this display of Sebastianian entertainment talents.

#### **Sports, Service Awards**

Sports and physical challenges were featured on Wednesday, February 20. After the Holy Mass the invited team of OAR Fathers had a game of basketball versus a composite team of maintenance personnel,



employees and faculty. Then, the much-awaited match between the varsity team of San Sebastian College-Manila and SSC-R de Cavite followed, which was won by the former. Simultaneous with basketball, volleyball matches were also played between SSC-R de Cavite and guest teams.

The College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE), headed by Dean Raymund Bucu, took advantage of the foundation anniversary to honor the 19 Board passers from the December PRC licensure examination with a testimonial banquet. A Holy Mass presided by the School President was said in thanksgiving for the passers. Fray Pecson challenged the new Criminologists to be Christian law enforcers as they were shaped by the institution to be such. Mr. Bucu likewise reminded the passers to always think about their Alma Mater when carrying out their duties. San Sebastian managed to obtain over 30% passing, with national standing at 70%. Hon. Dennis Bernal, City of Cavite councilor addressed the passers who came with their respective parents.

Meanwhile, on the same date, students from all levels enjoyed the Palaro ng Lahi, featuring native games and the Amazing Race for student leaders.

The 2019 Service Awards ceremonies, aptly dubbed, Pagkilala, Parangal at Pasasalamat, gave due recognition to seven service personnel who are still in service and four retirees last school year. Raquel A. Castro, Judith D. Tolosa, Marilou C. dela Cruz and Maria Soledad T. Tubay, were handed a specially crafted wooden statue of St. Sebastian each as a symbol of the institution's sincere gratitude to the service they selflessly rendered for over 30 years. Virginia M. Vejerano, BED faculty member, and Julieta Majillo, Bookstore In-charge, led the service awardees for their 30 years of service. Other awardees were: for 25 years, Rosalita P. Samoy, CBA Dean; for 15 years, Farrah Jane M. Columna, SHS Principal, Katherine Asuncion, Registrar Staff, and Jhiden P. Santillan, CBA Dean Secretary. Dave Miralles, BED faculty member, was the lone 10-year service awardee.

### **Galing ng Rekoleta**

The theme for Day four was generosity, with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass opening the day's celebration at 8:00AM. The Recoletos Outreach Program (ReCOP) conducting a bloodletting activity, Dugo Mo, Buhay Ko, so that others may live, with students and employees as donors. Simultaneously the Amazing Race to Grace around the whole city was



*The Sebastianians' way of thanking Christ, the Light of the world*

joined by the employees. The ultimate challenge was for each team to raise Php 1000.00 to buy grocery items to be donated to the less fortunate members of the community. Right after the race, all members of the community were enjoined to showcase their talent at the Galing ng Rekoleta held at the gymnasium. At 4:00PM members of the community lined up along Julian Felipe Boulevard, from the J. Felipe Monument to McDonald's for the Zumbaste 2019 until 5:00PM. At 6:00PM, the very first Munting Mutya ng San Sebastian, a pageant for the Junior High School category and the Grade School category was held at the gymnasium. Jen Danielle Toribio was crowned first ever Munting Mutya Grade School with Naomie Sue Tuaño, first runner up and Kisha Cassandra Hilvano 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up. Raiza Jane Ducat was crowned Munting Muta Junior High School, with Alyssalynn Monique Ompad, 1<sup>st</sup> runner up and Janhey Belle Padriquila, 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up.

### **Prior Provincial's five points**

On February 22, the institutional concelebrated Mass presided by Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR,

Prior Provincial, was held at the gymnasium. The Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, stressed five points in his reflections during the homily. First, that the Church is celebrating the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, the leader of the apostles. But at the same time, Fray Selma said that we should recognize that the priests are sinners just as we are all sinners. Time and again, we hear priests asking all people to pray for them. Second, Fray Selma asked everyone to pray for the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is the successor of St. Peter. As we celebrate the foundation anniversary of the school, we should think of this as Church's success. Let us likewise learn from St. Peter to trust in the Lord. We must have faith in God and faith in ourselves. The third point, Prior Provincial pointed the community to the Gospel of St. Matthew when Christ asked Peter, "Who do people say that I am?" In the Gospel, the Lord reminds us not to live our lives according to what the people say. We must be who we are according to what God wants. Fourth point of reflection is who is Jesus Christ for us. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Life, the Truth, a consoler and comforter, depending on one's station in life. We must have matured developed and grow in our knowledge of Jesus. Finally, we may ask God, "Sino ako para sa iyo?" Jesus will have different answers to different people. But the common answer will be: You are loved, You are mine and You are a sinner, but I created you to be a good person.

### **Tribute to the OAR**

After the Mass, and for the time in its 53 years, Sebastianians expressed their appreciation to the Religious community in a Tribute to the OAR. Representatives of each sector offered simple tokens to Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial; Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR, School President; Fray James T. Bumangabang, OAR, Vice President for Academics; Fray Joseph Dexter D. Palagtiosa, OAR, Vice President for Mission, Formation and Identity; Fray Raymund G. Alcedo, OAR, Vice President for Finance; Fray Samuel L. Eyas, OAR, Basic Education Director; Fray Antonio C. Zabala, Jr., OAR, Main Campus Minister; and Fray Vincent S. Cadeliña, OAR, Cañacao Campus Minister and Property Administrator. **RD**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT BARDON

## **newsbits**

### **SSC-R DE CAVITE PRODUCES NEW CPA'S**

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite proudly congratulates the three new Certified Public Accountants who passed the 2019 CPA Board Examination. They are:

- Jomar C. Cardines
- Daleira L. Custodio
- Yvette O. Mercader

Congratulations! Together we can! Yes we can!

### **SSC-RDC ACADEMIC CONVOCATION: HARD WORK PAYS OFF**

By SSC-RdC Correspondent

Academic achievers in the tertiary level were all smiles as they received certificates of recognition and posed for pictures with their respective Deans, Department Heads, and parents. The Dean's Listers were recognized at the Academic Convocation for their exemplary performance in the previous term. The event began with a Eucharistic Celebration at the St. Sebastian Chapel officiated by Fray James T. Bumangabang, OAR, Vice President for Academics, Research and Innovation. This was followed by the program proper at the Multipurpose Hall. Dean Noli G. Vergara, Ph.D. of the College of Criminal Justice Education delivered the welcome remarks. School President Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR then addressed the awardees, guests, and members of the academic community. After the awarding of honors, Mrs. Melody M. Labog, RN, MAN, Director of the Institute of Nursing gave the closing remarks. The singing of the SSC-RdC Hymn officially ended the program. Hats off to the new batch of Dean's Listers for a job well done!

# CSNT-Rnews

VAMOS SAN NICOLAS! VAMOS RECOLETOS!

[ education ]

## Bishop of Bacolod visits CSNT-R

By Anna Mae Gajete

*TALISAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*—“YOU ARE ESPECIALLY GIFTED AND beloved... you are asked to bring this to others, that is your mission.”

Those are the resounding words of His Excellency, Most Reverend Patricio A. Buzon, SDB, DD during his visit in Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos last February 27, 2019 to culminate his Pastoral Visit in Talisay City.

The esteemed bishop was welcomed by the newly-organized Drum and Bugle Corps at the gates as he was ushered inside the school to join the learners in their Morning Rituals, stopping by the grotto of Our Lady to offer flowers and pausing for a short prayer. He expressed his desire to meet the learners on the first day of his visit, but due to the holidays, the schedule was pushed further. He conveyed his happiness in finally meeting the learners, and reminded them that the future depends on their education now.

He reminded the learners of their privilege of being schooled in one of the best schools and the only Catholic school in the city, which means they have better education and training. By being such, he emphasized their giftedness and therefore are empowered to live and imbibe this gift of education and Christian Formation. He called them to be true missionaries to their fellow young, to their families and to those with whom they come in contact with.

After the short program prepared for him, he went around the school campus with the Religious and Lay Administrators. He commended the administrators for the wonderful work they have been doing, contributing to the realization of the mission of the church by forming lives through excellence. **RD**



^  
Bishop Buzon addressing the students of CSNT-R



# Tatak Rekoleta dance moves shine out in Panaad Festival

By Agustinos Recoletos

JUST RECENTLY, THE DANCE GROUP THAT REPRESENTED THIS CITY IN AN island wide folk-dance competition outshone others. The “tatak Rekoleta” (“Recollect brand”) dance moves shone out, too.

Last April 10, the contingent of folk dancers representing Talisay City brought home the championship trophy, prevailing over other groups from different cities and municipalities in Negros Island during the Philippine Folk Dance Competition of Panaad sa Negros Festival held at the Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City.

The group also garnered all the special awards: Best in Costume, Best in Performance, and Best Trainer.

Mr. Louie Lipa, a faculty member of Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos (CSNT-R) and one of the 12-member Talisay dance group, admitted that the impressive display of talent was a contribution of each participant of the group. But surely the “tatak Rekoleta” element was something to reckon with, he said in Hiligaynon.

With three other dancers who are alumni of CSNT-R and the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R), the group whose spectacular rendition of Cariñosa had earned them admiration from the crowd—and highest points from the judges—

proved that constant practice coupled with prayerful trust in God is a formula for success.

“Aside sa practice kada gab-i, to be honest, kapila gid kami naga-pray...” (“Aside from our nightly practice, to be honest, we also did pray oftentimes...”), Mr. Lipa disclosed.

And he added: “Special thanks to the OAR Fathers for allowing us to use the Fr. Echavarri Activity Center for our practice.”

The dance group of Escalante and of Sagay placed second and third, respectively.

According to the news bulletin, “the program aims to create and develop awareness and interest about Philippine Folk Dances; it also serves as an avenue for Negrense folk dance enthusiasts to maximize their full potential, to rekindle the nationalistic sentiments and appreciate the unique culture, thus instilling the spirit of patriotism of Filipinos.”

And that, too, becomes a golden opportunity to show and celebrate what is “tatak Rekoleta.” **RO**



PHOTO COURTESY OF RONNIE BALDONADO



# CSNT-R wins City-organized Eco-Mascot and Eco-Warrior Competitions

By Nhadeil Rivera

COLEGIO DE SAN NICOLAS DE TOLENTINO-RECOLETOS MADE HISTORY once again as it bagged the first ever Eco-Friendliest Mascot 2019 and Eco-Warrior 2019 awards in the recently concluded “*Fiesta Sang Pamatan-on nga Talisaynon*” organized by the City of Talisay in cooperation with the Local Youth Development Council. The event which aims to increase Environmental Awareness kicked off with a “*Lakad para sa Kalikasan*” also known as the Nutriwalk Activity participated by the different schools in Talisay. An opening program and booth exhibit followed at the city public plaza.

Among the six Eco-Friendly Mascots from the different schools showing their creativity and congeniality in wearing delicate and recycled costumes, CSNT-R’s RECO Mascot emerged as the winner.

Meanwhile in the evening’s “Search for the Eco-Warrior 2019” as the highlight of the event, twelve (12) representatives from different schools and LGBT Community showcased their fierceness in representing their unique warrior costumes. CSNT-R’s “*Amaladawon: Baganihan sang Dunang Manggad*” represented by Ehla Khey Bermudez, a grade 9 Learner, vested all other contestants and was crowned as the first Eco-Warrior Queen.


Vamos San Nicolas! Vamos Recoletos! 



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARL CANARIA (FACEBOOK.COM)

# CST-Rnews

THE ACHIEVERS' ONLY CHOICE!

[ education ]

## Thomasian scouts to join 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in USA

By Georgene Quilaton-Tambiga

SAN CARLOS CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—THOMASIAN SCOUTS REPRESENT SAN Carlos City to the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Bechtel Park, West Virginia, USA on July 22 to August 2, 2019.

Senior Scout Roger Jaisen A. Belga, a Grade 12, STEM student of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos, San Carlos City and Scout Hayden Lloyd Villaluz, a Grade 10 student of the same school are among the 10 scouts from Negros Occidental Council who will join the prestigious scouting event.

Both Belga and Villaluz are products of the CST-R Boy Scout Chapter. Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR has established the Thomasian scouting movement during his first turn as school director in 2010. The program now includes Rover Scouts from the Senior High School Department.

Villaluz, whose first jamboree experience was the Recoletos Jamboree in 2017, is a proud bearer of nine Outdoors Man Badges. Belga has 13 badges and has been to several regional jamborees in the Visayas. Both scouts applied to the Boy Scout of the Philippines National Office in Manila for the opportunity to be among the representatives of the Negros Occidental Council.

During the official send-off

ceremony last July 10, at the CST-R Quadrangle, Fray Ramon, the current CST-R Treasurer and Scout Coordinator, with Fray Joel A. Alve, OAR, CST-R Director and Principal, blessed the two scouts as they will journey half way across the world to raise the banner of the Recollect scouts.

Proudly, Fray Ramon also mentioned in his brief speech that the scouts' participation in the World Scout Jamboree is just the beginning of "CST-R [going] international." He further promised that other international programs await "all [Thomasians]" not just the scouts.

Belga and Villaluz will be joined by six adult leaders from the provincial council. They are the only representatives of San Carlos City. **RO**



# Thomasian passes Eagle Scout Rank Exam

By CST-R Correspondent

LOUIE IVAN Y. TOLCIDAS, OF SECTION NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA SALUD (STEM Strand), 18 years old, passed the evaluation and examination held last April 11-13, 2019 at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Negros Occidental Council.

Tolcidas, who is among the four Eagle Scout passers in San Carlos City, now has 23 Merit Badges which represent BSP courses and trainings. He is currently the trainer of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos scouts who are in the scouting advancement course and is an active leader in school-based scouting activities.

For this Thomasian scout, the Eagle Scout Rank means that one must be “ready to serve all people, [exudes] the scouting spirit, and is ready to make a difference” in the community.

As an aspiring civil engineer, Tolcidas believes that scouting may not be academically related to engineering but it is now equipping him with the right values and

skills as he pursues his life goals.

The Eagle Scout Rank, which has boosted the Tolcidas’ confidence and changed his outlook of our society, is available only for scouts aged 12 to 19.

He now encourages his brothers and sisters Thomasian scouts to aspire and work hard to qualify for the Eagle Scout Rank and in the process “find their true selves in scouting.”

For this Eagle Scout, who has proven that he is worthy of his uniform and badges, he is now ready to help his community in ways that only a Thomasian scout can. **RD**





# Thomasian Responders all set for duty

By Georgene Quilaton-Tambiga



## TEAM CST-R IS NOW READY FOR ACTION!

Thomasian Emergency Assistance Management (TEAM) of Colegio de Sto. Tomas- Recoletos is now ready to respond during medical emergency situations with 14 faculty and staff and 25 student volunteers who are trained and equipped as first responders.

Established in 2018, TEAM CST-R is a response to Republic Act 10971 or famously known as the Samboy Lim Law (An Act Requiring Basic Education Students to Undergo Age-Appropriate Basic Life Support Training) and Department of Education Order No. 66, series of 2017 or the “Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Off-Campus Activities” which mandates schools to “observe the safety and security protocols for all participants before, during and after the activity” (that could include i.e. sports, fire and earthquake drills, scouting, etc. and educational tours and trips).

Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, school treasurer and property custodian, is the organization’s founding leader. Fray

Ramon, who also started Adelante Life Emergency Rescue Team (ALERT) of the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R), envisions that TEAM CST-R “be the best community-oriented emergency medical care provider” in San Carlos City.

This group of Thomasian emergency responders also aims to provide innovations in community safety and emergency support for students, faculty, staff and other community stakeholders. **RD**





[ education ]

# Philpost awards Thomasian writer

By Maridel Hubahib



COLEGIO DE STO. TOMAS-RECOLETOS WELCOMED PHILPOST AREA 6 DIRECTOR Atty. Benjie Yotoko, CPA, who awarded a tenth grader for winning third place during the Philpost “Salamat Po” National On-The-Spot Letter Writing Contest last July 24, 2019.

Daniela Katrina Pauline D. Purisima, from Section St. Matthew, is the first representative from Philpost Area 6 (Western Visayas) to have won in the national level held last February 2019 at the GSIS Museum, Pasay City.

Purisima placed third among 30 contestants from all over the country.

Yotoko, during his speech, said he came all the way from Iloilo City “to give due recognition to the student of CST-R for being the top three in the national letter writing contest.”

The area director admitted that he had wished that Purisima won the first prize and she would have been able to represent the Philippines in the 49<sup>th</sup> Universal Postal Administration Letter Writing Contest in Bern, Switzerland.

“I’ll expect that one, two or three students [from] CST-R will once again represent Area 6” in the next

national level, Yotoko added.

Purisima received cash prize, certificate and a medal. CST-R also received a Certificate of Appreciation from Philpost for continuously supporting the “Salamat Po” projects which are all aimed “to improve literacy with the art of letter writing.”

Marionne Sasis, CST-R English teacher and the Thomasian’s coach and trainer, shared the many roadblocks during the journey to the national level contest. Sasis emphasized the financial support that the Local Government of San Carlos City gave which made their trip to Manila possible.

Fray Joel Alve, OAR, school director and principal, pointed during his speech that, “Time is the reason why we no longer write letters by hand.” Fray Alve is an avid supporter of Philpost’s “Salamat Po” project, which is now in its seventh year.

Maria Novah Sollesta, San Carlos City assistant local economic investment officer, who declared that she is a “proud Thomasian,” said that today “the art of letter writing is outdated; your thoughts are buried in social media and acronyms,” and that “sadly communication has turned generic.”

Sollesta in her inspirational message lauded Philpost’s efforts and projects to revive the art of letter writing and encouraged Thomasians to write letters “particularly by hand” for “to send a letter is a good way to go somewhere without moving anything except your heart.”

Yotoko told Thomasians that, “If you want to be a lawyer, you should know how to write properly and clearly.”

Promoting the “Salamat Po” raffle promo, the Philpost director said that every student who sends a letter through Philpost is entitled to one raffle entry. Entries are unlimited and the promo will begin on September 2019 up until March 2020. The draw will be on April 2020. Cash prizes await the winners.

Other guests during the awarding ceremony included Hons. Allen Gustilo, Lorna Hinolan and Carlos Valmayor, San Carlos City councilors, Diosdado Teves, SPSO Negros Occidental District Director, and Ma. Victoria B. Flores, San Carlos City Postmaster.

**RD**

[ education ]

## CST-R celebrates the National Suicide Prevention Month thru Mental Health Talk

**By Mae Jolie Bautista**

IN CELEBRATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Suicide Prevention Month this September, Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos (CST-R) Student Development & Placement Center (SDPC) held a Mental Health Awareness Talk that seventh graders participated in last September 30, 2019.

SDPC head and Guidance Counsellor Ma. Nita V. Bolo, LPT, RGC, gave the talk and facilitated the workshop.

“What is mental health?” Ms. Bolo asked the students as she commenced the talk with ice-breaking games that enhanced the students’ capacity in acknowledging their emotions. Its objectives are the spreading awareness about the basics of mental health and knowing what to do and what can be done to help each other.

Ms. Bolo lightened up the seemingly burdensome mental health issue by commenting, “It is okay, not to be okay,”

She further discussed that mental health pertains to our emotions and differentiated the characteristics of a mentally healthy person from that with poor mental health.

The talk also highlighted the causes as well as the kinds of mental illnesses may occur to anyone who shows warning signs shown by the way they talk and behave.

Mental illness often leads to suicide, which is the third leading cause of death in the US alone in the year 2018. Majority of suicide victims aim to just end their pain, thinking that the only way to be pain-free is by taking their lives.

Thomasians were oriented that well-being is could be gradually achieved by asking, by being there, by helping peers or family members connect, and by staying connected.

The talk ended with Ms. Bolo challenging the learners to write down a list of things that they are grateful for.

A powerful answer that amazed the assembly came from a St. Ambrose student who stated that, “I am grateful for the people that said ‘no’ to me, because of them I did it myself.” **RD**

[ education ]

# Thomasian TAO: Children of Modern Filipino Heroes

By Rallieza Carbajosa



COLEGIO DE STO. TOMAS-RECOLETOS' Thomasian na Anak OFW is a special group of students who are children of Overseas Filipino Workers. Established in 2016, TAO envisions to provide holistic support system to Thomasians whose parents are OFW. Inevitably, these children are products of absentee and alternative parenting. TAO is committed to hold an annual acquaintance fellowship day to introduce these students to a Thomasian community of children of OFWs.

Last August 23, 2019, the group had a gathering which the CST-R Students Development and Placement Center (SDPC) has been doing for the past 10 years. However, it was only in 2016 when the organization was finally established as TAO.

## ABCDE for TAO

A Holy Eucharist at the St. Thomas of Villanueva Chapel-CST-R commenced the fellowship day that welcomed 63 seventh graders into the embrace of TAO.

Fray Vicente L. Ramon, Jr., OAR, whose own father once worked overseas, related during his homily that, "I [would] only see my father three times a year."

Fray Ramon shared how the first five letters of the alphabet helped him survive that difficult phase of his growing years. He emphasized that TAO members and OFW children should always remember the following:

**A means Always Pray.** He reminded everyone to always pray for their parents' safety.

**B means Believe That You are Loved.** "They work because of their love for you; their motivation is that you are loved by them and they want the best education for you," Fray Ramon lectured.

**C means Count Your Blessing.** "We dwell on the negative, on the things that we don't have." He continued, "In spite of [your parent's] absence, you receive a blessing and you should count that."

**D means Deliver Your Share.** The share of OFW children, according to Fray Ramon, is to do well with their studies. “Their sacrifice will not be in vain when you study well and do good in school.”

**E means Enjoy [Your Parent’s] Presence.** Since OFW parents rarely come home, their children must enjoy their company and be happy that they have come home. He added that, “Thomasian students should be the best anak of OFW.”

Having been greeted with a high five from the facilitators, TAO members entered the next phase of the fellowship day with high energy and gusto.

### **Awareness versus Stigma**

Ms. Ma. Nita V. Bolo, MAEd, RGC, CST-R Guidance Counselor, shared her experiences when she herself was an OFW. The sharing allowed the new TAO members to realize that the set-up of their family is not an isolated case and that there are several individuals who understand their concerns and struggles.

Ms. Bolo later on discussed the three different types of OFW which are the Immigrants, who are permanent residents abroad, the Irregular Migrants, and third are the Overseas Contract Workers, who periodically work abroad within a specified contract.

Included in the orientation was tagging the

members to key acronyms relevant to them and their family like: OFW or Overseas Filipino Worker, OWWA or Overseas Worker Welfare Administration, POEA or Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, DOLE or Department of Labor and Employment and, of course, TAO or Thomasian na Anak OFW.

“Please remember all these acronyms so that when your parents mention these you have an idea that where she’s going is important.”

Unfortunately, during the discussion about the 10 major occupational categories of OFWs, it turned out that many TAO members, just like many OFW children, do not even know where exactly their parents work or what exactly do they do for a living abroad. This lack of awareness among the family members of the Philippines’ “biggest tax payers” contribute highly to the stress that OFW children deal with.

Based on government data, OFWs bring in an “estimated 185.6 B” of remittances from April to December 2018 alone. OFWs are now the modern-day heroes for the economy of the Philippines is afloat because of their contribution.

### **Coping Mechanisms for an OFW Kid**

During the 15-minute postcard making session, two TAO members showed their works.

Elsie shared a picture of a girl saying that “Even





though she came from a broken family she still manages to stand up and live life.” Another member opened up how “I miss my father so much.” Joel’s tearful but brief sharing also made other TAO members emotional.

Little do some OFW children know the main reasons for their parent’s decision to work abroad like the high unemployment rate here, the low salary for professionals, the persistence of contractual employment, and the poor benefits. Despite these varying reasons, still OFW children need to cope with either alternative parenting or solo parenting. They need to adjust and, at a young age, try to be independent and responsible.

Charry Giltentez, a senior high school daughter of an OFW father, shared her life story to inspire and encourage fellow TAO members. “Even though your parents are not here, you should encourage yourself, you should be strong and you should guide yourself even when they are not here.”

True to the most common symbol of OFWS, TAO members went through the “Balikbayan Box” activity. Participants wrote all the possible things that can be found in a balikbayan box in just five minutes. The

activity aimed to teach gratitude for both material and non-material blessings and recognition to gift givers, the most common role of OFW parents in the lives of their children.

The last workshop of the acquaintance fellowship highlighted key points in the developing life of an OFW child including the hardest moment, the unforgettable moment, the unforgettable pasalubong, the biggest challenge, the silver lining and wish.

“I just believe that me and my Mama will be reunited and promised her that I will give back all her sacrifices and hardwork for me,” Carla spoke in between tears of hope. This is here eponymous “silver lining.”

### **TAO is Support System**

CST-R TAO organizes activities, group dynamic sessions and fellowships throughout the school year to provide children of OFW a support system with whom they can share their struggles. It is made possible with the management of SDPC and the volunteer Thomasians of Team Event. **RO**





[ education ]

## Observations of a Thomasian who watched the Homecoming happen: A Feature Story

By Rallieza Carbajosa

“CST-R, WE ARE HOME FOR LOVE OF YOU.”

So apt, so poignant is this line from the unforgettable “CST-R Alma Mater Hymn.” Thus, the living Thomasian legend himself chose the line as a jump off point for his homily during the Grand Alumni Homecoming Mass last October 31, 2019. Fray Rafael E. Cabarles, OAR (CST-R Batch 1961), who came home to serve CST-R again in his seventies, was the best person to tell the Thomasian alumni community, “Welcome home!”

As he called us as “the prodigal sons and daughters of Sto. Tomas,” my heartstring was immediately pulled. I have never thought myself to be a prodigal Thomasian, but I just realized that in many ways I am.

The 2019 CST-R Homecoming allowed me to view the event and the being of a Thomasian from outside the box of a Thomasian who is now a CST-R faculty member.

**Recollect.** Coming back to CST-R for many Thomasians, who are now based in different parts of the world, was replete with recollections. The homecoming was a venue for telling old secrets that

could not be forgotten, for re-telling anecdotes that are now part of the Thomasian lore.

Last October 30, 2019, the gathering of Former Seminarians of the Order of Augustinian Recollects (ForSOAR) became proof of how the Thomasian experience honed men, who despite not becoming priests, are successful in their chosen vocations. Several ForSOARs have not been back home since their high school graduation. How their Alma Mater has both transformed yet remained beautifully preserved painted amazement on their faces. This amazement brought back their boyishness, that charm that once made them CST-R’s “crush ng bayan.” And, what a merry recollection session it was that went on even as they joined the Grand Alumni Homecoming parade that traversed the poblacion of San Carlos.

**Reflect.** After two months of renovations and careful interior designing, the Junior High School Girls’ Comfort Room was finally opened. It’s a project of CST-R Batch 1995 with the collaboration of the PTA S.Y. 2019-2020. When Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR

(CST-R Batch 1987) finally opened the newly painted door, the comfort room, with its newly painted walls, repaired cubicles and all new athlete's shower room, was beyond recognition.

In principle, it's the same comfort room that I used in all of my four years as an undergraduate yet it's become totally new, totally different. It's an evidence of how the old can give way to the new yet essentially preserving the advantages of the old. The comfort room is still in the carefully preserved St. Monica (Junior High School) Building yet its vibe is not just modern but suited to the needs of the growing community of Thomasian athletes.

Talking of Thomasian athletes, that Golden Eagles are now soaring high in various sports is undeniable. Several Thomasians have become part of the national football team in the 90s, but now Thomasians are the leaders in different university varsity teams in the Visayas and even Manila in a wide variety of sports—football, lawn tennis, badminton, volleyball, among others.

Batch 1995, who hosted this year's homecoming, particularly created their program to include sports. The Volleyball Invitational featured the girls teams of University of San Jose-Recoletos, Bacolod Tay Tung High School, Inc., and San Carlos City Selection (which also included at least two Thomasians). The short tournament featured high quality exchanges of jump serves, digs, offensive blocks and booming attacks from all participating teams. The Golden Eagles volleyball players were at the sidelines cheering their idols and picking up valuable game tips the whole time. It is this manner of bringing in the best practices from other schools and communities that will help CST-R, Alma Mater dear, to improve, to develop and

even to exceed its targets.

**Respond.** CST-R, after making an incredible 79<sup>th</sup> year run, is now on the road to its Ruby Anniversary in 2020.

What's next for San Carlos City's iconic educational institution?

During the Grand Alumni Homecoming evening, in the midst of partying, glowing lights and blaring disco music, the world stood still to watch the launching video of CST-R's #Roadto80. A contagious string of reaction and excitement filled every batch as Fray Dioniso Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province, declared that CST-R's application to open a college department has finally been approved.

The college department shall be the fulfilment of "Scientia" or knowledge, the other half of Sto. Tomas de Villanueva's epithet. It will be, in Fray Selma's words, the true test of the Thomasian community's unity and grit as the climb to the opening of a college will be everything but easy. This journey, that in Fray Cabarles' words has been a dream since the 1970s, will be CST-R's response to the current needs of the Negrense society.

As I watched the parade of Thomasian faces filled with nostalgia and amazement, the riot of laughter in the gathering of friends and classmates, the presentation of sepia and faded photographs, and the CST-R campus all decked in festive colors and canopies, I knew I have come home. I am home for the love of CST-R. Here is the repository of my recollections and reflections. Here is the beginning of my response to the changing needs of this community that I serve. **RO**





# SPAnews

VUELA SAN PEDRO, SOAR HIGH RECOLETOS!

[ education ]

## SPA holds a Seminar on Learner-Centered Pedagogy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner

By Mr. Lindon Dagoy

VALENCIA, NEGROS ORIENTAL—DR. JOI GUTIEREZ FROM SAINT LOUIS University (SLU) Baguio City, conducted a Seminar on Learner-Centered Pedagogy for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century learner at San Pedro Academy's library on February 14, 2019. Registered participants from St. Augustine Academy, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental; Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos, Talisay City Negros Occidental; University of San Jose Recoletos, Balamban, Cebu; and San Pedro Academy, Valencia, Negros Oriental were present during the seminar.

San Pedro Academy community welcomed the guests with a grand parade as they entered the school ground which lauded their arrival. The program proper then followed. Fray James Dexter Tanquis, OAR, formally welcomed the guest speaker. Dr. Joi Gutierrez expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality by the Petrinian community. Students were dismissed early and afternoon classes were canceled due to the on-going program.

"Make teaching as your passion, love your profession," said Dr. Gutierrez during the seminar. "Students are diverse and do have different learning styles, so teachers should employ learner-centered strategies," he added, referring to the teachers.

In the afternoon, the continuation of the seminar then started with an

energizer. The guest speaker demonstrated some strategies in a classroom instruction emphasizing an effective and meaningful teaching-learning process for the learners. Giving of certificates and photo opportunity with the guest speaker took place.

Ms. Meriam Torres, the school's TLE/MAPEH teacher, officially concluded the event by giving the concluding remarks. **RD**





[ education ]

# SPA Valencia soars high in its basketball clinic

By CST-R Correspondent

IN ITS EFFORT TO RAISE THE BAR OF ITS COMPETITIVE SKILLS IN BASKETBALL, the San Pedro Academy (SPA) has found some ways to do it, thanks to its sports-minded School Director and Principal, Fray Dexter James Tanquis, OAR.

According to school's Facebook post, the Petrinian community here invited two star players of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Mark Yee (of Mahindra) and Mark Andaya (also an actor in the famous TV series "Probinsyano") to coach the school basketball varsity a.k.a. San Pedro Cockerels, and other students who were willing to learn more.

The first ever basketball clinic sponsored by the school culminated at the SPA Gymnasium last March 1, 2019. To spice up the activity, Fray Tanquis invited the basketball varsitarians of the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) Jaguars of Cebu City to play

against Dumaguete City's Negros Oriental State (NORSU) Tigers.

The special participation of the PBA players coaching session with the registered participants of the Petrinian Basketball Clinic highlighted the evening events. To learn from these famous players' inspiring stories and pieces of advice to all aspiring players, a Press Conference was held. A photo opportunity took place right after the press conference.

Vuela San Pedro! Soar High Recoletos! **RO**



# Ministerial-Mission



[ ministerial ]

## Bishop Bacani celebrates Mass in honor of St. Sebastian

By Fray Jessriel Marcha, OAR

**Q**uiapo, MANILA—FORTITUDE WAS THE MAIN MESSAGE of Bishop Teodoro Bacani, D.D., bishop-emeritus of Novaliches, during the fiesta Mass at the San Sebastian Basilica in honor of St. Sebastian last January 20, 2019. His homily focused on following the example of St. Sebastian who had undauntedly stood up for the Christian faith.

## **Bishop Bacani celebrates...**

(from page 201)

Preaching inside Asia's all-steel basilica, the prelate laid out before the faithful how the Christian faith is under attack. He forcefully emphasized that for God to be called "stupid" and for the most important dogma of Christianity—the dogma of the Blessed Trinity—to be called "silly" explicitly demonstrate an attack against the Christian Faith. It was in this context that he exhorted the faithful to be courageous and to

defend the faith like St. Sebastian.

He was referring to President Duterte's tirade against the Catholic Church.

Bishop Bacani also lamented the seeming esteem shown by a great number of Catholics who had faintheartedly clapped and laughed over the President's unwitting imperative addressed to bystanders to rob and kill bishops. For this, he reminded the faithful of this common proverb: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is

for good men to do nothing." Citing the example of St. Sebastian who stood against the civil leaders of his time, he exhorted the faithful to resist violence and lawlessness.

For the bishop, the life and example of St. Sebastian who lived and died during the third century is still relevant, especially to Catholics, in the defense of their faith. Bishop Bacani highly recommended that those who venerate St. Sebastian should follow his life of fortitude for the sake of the faith. **RD**



[ ministerial ]

## **Feast day of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian celebrated on January 29, no longer on July 16**

**By Fray Joseph Neil Baygan**

*Quiapo, MANILA*—THE PARISH OF SAN SEBASTIAN IN Manila celebrated the solemn feast of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian last January 29, which was a return to its previous feast day. The universal Church celebrates it on July 16.

The Pontifical Mass, which started at 6:00 in the evening, was presided by Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, D.D. of the Cubao. Devotees and parishioners flocked to the basilica which is home of the image for centuries already.

In his homily, Bishop Ongtioco expressed gratitude to the Recollects for bringing the first image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to the Philippines in 1618, a number of years before the first Carmelite missionaries arrived in the country.

He further said: "...with the early arrival of the Recollects, cofradias of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel were founded as early as 1621 and recognized by the Holy See in the 1650's, which helped very much in the promotion of every Filipino's devotion to our Blessed Mother, specifically, to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. These days, the cofradias of the said Marian title is widespread all over the country with thousands or even millions of devotees."

Along with the bishop were the prior provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, the basilica's rector, Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, the parochial vicar, Fray Alexis Mansueto, OAR and a good number of religious and priests.

Mother Lucila Antipala, AR, superior general of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters, along with some AR Sisters, was also present in this special occasion. This was a reminder of the Congregation's historical link, through their foundresses, with the image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel de San Sebastian.

In the past years, the feast of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian was held every 21<sup>st</sup> of January, immediately a day after the feast of the very patron of the basilica—San Sebastian—where the

icon is enshrined. This concession was granted by Rome which gave the OAR Fathers of San Sebastian the freedom to choose a date for Her feast.

But in order to have a novena in her honor, the date was later transferred to January 29.

Also in attendance in the Holy Mass were the seminarians, the members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity, and the members of the Third Order of the Carmelites. Various parish organizations of the basilica also graced the said celebration. **RD**

[ ministerial ]

## Procession of Canonically Crowned Image of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian: Anamnesis of Fervent Devotion

By Fray Joseph Neil Baygan

*Quiapo, MANILA*—DEVOTEES OF THE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CARMEN FLOCKED TO San Sebastian Basilica for the Mass and solemn procession on the eve of January 29, 2019. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass started at 6:00 PM ministered by Fray Rommel Rubia, OAR.

In his homily, Fray Rubia first explained the reason as to why the parish celebrates the said feast on January and not on July 16 with the universal Church. He expounded that this practice was a revival of the traditional feast day of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian during the 1650s.

He said that since the establishment of the Confradia, an organization whose members were devotees of the said title of the Blessed Mother, the Holy See allowed the Spanish friars to choose a special day for our Lady. It would be fitting for them to choose January 21, just right after the feast day of San Sebastian.

Few years after, it was moved to January 29 so that there would be a novena in her honor. Then he shared his experiences of how is it to be under the mantle of our Lady. Finally, he exhorted everyone to wear the brown scapular at all times.

After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Reverend Fray Alexis Mansueto, OAR handed the keys of the abode of Our Lady to Reverend Mother Lucena L. Antipala, A.R., superior general of the Congregation. She then carefully walked on the staircase to the altar; and assisted by Sr. Marily N. Cula, A.R., vicar general of the Congregation, she prayerfully knocked and opened

the abode.

Our Lady was then brought down where the Recollect Fathers and the Sisters were waiting, then solemnly brought her close to the people outside the basilica. Devotees then joined the procession of the canonically crowned image of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian around the streets of Quiapo.

### The Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters

The act of entrusting the keys of the abode of Nuestra Señora del Carmen de San Sebastian to the Superior General of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters by the Recollect Fathers and the opening of the said abode reminds us of a story of the filial devotion of the Talangpaz Sisters to Our Lady.

Prior to the arrival of the Carmelites in the Philippines, the devotion to the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the devotion of this image was fostered and became popular through the efforts of the Augustinian Recollect Order. The image of Nuestra Señora del Carmen enshrined at the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian is the first image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Philippines; this was brought by



the Recollect friars.

Inspired by our Lady, the siblings of Calumpit, Bulacan, Mother Dionisia and Mother Cecilia Rosa Talangpaz, established a community of women dedicated to God and the Blessed Mother. They both offered themselves to the service of the Lord in the twofold way of contemplation and action: their lives centered in the daily Holy Eucharist, nourished by

the filial devotion of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as they engaged in silent apostolate in the sanctuary.

Without planning to found a religious congregation, those who succeeded them perpetuated their community life, their filial devotion to Our Lady and their heart's desires which has eventually led to the birthing of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters. **RO**

[ ministerial ]

## “Kilos Kabataan” adds color to OLCP’s fiesta

By Ms. China Gabriel

*MiraNila Homes, QUEZON CITY*—ON FEBRUARY 2, THE PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY (PYM) of the Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Miranila officially launched the Year of the Youth (YOTY) in concurrence with the parish’s 32<sup>nd</sup> founding anniversary.

The celebration was themed, Kilos Kabataan (literally, Youth Movement), an invitation for the young people to respond to their call to mission through active service in the parish.

In his opening remarks, Fray Gideon Antolin U. Lagrimas, OAR, parish priest of OLCP, stressed that despite coming from varied backgrounds or being part of different organizations in the parish – whether as an altar server or choir member, a member of the Legion of Mary or a Recollect Augustinian Youth – what brings us together is our common encounter with Jesus Christ himself, who dwells at the center of all of our activities.

Ardy Veloso from the Commission On Youth of the Diocese of Novaliches was invited to shed some light on the goals of the YOTY as well as its overarching theme: “Filipino Youth in Mission: Beloved, Gifted, Empowered.”

Over 60 performers shared their God-given talents in the variety show that followed, which showcased multiple production numbers of music and dance,

injected with inspirational testimonials.

The program was made extra-special because these performances featured alumni members of the Parish Youth Ministry; former leaders and scholars took the stage to reminisce and to share how their years in the Youth Ministry impacted their academic, spiritual, and family life.

The program closed with a torch-lighting ceremony, followed by a heartfelt praise and worship session led by the Catholics for Family and Life (CFL) Youth Ministry band.

The parish came alive that night, and the PYM of Our Lady of Consolation is hopeful that this same energy be maintained throughout the rest of the activities lined up for the 2019 Year of the Youth.

Present during the activity are the various youth organizations of OLCP such as the Legion of Mary, Recollect Augustinian Youth, Parish Youth Ministry, Parish Youth Central, Chapel Choirs, and Confraternity of Augustinian Recollect Altar Server. **RO**



[ ministerial ]

# Recoletos de Plaridel is Province's newest community

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR



*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY*—AFTER HAVING CONSULTED THE PRIOR GENERAL and made a written agreement with Bishop Socrates Mesiona of Puerto Princesa, the Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, with the consent of his Council, established the newest community of the Province of St. Ezekiel on December 15, 2018.

This 24<sup>th</sup> Recollect community, located at Brgy. Plaridel in Aborlan, Palawan, is composed of Fray Regino Bangcaya, appointed local prior, Fray Christopher Gaspar, and Fray Monday Benjamine Edobor.

Fray Bangcaya was recommended to be the Parish Priest of the San Rafael Parish while Fray Gaspar, the appointed local procurator, was recommended to be its Parochial Vicar. Fray Edobor, who is spending his diaconal practice in the parish, was appointed Liturgist and Chronicler of the community.

To become “creators of communion” in this newly established community, Fray Bangcaya said they cater to the needs of the 16 chapels that comprise the entire parish through the assistance of each local pastoral council and the 11 lay ministers who come to serve their respective chapel every Sunday. One of the chapels has 80% Tagbanuas, an indigenous people concentrated in a remote area of the parish.

In addition, the parish also counts on the 10 permanent formators who actively sustain its BEC (Basic Ecclesial Community) programs in the existing

56 MSKs (Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano) parish-wide. Other parish organizations or groups include: Apostleship of Prayer, Knights of the Altar, Mother Butler Guild, LeComm (Lectors and Commentators), and the PYM (Parish Youth Ministry).

Fray Bangcaya who was Parish Administrator here when it was still under the pastoral management of the Recoletos de Inagawan community proudly related that “the PYM is considered number three in performance in the whole Vicariate of Puerto Princesa.”

This quadrennium 2018-2022, as in the triennium 2015-2018, the Provincial Council has agreed to take the date of the local community’s foundation from the date when the Prior General gives his formal response to the Council’s consultation on the matter.

The Province has a total of 24 houses all in all: 20 in the Philippines and four abroad (two in Sierra Leone, and one each in Taiwan and Saipan).

In the Philippines, 10 houses are in Luzon (Manila, Baguio, Cavite, Provincialate, Miranila, Antipolo,

Tondo, Inagawan, Casian, and Plaridel); nine in the Visayas (Cebu, San Carlos, Bacolod, Talisay, Valencia, Laray, Tambo, Caidiocan, and Balamban); and one in Mindanao (Hinatuan).

During the signing of the MOA, it was specified that the San Rafael Parish would be administered by the Augustinian Recollects for 15 years and that this bilateral agreement could be renewed afterwards. **RO**

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*Signing of the MOA (Clockwise): Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR (seated, in black shirt), Bishop Mesiona, Father Provincial, Chancellor, Fray Urbano Galanido, OAR. Fray Manuel Lipardo, OAR was taking the picture*



[ ministerial ]

## “Kasalang Parokya 2019”: Road to Forevermore

By Fray Mark Saludes, OAR



*Fray Albert Pellazar, OAR posing with the newly-wed couples.*

*Hinatuan, SURIGAO DEL SUR*—BEFORE THE MASS STARTED, AS I GREETED ONE of the couples whom I interviewed, the groom blurted out audibly in the vernacular: “*Sa wakas mapanalanginan na sa Ginoo ang among kaminyoon*” (“At last our marriage will be blessed by the Lord”).



Thirty-one couples from the three districts of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Quasi Parish here in Brgy. Dugmanon Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur availed of this year's Mass wedding. Two weddings were celebrated simultaneously on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February; one in the main church, with 22 couples, and another in San Roque Chapel of Brgy. Campa, with 9 couples.

Fray Jerome Virtudazo, OAR solemnized the wedding in the main church while Fray Albert Pellazar, OAR was in the latter. Kasalang Parokya is an annual program conducted by the parish that offers free wedding ceremony for those couple-parishioners who have been living together or civilly married for five years or more.

In the pastoral visits of the three OAR religious among clusters of *Gagmayng Kristohanong Katilingban* (GKK, or Basic Ecclesial Communities or BEC) within the parish, unmarried couple members were noted, followed up, and encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

The Family and Life Apostolate is the Parish's right-hand in preparing these couples before they could receive the Sacrament.

During the homily, Fray Jerome jokingly shared the slogan of a newly married that says: "No return, no exchange." This connotes the indissoluble attribute of marriage, and with the sacrament of Holy Matrimony the road to forevermore begins.

He stressed that in order to preserve permanency of marriage it should be founded not on physical attraction but on selfless love. **RD**



*AT LONG LAST. One of the couples in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Quasi-Parish joyfully exchanged their "I do's" before God's altar.*

## newsbits

### SAN VICENTE FERRER'S DEVOTEES TOLD: "BE THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST"

By Agustinus Recoletos

Apo Island, Dauin, NEGROS ORIENTAL—Aside from being a marine sanctuary, this island with around a thousand inhabitants is placed under the patronage of St. Vincent Ferrer whose feast day falls on April 5. For this year's fiesta, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Dumaguete, Rev. Fr. Carmelito Limbaga, Jr., was the main celebrant and homilist.

Fr. Limbaga, in his homily, raised the big challenge to the Mass goers and devotees to emulate their patron saint: "Be the face of Jesus Christ to others." He then shared his own personal experiences to illustrate his point.

As is customary, the fiesta was preceded the day before, April 4, by a

fluvial procession with the lead boats carrying the image of San Vicente Ferrer and Our Lady of Consolation. Fray Jay Parilla, OAR, appointed Priest In-charge of the Quasi Parish here said that this year marked the first time that the image of San Vicente was accompanied by that of Our Lady of Consolation.

"*Sa una man gud, ang kauban ni San Vicente kay si Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces.*" ("Previously, it was the image of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces that accompanied that of San Vicente Ferrer."), Fray Parilla noted. "But since the status of the Marian apparition (at a Carmelite Monastery in Lipa, Batangas) associated with it was ruled out by the Vatican to be

non-supernatural, we decided to change it with a Marian image connected to us, Recollects," he said.

Majority of the islanders (80% of whom are Catholics) and some foreign tourists participated in the fiesta celebrations. "Since some tourists are there out of curiosity, still we continue to sow the Gospel to everyone who comes and joins," Fray Parilla said in the vernacular.

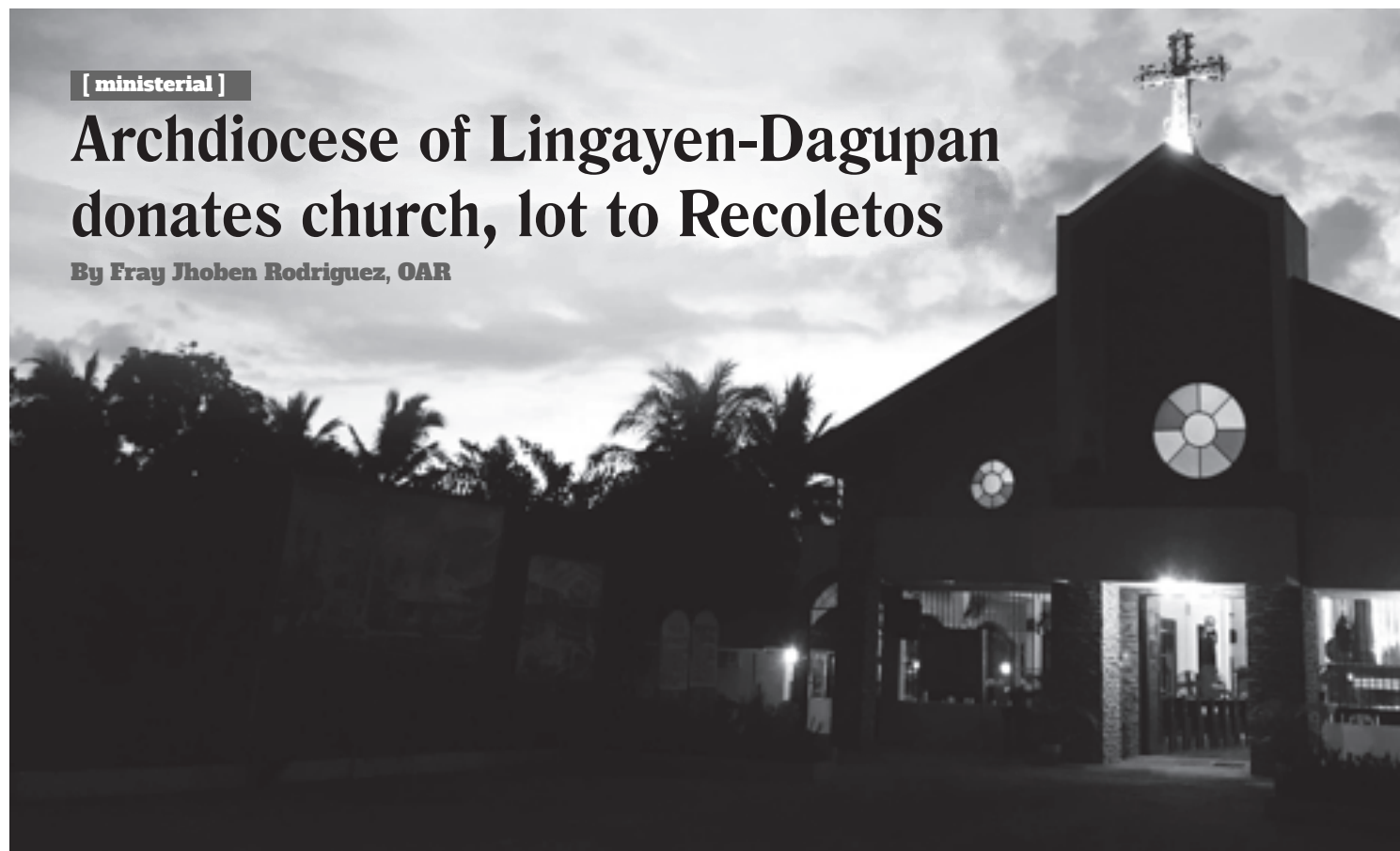
The fiesta Mass was concelebrated by the Recollect priests from Recoletos de Valencia and Recoletos de Caidiocan communities. Two deacons from those communities, Rev. Maximilian Omem, OAR, and Rev. Jovy Gallego, OAR, served during the Holy Mass.



[ ministerial ]

# Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan donates church, lot to Recoletos

By Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR



*Urbiztondo, PANGASINAN*—“IT WAS THROUGH THE ARCHBISHOP [VILLEGAS] THAT God calls us [Recoletos] to be here,” recalled Fray Samson Silloriquez, OAR, prior of Recoletos de Pangasinan community, just before the end of the afternoon thanksgiving Mass held at the Our Lady of the Visitation Parish church on March 15, 2019.

Ezekiel Moreno was presided by His Excellency Socrates B. Villegas, DD, archbishop of Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, to which the Recollect-administered parish belongs. Just before it started, the renovated wings of the church, including the altar where the image of the commonly revered Sto. Cristo Divino Tesoro de Urbiztondo was enshrined, were blest.

It was followed by the reading of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan and the OAR concerning the former’s donation to the latter of the church and convent edifices as well as the lot of the parish. The Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma, representing the OAR, and Archbp. Villegas, representing the archdiocese, affixed their signature. The document was handed over to the Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, OAR, who showed it to the people.

“(It’s the) first time in the history of the OAR that

a parish is donated by an archbishop. Today is very exceptional,” Fray Silloriquez, noted with gratitude the generous act on behalf of the Recoletos Family gathered for the celebration. (In the past, it was either the local ordinary allowing a religious congregation to administer a parish then, at an appointed time, he might re-take it from them; or allowing a religious congregation to establish a parish church within the latter’s property.)

In his homily, Archbp. Villegas said: “Ten years ago, hindi ko naisip na darating dito ang mga Augustinian Recollect. ... pero alam niya [ng Diyos] na darating sila dito. Si Hesus ang nagdala sa kanila dito.” (“Ten years ago, it never dawned on me that the Augustinian Recollects would come. ... but He (God) knows that they will come. Jesus brought them here.”)

Despite the renovations and repainting, the archbishop told the Mass goers, the parish church is not the most beautiful church. Rather, “the most



beautiful church,” he said “*ay kayo*” referring to the parishioners, the people of God, who broke into thunderous applause. “Man-made buildings cannot have souls. In our beauty, the Holy Spirit lives,” he clarified.

### Flashback

The Our Lady of the Visitation Parish was once a small chapel in Brgy. Pasibi East under the patronage of Sto. Cristo Divino Tesoro de Urbiztondo. In 2011, through a Decree, Most. Rev. Socrates Villegas, D.D., Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan elevated the chapel into a Parish. It was then named Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

Fr. Romeo Namalata, from the Servants of the Risen Christ Monastic Community, was appointed as the first Parish Priest serving in that capacity for four years. In 2015, Fr. Oscar Roque became the second parish priest who served for two years.

At the end of 2017, a new chapter in the life of the parish began. On October 9, 2017, the new administration was formally transferred to the Recollects. On December 12, 2017, Fray Joseph

Cyprian Panaligan, OAR, was installed as the third parish priest in the history of the parish.

Faithful to the community life of the Recoletos, the community was headed by Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, OAR, local prior. Fray Jayferson Baldeovar, OAR, the youngest of the three-member Recoletos de Pangasinan community was also Local Procurator and Parochial Vicar.

On May 2018, with the change to the new administration of the Province of St. Ezekiel, Fray Samson Silloriquiz, OAR took over as the newly appointed local prior while Frays Panaligan and Baldeovar continued with their previous appointments.

The historic celebration of thanksgiving marked the conclusion of the renewal visit of the Prior General to the Recollect community here.

Present during the said celebration are the twenty-four priests, Secular Augustinian Recollects from various chapters, OAR Seminarians from Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary in Baguio and the coristas from the Recoletos Formation Center in Miranila who served as the choir. **RD**



[ ministerial ]

## Bishop Navarra presides Mass to celebrate St. Vincent Ferrer's 600<sup>th</sup> death anniversary

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Talisay City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*—MOST REV. VICENTE NAVARRA, D.D., BISHOP-emeritus of Bacolod, presided over the Holy Mass commemorating the 600<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of St. Vincent Ferrer on April 5, 2019. The novena Masses and fiesta celebrations hinged on the theme, “San Vicente: Model of a beloved, gifted and empowered Filipino Youth.”

Bishop Navarra, who was then the local ordinary when the Diocesan Shrine of San Vicente Ferrer was erected here in Talisay in 2014, said that we do not have a “concrete idea about the life of St. Vincent Ferrer when he was still a young man, aged 15 to 39 years old” but as a priest, since he was ordained at age 29, “his homilies were so powerful that they brought so many people back to the Lord.”

This miraculous saint is considered the second patron of the San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish here, with Fray Nino Cesar Ruiz, OAR as the parish priest and rector of the Shrine.

Since the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has designated 2019 as the Year of the Youth, this year's theme for the feast day of St. Vincent Ferrer, as agreed with and by the Parish Pastoral Council, combined the relevant elements. “We affirm that you [young people] are beloved, you are gifted, you are empowered, and, therefore, you are sent in mission,” Bishop Navarra said.

“What does this mean?” the bishop, then, asked. And he, too, provided the answers: “The youth in the

parish of Talisay should continue to live the Christian Faith. It is not enough to be a member of a choir, an organization, or a movement.”

Bishop Navarra turned the spotlight on the need of the young people of today to be convinced, and not to be ashamed nor be afraid of proclaiming their Catholic faith. “You must be proud to show and proclaim with conviction and with joy what you profess when you say ‘I believe in God, the Father Almighty...’”

The prelate concluded by saying that every young person should be reminded that he or she is truly beloved, gifted, and empowered because of the strength of the Holy Spirit received during baptism and confirmation. And like San Vicente Ferrer, the youth should “choose without compromise” the objectively good, true and beautiful, with due respect to the body, the welfare of fellowmen, and the priority of serving others.

Furthermore, to cap the closing program of the yearlong 6<sup>th</sup> centenary celebrations, the well-participated 5<sup>th</sup> Palapak Festival was held in the afternoon at the parish grounds. **RD**



## Former CBCP President thanks the Order; Installs second Recollect Parish Priest

By Fray Jessriel Marcha, OAR

*Hinatuan, SURIGAO DEL SUR*—FORMER CBCP PRESIDENT AND NOW BISHOP-EMERITUS of Tandag Nereo Odchimar, D.D. presided over the fiesta Mass in the Recollect-administered Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Quasi-parish (henceforth, OLMCQP), the lone Recollect community in Mindanao island.

The fiesta was celebrated last July 17, 2019 and on the same celebration, Fray Jerome Virtudazo, OAR was installed as its second parish priest. Sitting inconspicuously in the hilly Dugmanon barangay, the small church was nevertheless filled to the brim and was graced by the presence of the diocesan clergy of Tandag led by the bishop-emeritus and some Recollect confreres led by the Vicar Provincial, Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR.

### July 17

The Universal Church has assigned July 16 as the feast day of Mary in her title Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. But with the erection of the new quasi-parish, the Diocese of Tandag now has two churches under the same patroness—one in Carrascal town in the northern tip of the diocese and one in Dugmanon barangay in the southern part of the diocese. Owing to two facts—first, that the bishop is always invited as the main celebrant of fiesta Masses, and second, that it is impossible for the bishop to preside over the two fiesta celebrations on the same day—OLMCQP, the younger “Carmel parish,” has decided to celebrate its fiesta celebration on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July every year.

### Thanking the Recollects

Bishop-emeritus Nereo Odchimar, D.D., a former CBCP President, thanked the Recollects for accepting his invitation to work in his diocese. Recalling a meeting with his diocesan clergy to invite religious congregations in the diocese, he shared during his homily that the Order of Augustinian Recollects—the pioneer group to evangelize Mindanao during the Spanish colonial era—was among the first priorities. He also reminded the faithful of the Recollect missionaries’ lasting contributions to Mindanao and to the diocese by enumerating some parishes named after Augustinian saints. Some of those he mentioned are the following: San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish and cathedral in Tandag City, Sto. Tomas de Villanueva Parish in Bislig City, and St. Augustine Parish in San Agustin and Hinatuan municipalities.

The lone Recollect community in Mindanao caters to 26 chapels under its jurisdiction. Most of them are located in mountainous areas, some are located in coastal areas facing the Pacific and one is located in an island. The three-member community is under the leadership of Fray Jerome Virtudazo, OAR—local prior and parish priest. **RD**





# UNO-R hosts OAR Pastoral Apostolate Meeting for Negros Island Cluster

By **Aura Mae Salanap**

*Bacolod City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*—THE PARISH PRIESTS, CHAPLAINS AND CAMPUS Ministers from University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos; Colegio de San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos, Talisay; Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos, San Carlos City; San Pedro Academy-Recoletos, Caidiocan, Valencia; and San Pedro Academy, Valencia, were gathered for a meeting in UNO-R at the VP-Academics Conference Room on July 25, 2019 to discuss the proposed programs and activities for the Celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019. The meeting was presided by Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, Head of the Section for Ministerial and Mission Apostolates of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

The meeting started with a prayer, followed by a short getting-to-know session. Then, Fray Tubio discussed to the group the call of the General Secretariat for the Apostolate of the Order of Augustinian Recollects to mobilize the OAR communities to prepare plans and programs for the celebration of the Extraordinary Mission Month in October.

The highlights of the meeting were 1) Promotion of Missions, through short video clippings, that may be played in schools and parishes; 2) familiarization with the Guidelines for the Mission Apostolate of the Augustinian Recollects (OAM); 3) Promotion of monthly celebration of the Mission Day in parishes and schools that will help in raising funds for the Mission Project; 4) Creation of mission groups in the campus ministry in schools and in parishes that will serve as anchor groups for any mission-related activities; 5) Facilitate events, such as cultural (concerts, competitions), sports (fun run, tournaments or matches), commercial (garage sale) and religious (missionary vigil, jamboree, pilgrimage, mission-sending ceremonies for volunteers, mission groups and missionaries encounter); and 6) Launching of the Extraordinary Mission Month in parishes and schools.

Fray Tubio also shared with the assembly the rationale of the Extraordinary Mission Month. The Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of

Peoples and President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Fernando Cardinal Filoni, was commissioned by Pope Francis to spearhead this month-long celebration. Cardinal Filoni said, “At the heart of this initiative, which involves the Universal Church, will be prayer, testimonies, and reflections on the centrality of the *missio ad gentes* as a permanent state of being sent out for the first evangelization (Mt. 28:19) The obligation of personal and communal conversion to Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and alive in the Church, will renew the fervor and the passion for giving witness to the Gospel of life and the joy of Easter, through both word and actions (Lk. 24:46-49).”

Present during the meeting were Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR, Joey Jolito, Jamicha Trujillo, and Aura Mae Salanap from UNO-R CMO; Robit Cuevas and Reymar Macatual from CST-R, CMO; Fray Jay Parilla, OAR, Chaplain of St. Vincent Ferrer Quasi Parish, Apo Island, Negros Oriental; Fray Randy Castillo, OAR, Fray Emilio Jaruda, OAR; and Fray Niño Cesar Ruiz, OAR, from San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, Talisay City; Fray Roderick Deguit, OAR and Melinda Cabaguig from Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned and San Pedro Academy, Valencia, Negros Oriental; Fray Excel Saycon, OAR and Christian James Tindog from SPA-R, Caidiocan, Valencia, Negros Oriental; and Fray Cirilo Andan, OAR from Our Lady of Lourdes Quasi Parish, Ayungon, Negros Oriental.

**RD**

[ ministerial ]

# Negros Cluster meets for “Maximum Illud” Conference

By UNO-R Correspondent

*Bacolod City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*—THE RECOLETOS COMMUNITIES IN NEGROS Island met last August 27, the feast of St. Monica, at the UNO-R President’s Hall to discuss Pope Benedict XV’s 1919 Apostolic letter “Maximum Illud”. Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR discussed the Pastoral and Ecclesial considerations of the Apostolic Letter. Fray Emilio E.A. Quilatan, OAR discussed the historical response of the Order to the call to missions before and after the “Maximum Illud”. While Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR gave the updates from the office of the Section on Ministerial and Mission Apostolate.



The group was given the following reminders:  
1) Display of tarps in all parishes and schools; 2) Daily recitation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month prayer, Biblical and theological reflections on Missions; 3) Showing of AVP’s from the different Recollect mission areas before the start of the Mass; 4) Short talk about the missions after communion; 5) Observance of the days of Prayer and Fasting (all Fridays of October); 6) Launch the project “A gallon for the Missions” which would awaken the laity on their missionary obligations; and 7) Observance of the month for Recollect Mission.

The conference was attended by Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR; Fray Roderick Deguit, OAR; Fray Jay Parilla, OAR; Fray Excel Saycon, OAR; Fray James

Dexter Tanguis, OAR; Fray Kenneth Pahamutang, OAR; Fray Paul Demollones, OAR; Fray Sir Michael Dineros, OAR; Fray William Cordero, OAR; Fray Vicente Ramon, OAR; Fray Joel Alve, OAR; Fray Cirilo Andan, OAR; Fray Jose Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR; Fray Nino Cesar Ruiz, OAR; Fray Emilio Jaruda, Jr., OAR; Fray Leonardo Pauligue, OAR; Fray Randy Castillo, OAR; Fray Anthony Morillo, OAR; Fray Jazzy Jeff Montañez, OAR; Fray Walthrode Conde, OAR; Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR; Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR; Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, OAR; Fray Renier Alviola, OAR; Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR; and Fray William Villaflor, OAR. The Conference was closed with a Concelebrated Mass presided by Fray Tubio at the chapel of Recoletos de Bacolod Convent. **RD**

[ ministerial ]

## OAR Parish Priests gather in Taiwan

By Fray Joel Dequilla, OAR



*Kaohsiung, TAIWAN*—ON SEPTEMBER 14 to 19, 2019 eighteen OAR parish priests and parochial vicars from the Philippines came to Taiwan for a meeting convoked by Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, chairman of the Section on Ministerial and Mission Apostolate in the OAR Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

The convocation was prompted by Pope Francis' designation of October, 2019 as the Extraordinary Missionary Month to highlight the missionary agenda of the Church as set forth in the apostolic letter *Maximum Illud* promulgated by Pope Benedict XV 100 years ago. Taiwan, though the nearest among the

foreign missions of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno is also ironically, the least known and liked mission destination by the members of the Province, primarily due to its difficult to learn and master Chinese language. Hence, when the official communication was relayed, the OAR Taiwan missionaries were delighted to accept the privilege of hosting the gathering of OAR friars from the Philippines who are working in the parishes.

The first batch of OAR friars from Cebu City landed at Kaohsiung International Airport on September 12, 2019. They were Frays Real, Granada, Villalino, and Plohimon. On September 14 at 30 minutes past one o'clock in the afternoon, the second batch of OAR friars from the Visayas and Mindanao areas arrived in Kaohsiung. They were Frays Andan, Cordero, Deguit, Parilla, Saycon, Ruiz, Castillo, and Virtudazo. At past six in the evening of September 14, OAR friars from Luzon areas landed in Kaohsiung city. They were Frays Tubio, Peligro, Lagrimas, Panaligan, Gaspar and Galanido. The friars were billeted at the OAR convent in Daliao District, Kaohsiung city.

Coincidentally, the arrival of the friars on September 14 fell on the celebration of Mid Autumn Festival in Taiwan. Barbecuing and moon gazing are some of the cultural traditions of Taiwanese people during this festival, so the friars were welcomed this way on their first night in Taiwan. Fray Peligro drew the group to a chorus by leading some familiar OAR songs and other OPM tunes while alternately playing the guitar and ukulele.

On September 15, the Parish of the Holy Cross in Daliao District celebrated its Patronal fiesta. Twenty four priests composed of 22 OARs, one OP and one SDB concelebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The attendees were excited and pleasantly surprised to see so many priests concelebrating in the Parish Fiesta Mass. This rare event has never happened before. This parish, considered a small one in the Diocese of Kaohsiung has, however, three communities coming to attend Masses on Sundays, namely, the Taiwanese, the Filipinos, and the Vietnamese. Fray Magbojos, the pastor of this Parish and the OARs are the ones ministering to the Taiwanese and Filipino communities, while a Vietnamese priest comes to take care of the spiritual needs of the Vietnamese Catholics.

The following day, September 16, the friars headed towards Queen of Victory Church in Xiaogang District for the Mass, conference and fraternal sharing. The



Holy Mass started at 10 o'clock in the morning. Fray Panaligan, who on that same day was celebrating his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday was designated to preside the Mass and deliver the homily. During the conference, Fray Maturan shared about the histories of Catholicism as well as that of the OAR in Taiwan. He also talked about the challenges of doing missionary work in a country where Christianity is only about two percent of the densely populated Taoists and Buddhist believers. Drawing from the document *Maximum illud*, Fray Maturan also pointed some suggestions for effective evangelization. Towards the end of the conference, Most Rev. Peter Liu, D.D., the Archbishop of Kaohsiung came and greeted the OAR friars. Everyone was honoured and delighted to meet and hear the Bishop. Following the conference, the OAR friars together with the Bishop and the host parishioners feasted on some local Taiwanese cuisine. After a hearty meal, the friars excitedly joined in dancing the traditional Harvest Festival dance of the parishioners from the Amis tribe. Even Bishop Liu joined in the fun. Afterwards, an open forum was held during the afternoon where the missionaries in Taiwan were asked by the brothers on their life and mission apostolate. The day's event was capped by another meal, this time together with the Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, also in Xiaogang District. Truly, the warmth and hospitality of the Taiwanese faithful were

felt by the visiting OAR friars.

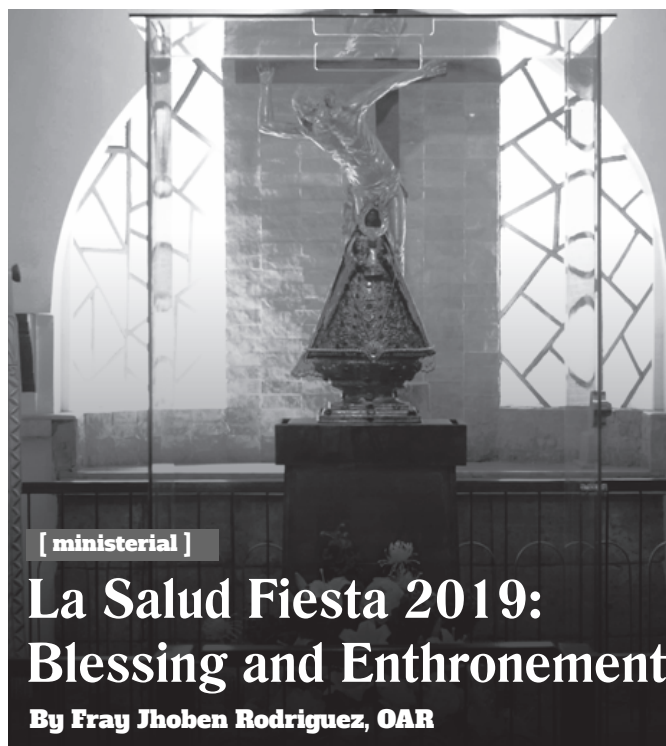
On September 17, the guest OAR friars had the opportunity to visit the areas of apostolate where the Taiwan OAR missionaries serve. The first destination was a trip to the Aboriginal Cultural Park in Majia, Pingtung County followed by a crossing at the famous Shan-Chuan Glass Suspension Bridge connecting the Townships of Majia and Sandimen. Next, we visited our former parishes in Sandimen Holy Cross Parish and in Majia St. Joseph Parish, the Worker Parish. Our last two destinations of the day were the St. Ezekiel Moreno Chapel in Fanhua, Changzhi and St. Augustine Parish in Linyuan District.

On September 18, the OAR Fathers were fascinated by the grandeur of Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum. The friars were also initiated into the proper way of making and enjoying tea by a monk of the place. Soon after, everyone shared a vegetarian meal with other visitors of the place. After the tour to the Buddha museum, the afternoon was spent by the brothers for shopping and roaming around Kaohsiung city.

On September 19, the 18 OAR friars departed Kaohsiung in two batches. The first to leave were friars from the Visayas and Mindanao areas. The last batch from the Luzon areas left Taiwan in the evening of September 19. **RO**







## La Salud Fiesta 2019: Blessing and Enthronement to her new chapel

By Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR



*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY*—THE 385 YEAR-OLD IMAGE OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE la Salud was Solemnly Enthroned at her new chapel beside San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish last November 17, 2019.

Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province, graced the blessing of the newly renovated chapel dedicated to the Virgin of Health. This was constructed to revive the devotion to the Black Virgin of Health so that the faithful who wish to seek her intercession for healing may venerate her.

In the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fray Dionisio, he urged the people to ask the intercession of Virgin of health. Fray Rommel L. Rubia, OAR as the homilist focused on another miracle through the intercession of La Salud. Aside from prayers of healing and recovery, Fray Rubia said that there were claims of prayers on childbearing that were answered through the intercession of La Salud. In his homily, Fray Rubia challenged the faithful, to be the sign of hope for all: that those who were given the gift of having children keep them as their hope; that those who were married yet were not granted a child do not lose hope; and that those who cannot bear child due to their vocation should spread hope for others.

Fray Rubia exclaimed: Ang bilis ng panahon! The image of our Lady was brought by the Recollects to the Philippine in the year 1634 from Mexico. Now, 385 years after her arrival in the Philippine soils, the devotion that was forgotten for 72 years is now back

to the heart of many devotees. Part of the revival of the devotion is the offerings of the ex-votos. These are precious artifacts that were offered to La Salud as sign of their thanksgiving for answered prayers. Before the Celebration of the Holy Mass on her feast day various persons offered ex votos. Also, the reading of testimonials was done. Since the first day of novena, some devotees expressed their gratitude to the Lord and wrote their testimonials of healing from cancer, dengue, fever, and other sickness. Some of these testimonials were documented and verified by medical experts and were deemed as miraculous.

After the Holy Mass, a solemn procession of the image was done. Hundreds of devotees joined in the procession while some chose to stay in the newly blessed chapel waiting for the arrival of the image of La Salud. As the image was carried by Fray Selma and was placed at her new altar, chants of “Viva la Virgen! Viva La Salud!” echoed within the parish church and her new chapel.

The Recollects hope that the revival of the devotion to our Lady of Health in the country will help people to get closer and be healed through grace of God. And like our Blessed Mother, may the people imitate her as the foremost model of humility and faithfulness to God. **RD**

# Recoletos de Urbiztondo's Parish Church blessed, welcomes newly ordained OAR priests

By Fray Cristito Rey Tepace, OAR

*Urbiztondo, PANGASINAN*—"LET US ALLOW THE MANGER TO SPEAK FOR US. BE EMPTY, do not be afraid to let go. Be strong, take courage and stand up for the Lord. As you are strong, be soft inside. Be still and do not get engrossed in too much work. Last of all, be ready and obey all the time." These were the challenges that were mentioned by Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, DD, Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan, to the newly ordained Augustinian Recollect priests during their Thanksgiving Mass in the Parish of Our Lady of Visitation—Pasibi East, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan last December 11, 2019.

The newly ordained priests who celebrated their Thanksgiving Mass were: Fray Jorr Rabacal, OAR, Fray Jovy Gallego, OAR, Fray Andrie Puate, OAR, Fray Tomokatsu Yamaguchi, OAR, and Fray Jessriel Marcha, OAR. Fray Benjamine Monday Edobor, OAR and Fray Maximillian Omem, OAR, were not present during the Thanksgiving Mass because they brought their parents to the airport whose flight back to Nigeria was scheduled on that day.

Being the homilist, Archbishop Villegas, DD, encouraged them to emulate "the manger of Christ" as part of their priestly ministry for the people of God

and the Mother Church. He also led the blessing of the newly renovated parish which was attended by several OAR Communities in Luzon, civil officials of Urbiztondo, lay parishioners in the local community, Parish Pastoral Council and all the members of the parish organizations. Indeed, the re-opening of the Parish was a successful event for the local community as well as for the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

Through the efforts of Architect Dennis Bugarin and all his collaborators, the renovation was completed in just one (1) month. They dedicated most of their time for the beautification of the said



parish to meet the cut-off date for the renovation. Architect Dennis and his collaborators' contribution to the refurbishment of the infrastructure was highly appreciated by the Parish Priest, Fray Joseph Cyprian Panaligan, OAR and the Local Prior of the community, Fray Samson Silloriquuez, OAR.

At this very moment, the Our Lady of Visitation Parish can already hold various sacraments like daily Masses, baptism, confession, and scheduled weddings as a venue for these various celebrations. Truly, this sacred place will be the house of prayer not only for the neighboring localities but also for those who are wishing to visit it. In his gratitude message, Fray Samson Silloriquuez, OAR emphasized to the people the sanctity of the church by paying respect towards the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the altar. He even encouraged the people to visit the church and attend the daily Masses regularly.

These two events, the blessing of the parish

and the thanksgiving Mass of the newly ordained priests, were memorable for the local community of Pasibi East. These events will always be one of those contributions by the Augustinian Recollects for the local community of Urbiztondo and for the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan. Such events are worthy to be remembered and treasured upon. **RO**



## newsbits

### HOW DO KAOHSIUNG CLERGY AND CONSECRATED PERSONS CELEBRATE FEBRUARY 2?

By Fray Joel Dequilla, OAR

Kaohsiung, TAIWAN—Annually, in the Diocese of Kaohsiung, there are two significant celebrations when the Bishop invites the Priests, Seminarians and Religious Sisters to gather together in a solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The first is at the Chrism Mass during the Holy Week, and the second is on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

While the former celebration puts emphasis on the institution of the Holy Eucharist and Priesthood as well as the commandment to love, the latter feast emphasizes the gift of vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

Christ is the light of the world, and He invites us to share his light to others. Hence, during this Feast of the Presentation, priests, seminarians and religious sisters form a solemn procession to the altar, bearing lighted candles as a symbolic gesture of their self-offering and willingness to bring the light of Christ to the people they serve.

This year's Feast—on February 2, 2019—was celebrated at Our Lady of

Fatima Parish Church in the Township of Taiwu, Pingtung County. Over a hundred priests, seminarians and religious sisters joined the event.

With the traditional Chinese New

Year being on the horizon, the Bishop, Most Rev. Peter Liu, D.D., also gifted each participant with red envelop. Then, everyone shared a sumptuous meal after the Holy Mass.





# Recoletos friars in Taiwan participate in National Eucharistic Congress

By Fray Joel Dequilla, OAR

*Yunlin County, TAIWAN*—ANOTHER NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS WAS HELD in Taiwan on March 1, 2019. Since its inception in 2011, this year's Eucharistic Congress is so far the fourth to be held in this state. The theme "All my springs are in thee" (Psalm 87:7) is derived from the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Budapest, Hungary on September 13-20, 2020.

The Diocese of Chiayi with its Local Ordinary, Bishop Thomas Chung An-zu hosted this year's National Eucharistic Congress. The event was held in Yunlin County Stadium. All the Catholic Bishops from the seven Dioceses of Taiwan with more than 200 priests, including the Augustinian Recollects, and over ten thousand faithful filled the venue to the rafters, with many more who couldn't be seated inside spilling outside the building.

Pope Francis sent to Taiwan his legate Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples to represent him. Among the prominent attendees were the Vice President of Taiwan, Chen Chien-jen and his wife who are both Roman Catholic.

During the opening ceremony, the Tsou Tribe donning colourful aboriginal garments welcomed the crowd with their traditional dance which paid tribute to the creator God. Then, Most Rev. Peter Liu Chen-chung, Bishop of Kaohsiung, welcomed the attendees and introduced the honoured guests.

To energize the crowd, charismatic hymns were sung, which brought everyone to their feet, with their hands up in the air praising God. The youth of Chiayi Diocese had a significant role in the whole event. The program was vibrant as it was solemn. The catechetical instructions were dramatized in such a way that appealed to both young and old. The youth, as if in an ordinary conversation to their beloved grandfather, took turns in posing questions or situations to Bishop Chung of Chiayi, which were derived from their experience of the Eucharist and which ordinary Catholics also encounter. In a light-hearted and easy-to-understand way, Bishop Chung answered those existential questions of the youth. Various individuals also shared about their faith

experience with the crowd.

The last part of the morning's event was the launching of the Chinese version of the App "Click to Pray" which Pope Francis hopes would link everyone through prayers.

During lunch break, designated priests sat for the Sacrament of Confession. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass started at 1:15PM with Most Rev. Fernando Cardinal Filoni as the main celebrant. The Cardinal used English in the celebration and in delivering his homily, though the faithful replied and sang in Chinese. Chinese translations of his homily were also projected at the big screens inside the stadium.

After the Concluding Prayers was the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Mounted in a beautiful monstrance, two deacons took turns in bringing the Blessed Sacrament in and around the stadium with the Cardinal and the Bishops in tow. The Deacons made a stop at each of the four corners of the stadium, and blessed the people. When it returned to the altar, Cardinal Filoni made the benediction and bestowed the final blessing to the whole crowd.

After the reposition of the Holy Sacrament, the letter from Pope Francis granting the participants of the event a Plenary Indulgence was read. Then, the customary prayers of Credo, Our Father, and Hail Mary were also recited. What followed were messages of thanks and acknowledgements as well as exchanging of gifts from the Church of Taiwan to Cardinal Filoni and vice versa. Cardinal Filoni received a statue of Our Lady of China and he, in turn, gifted Bishop Chung of Chiayi a beautiful chalice. Then, the symbols of the Eucharistic Congress were handed over to Bishop Bosco Lin Chi-nan of Tainan who will host the next Eucharistic Congress. **RD**



## Two new missionaries sent to Sierra Leone

By Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY*—“WE ARE ALL MISSIONARIES...” THESE WERE THE words of Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, during the send-off Mass for two new and young missionaries to Sierra Leone.

As the Catholic Church in the Philippines celebrates the Feast of the Black Nazarene, an image brought to the Philippines by Augustinian Recollect missionaries 400 years ago, the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno sent Fray Andrie Pugate, OAR, and Fray Tomokatsu Yamaguchi, OAR, for their diaconal pastoral exposure program. The two missionaries were ordained as deacons last November 17, 2018. They volunteered to be missionaries in the Recollect communities in Kamabai and Kamalo, Sierra Leone, West Africa. The two deacon-missionaries were accompanied by Fray Jess Marco Sanchez, OAR, who is one of the “veteran” missionaries assigned in Sierra Leone.

During the 6:30 AM Mass at San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, the two missionaries were introduced to the parishioners by the Prior Provincial who also presided the Mass. In his homily, Fray Dionisio said that “we are all sent by God in a particular mission. Not only the religious and priests are sent to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, but all of us. You are also sent by God to your own home, family, and workplace to spread the Good News of Christ.”

Fray Selma reminded the missionaries to pray always. “Prayer is our source of strength. If you will forget your life of prayer, it is the beginning of your weakening...” said Fray Selma. Aside from prayer, they should always put trust in the Lord because Jesus himself said to his disciples to be not afraid. They should also be sustained by the Sacraments, especially of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. The missionaries should not forget their devotion to Mary and the saints for they are their comfort in times of crisis and



difficulties. Finally, the Prior Provincial urged them to always love God. “It is because of the Love of God that we are able to love our neighbor, ourselves, and our mission,” were the words of Fray Selma at the end of his homily.

After the homily, the new missionaries were given a missionary cross. It is a reminder for them to bring Christ to the place where they were sent, not because Christ is not there but to proclaim the truth about Christ.

Fray Tomokatsu and Fray Andrie, together with Fray Jess Marco, will leave the Philippines this evening, 11:10 PM Philippine time, and will land to Dubai International Airport. Then, from Dubai, they will leave for Accra Kotoka International Airport in Ghana before going to Lungi International Airport in Freetown, Sierra Leone. **RD**

# Overseas Recoletos missionaries meet, share experiences

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY*—IN A RARE OPPORTUNITY, LIKE THE APPEARANCE of a Halley's comet, some Filipino Recoletos friars assigned in foreign mission stations and who were either arriving for or returning from their hometown vacation have crossed their paths at the Provincial Curia towards the end of the second week of March.

Fray Russell Lapidez and Fray Dominador Mercado, Jr. who arrived from Indonesia on March 12 met Fray Giovanni Gil Magbojos and Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo who then were preparing for their return to Taiwan and Sierra Leone, respectively. For these young missionaries, sharing of the way they live their religious life and roll out the program of evangelization in the culture they are inserted just came about spontaneously.

## Relevance

The Recoletos go where the Church needs and sends them. With such a charism that is responsive to any kind of human terrain and situation, they will remain always relevant, to which all the four missionaries concurred.

Bringing out the issue on the dearth of native vocations in Taiwan, Fray Magbojos said that the Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference (informally known as Bishops' Conference of Taiwan) is cognizant of its reliance on the pastoral assistance of foreign missionaries. "That's where our relevance lies," he pointed out.

He also said that if getting native vocations is the yardstick for the Recollects' relevance in Taiwan, as this had been the view of some, then we cannot catch up with that because even the dioceses there find it difficult to look for candidates.

In the case of Sierra Leone, Fray Castillo made special reference to the village of Bawbaw in the capital, Freetown, where the third Recollect community in West Africa will soon rise. "In the area of evangelization, we are needed there," he convincingly noted. "If we want to help the local church, we can work in that area where there are a lot of Catholic Christians who would not mind traveling the distance to the nearest church, which is quite far, just so they could go to Mass."

Although there are Spiritans (Holy Ghost missionaries) who are working on the other side of the boundary, still a vast area where some Catholics are scattered and which will belong to the future pastoral jurisdiction of the Recollects is in need of shepherds and evangelizers.

The Indonesian missionaries who have spent six months in Pontianak to learn Bahasa said they are now assigned by Bishop Agus to the parishes. In this way, they got to polish the new language they are learning and continued to gain mastery of the new culture. The presence of the Recollects in the archdiocese, they said, is a big boost to the personnel needed to serve the very wide coverage of Pontianak.

Fray Mercado also said that when they will return to Indonesia next month, they will already stay in Bengkayang, particularly in Ledo where they will be able to serve in the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. (This is the parish offered by the archbishop to the Recollects.)

Although the third member of the future community of "Recoletos de Bengkayang" (or whatever name will be more convenient) has already been identified, the appointed time to establish it might still be moved to next year to give ample time for the renovation of the church edifice and the construction of the convent.

## Unique "Social Concern"

While they talked about the relevance of the Recollect missionary presence in the local church they are currently assigned, they also highlighted the presence and contributions of some compatriots who comprise a sector of social concerns unique to the Province of St. Ezekiel.

"*Sila mismo ang lumalapit sa amin*" ("They themselves are the ones approaching us"), observed Fray Magbojos, referring to those Filipino workers who would go to Mass in their parishes in Taiwan.

In the Diocese of Kaohsiung, at the south of this Chinese-speaking state, five Filipino Recollect missionaries are administering five parishes and a chapel: St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish and Holy Cross Parish in Daliao; St. Joseph Parish and Our Lady of Victory Parish in Xiaogang; St. Augustine Parish in Linyuan; and the St. Ezekiel Moreno chapel in Fanua.

According to Fray Magbojos, Filipino Mass goers are aplenty in all but in Our Lady of Victory Parish. Some of these OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) are employed in electronics or meat processing companies; others are domestic helpers.

Although the Scalabrinian missionaries are mainly involved in this kind of apostolate with the OFWs, we cannot remain indifferent to it nor be selective in our “social concerns,” said Fray Magbojos who was responding to the question that working with OFWs is not part of the Recoletos’ missionary landscape.

“When confronted with employment problems and these OFWs approach us, we cannot turn a deaf ear. We help them. We facilitate and bring their concerns to the Scalabrinians,” he noted.

A similar situation was confirmed in the Diocese

of Makeni in Sierra Leone, West Africa where nine Filipino Recollects are presently assigned. Five friars compose the community of Our Lady of Sierra Leone Parish in Kamabai and four, of St. Paul Parish in Kamalo.

“Those OFWs who work as volunteers for the UN (United Nations) and other NGOs in Sierra Leone, or in big companies such as Toyota, Heineken, etc. are very supportive of our ministry,” shared Fray Castillo.

Since there is no Philippine Embassy or Consulate in Sierra Leone, these “paisanos” have considered the Recollect communities in Sierra Leone as “centers” of their weekend gathering during which they participate in the Sunday liturgy. And they also extend their assistance to the pastoral programs. “Yes, even non Catholics come to us and join the group,” Fray Castillo averred.

When, in turn, asked whether they had already met some OFWs in Pontianak City in Indonesia, Fray Russel said that they hadn’t. “Except for Filipino missionaries working in the archdiocese, I have not met any Filipino worker there yet.” Probably, that part of the world is not a green pasture particularly for income-seeking Filipinos. **RD**







[ mission ]

## Augustinian Recollects join Vocation Exhibit in Indonesia

By Fray Russell Lapidez, OAR

INDONESIA—FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE their arrival in Indonesia last year, Fray Russell Lapidez, OAR, and Fray Dominador Mercado, Jr., OAR, together with the other congregations and the local clergy, participated in the Vocation Exhibit at St. Joseph Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Pontianak from May 10-12, 2019. The two Augustinian Recollect missionaries were able to interact with the religious from different congregations in the Archdiocese. Booths were assigned to each congregation to exhibit pictures and banners regarding their foundation, spirituality and ministry.



Archbishop Agustinus Agus, DD, led the opening ceremony of the three-day event. During the opening liturgy, Fr. William Chang, OFM Cap., the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, reported that currently there are 28 Religious Congregations and 18 Diocesan Priests in the Archdiocese. He also challenged all the religious participants to be zealous in their promotion of vocations to religious and priestly life in their respective area of ministry.

On the second day, a talk on the Challenges of the Religious Life in the Era of the Millennials was held in the morning and in the afternoon. Catholic Youths from the different Parishes also came for the celebration of the Holy Mass. The three-day event was culminated on Good Shepherd Sunday, which is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, with a concelebrated Mass presided by the Archbishop himself. **RD**





[ mission ]

## St. Ezekiel Province renews agreement with Chalan Kanoa

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR



*Provincial Curia, QUEZON CITY*—THE RECOLLECT Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno renewed its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa last Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial, representing the St. Ezekiel Province and Most Rev. Ryan Jimenez, Local Ordinary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) representing the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, inked again their bilateral agreement “to foster and develop to the fullest extent possible the mutual cooperation between them” for another three years.

The Recoletos de Saipan community will continue to administer the pastoral needs of the parishes of San Roque (in San Roque Village), Kristo Rai (in Garapan), and Nuestra Señora Bithen de los Remedios (or simply Sta. Remedios, in Tanapag). (As an aside, the Marianas

will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the pioneer Recoletos missionaries here on August 25, 2019.)

Moreover, the protection of the Recoletos friars’ religious consecration and priestly identity was also central to the agreement: “They are to live a common life in San Roque Parish while disposed to other tasks that may be given to them by the Local Ordinary after due coordination with the Recoletos de Saipan local community.”

Those who stood as witnesses to the signing were Fray Edgar Tubio, Provincial Councilor and Section Head for Mission Apostolate, and Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, Provincial Secretary. **RD**

# Santa Remedios celebrates 2019 Fiesta and welcomes Fray Jayferson

By Julie Anne Loong

SAIPAN—WHILE THE PEOPLE of Saipan were informed that the island was on Condition 2 in preparation for the arrival of Typhoon Bualoi, the Parish of Nuestra Señora Bithen de los Remedios celebrated their patronal fiesta. The fiesta was celebrated on October 20, 2019. The church was a full house, and in every pew were seated parishioners not only from the village of Tanapag but from the neighboring villages, too. The main presider was Fray Leo Neil Bullos, OAR; concelebrated with Fray Albert Pellazar, OAR; and Fray Jayferson Baldelovar, OAR; along with four of the diocese's deacons: Deacon Estanislao Benavente, Deacon Jeffrey Camacho, Deacon Thomas Schweiger, and Deacon Antonio Yarobwemal.

Though the procession had to be cut short due to the hazardous weather, the attendees remained in high spirits. After walking through parts of the village while singing hymns and praying the rosary, the people gathered once more inside the church to venerate Our Lady. Then, across the street and next to the shoreline of Tanapag Beach, over a dozen dishes of mouth-watering, both healthy and calorie-full, fiesta-themed



^  
*AVE MARIA. Parishioners of Nuestra Señora Bithen de los Remedios held a procession despite the threat of the incoming typhoon.*

food were served. The meal was paired with performances by cultural dance groups and singers on par with those at the hotel live dinner shows. It was a day well spent without worrying about the incoming storm, and instead, was full of happiness and laughter. Despite it being a mouthful to say, everyone took a deep breath before exclaiming, “Biba Nuestra Señora Bithen de los Remedios!”

Aside from the memorable and beautiful fiesta celebration, the people of the parish had something, or rather someone else, to be excited about. Last Sunday was the installation of Fray Jayferson, OAR, as the new Parish Administrator. Fray Jayferson arrived on the island on Wednesday, October 16 from the Philippines. Being that he had only been here for four days and was already celebrating the parish's fiesta, he had some great things to say about it and his new assignment. “I was very surprised with this fiesta because it is so different from the way we celebrate fiestas in the Philippines. I was



so amazed by the celebration.

The way people celebrate and feast as a community is something new for me, and it's true that we receive the blessing from our patroness Bithen de los Remedios. "I feel so blessed because I never expected that a priest like me would be sent to a beautiful place like Saipan. I give thanks to my superiors for this new challenge to have a ministry and live life to the fullest as a parish administrator. I'm very happy and looking forward to working with the people that I'll be serving, Bishop Ryan, and my brother Recollects on island. I hope to progress as a priest because it's been two years since my ordination; therefore, I hope and pray to God that he will make use of me as an instrument to bring Christ to the people. "I pray that I can carry out my work here, not as a single pastor, but with the help of the community. I value the importance of community life because Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered, there I am in their midst.' I

**"I hope to progress as a priest because it's been two years since my ordination; therefore, I hope and pray to God that he will make use of me as an instrument to bring Christ to the people."**

FRAY JAYFERSON  
BALDELOVAR, OAR,  
Missionary to Saipan

wish to apply that here in our parish. Most of all, even though I've only been here for a few days, I feel really at home. I believe that no matter the challenges that come our way, we can overcome them as long as we can share this community life with the ones we serve here on Saipan."

With Typhoon Bualoi leaving the Marianas unscathed, we thank God and the Blessed Mother for her continuous intercession, not only in allowing us to celebrate the fiesta of a parish dedicated to her, but also in welcoming the newest addition to the clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. The parish would like to thank all those who donated their time and effort for this year's fiesta. The year is nearing its end, so let us continue to pray as we get ready for the seasons to come. Our Lady of Good Remedies, pray for us. Biba Nuestra Señora Bithen de los Remedios! **R**



# VocationPromotion



[ vocation.promotion ]

## Newly appointed NVD beefs up Filipino style of Vocation Expedition

By Fray Jose Ernil Almago, OAR

**P**rovincial Curia, QUEZON CITY—"IT HAS BEEN A SHARED mission—and it is and will be." That's how Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR succinctly described the Filipino style of what is now called in the Order of Augustinian Recollects, "*Expedición Vocacional*," or roughly rendered in English as "Vocation Expedition."



## Newly appointed NVD...

(from page 227)

“We are grateful for the continuing assistance of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters who, through their schools, are campaigning for vocations to the OAR way of life,” Fray Jacinto, the newly appointed National Vocation Director said, specifying the context of the expression, “shared mission.”

“Members of the SARF and the FORSOAR and some lay groups in our parishes are also helping us not only in scouting for vocations but also in morally and financially supporting our seminarians,” he continued.

The Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) in the Philippines as well as the Former Seminarians of the OAR (FORSOAR) – Cebu Chapter have explicitly integrated in their Life and Mission Project and program of activities, respectively, their own way of backing up the Province’s vocation ministry.

## OAR Vocation Expedition

Following the guidelines of the Church, the Order commits itself in the promotion of a “culture of vocations” which is none other than “the call of God to be part of his Church with the charisms and gifts that the Holy Spirit gives.”

To promote this culture is a shared mission with all the members of the Recoletos Family and the lay collaborators in all areas of apostolate.

The need for an active team of vocation animators, meetings for strategizing action plans and follow-ups, inclusion of children and young people in the activities, and the integration of the OAR charism and spirituality in these vocation-related programs are geared towards a fruitful vocation expedition.

Among the strategies to be employed include convocation (using “marketing” principles and media outlets), logistics, and customized/contextualized activities (Holy Mass, inputs, holy hour, praying of the vocation rosary, sharings, etc.).

Last year, the Expedition was anchored on the motto, “If you love Christ, follow Him.” Accompanying it was a logo which consisted of a footprint at the center, and inside it, the motto of the Expedition with the expression “FOLLOW HIM!” standing out, to stress its imperative dimension which “recalls the call of Jesus to the first disciples and that today resounds in the heart of every young man who opts for the



*Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR*

Gospel.”

## Itinerary of the Expedition

Few weeks after his arrival from Panama, Fray Jacinto received his patente (an official document of assignment) as member of the Recoletos de Provincialate community. He was also appointed as the Head of the Section for Vocation Ministry and as the National Vocation Director of the Province.

As demanded of him as the NVD, he had to sit down with the previous in-charge and, then, make his own approach based on the practices of the Province and those of CBCP (Catholic Bishop’s Conference of the Philippines) as well as the new guidelines from the Generalate in Rome.

Towards the end of September, he set out on a “fishing” expedition, prepared to immerse in a new kind of “trekking” far different from the one he experienced when he was working as a missionary in Bocas del Toro, Panama.

After his first stop at Colegio de Sta. Rosa in Intramuros, Manila, which is run by the Augustinian Recollect Sisters, he headed northwest, in Pangasinan, where he visited three secondary schools: St. Charles



Academy in San Carlos City, and Urbiztondo Catholic School and Urbiztondo National High School in the municipality of Urbiztondo where the Recoletos de Pangasinan community is located.

In early October, he went to the Holy Name Academy in Palanas, Masbate which is also administered by the AR Sisters. Then, he hopped to Cavite where he repeated his vocation campaign program: at the San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Cañacao Campus and the St. Joseph College.

A recess to his series of campaigns came when he participated in the National Assembly of NVDs on November 16, 2018 in Bacolod City. Organized by the CBCP, the assembly was meant to update the vocation directors of some salient issues to consider i.e., the psychology of the millennials and some suggested ways to handle and evaluate candidates coming from this category.

While in Bacolod, he grabbed the opportunity to gather the Grade 10 and the Senior High School (namely, Grades 11 and 12) students of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos. And he had observed that the Grade 10 students, who were still contemplating on the remaining two years to finish their Basic Education, were rather undecided whether to enter the seminary or not.

The last week of November saw him talking to the young people of Valencia, Negros Oriental, particularly at San Pedro Academy (SPA) and San Pedro Academy-Recoletos (SPA-R). In mid-December, he was at the Lady Mediatrix School of the AR Sisters

in Candelaria, Quezon.

In early January 2019, he crossed to Cebu where he met the students of Sta. Monica Academy (Pinamungahan), Consolatrix Academy (Toledo City), Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy (Minglanilla)—all run by the AR Sisters—and those of the University of San Jose-Recoletos, Balamban Campus. He also made a side trip at the nearby St. Therese Catholic School in Balamban.

Then, he jumped to Bohol and covered all the schools of the AR Sisters: Colegio de la Medalla Milagrosa in Jagna, Saint Mary Academy in Guindulman, and Blessed Trinity College in Talibon.

With the AR Sisters collaborating, the program of activities for Vocation Expedition in all their schools went smooth. And they do the follow-up even after the program has ended!

### The Catch

As of December 2018, a total of 57 applicants expressed their desire to enter the Recoletos seminary and underwent the preliminary tests and interview. But the results narrowed the number to only 25. Of these, 10 were classified as college students and 10 for Senior High.

With the Expedition still going on, Fray Jacinto hopes with optimism that more prospective candidates will still knock at our doors.

“That’s why we pray to the Lord of the harvest,” he says. **RD**



## Secretariat Heads of vocations, youth meet to synchronize common projects

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR

*General Curia, ROME*—TO PROMOTE COMMUNION AND COORDINATION IN THE implementation of the Order-wide Life and Mission Project (LAMP) on vocations and youth ministry, the Secretariat President of each Province, together with the President of the General Secretariat of the said pastoral works, gathered in Rome on February 12 to 14.



Fray Juan Pablo Martínez, OAR, General Councilor in-charge of the General Secretariat of Vocations and Youth Ministry, conducted the meeting covering the following important topics, to wit: the final document of the 2018 Synod on the youth, faith and discernment; per-Province presentation of the LAMP on vocations and youth ministry; plan or manual on vocations and youth ministry of each Province; appointed teams for the pastoral care of vocations; number of communities of the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) by province and stage of

formation; updates on the data concerning National Vocation Directors and RAY advisers, youth on vocation discernment, and number of RAY members; and Statutes of the General Secretariat of Vocations and Youth, and those of each Province.

The participants in the three-day assembly represented all the four Provinces of the Order: Fray Antonio Antón (San Nicolás), Fray Angel Jahir Córdoba (Candelaria), Frays Gustavo Barbieri and Juan Pablo Magnanelli (Sto. Tomás), and Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia (San Ezequiel). **RO**



# Fray Jacinto joins Meeting of Vocation Directors in Costa Rica

By Agustinos Recoletos

*San Jose, COSTA RICA*—FRAY ALLAN JACINTO, OAR, NATIONAL VOCATION DIRECTOR of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, together with other vocation directors and promoters from other Augustinian Recollect Provinces, attended the first ever gathering of Vocation Directors and Promoters for the sexennium 2016-2022. This weeklong gathering was held at Casa Formacion San Ezekiel Moreno, San Jose, Costa Rica that started last April 29, 2019.

There were twenty-two participants from the four Provinces of the Order, of which eleven were from the Province of Santo Tomas with the President of the Secretariat for Vocations and Youth, Fray Gustavo Barbiero, OAR; six were from the Province of Candelaria; and four from the Province of San Nicolas with the National Vocation Director of the Vicariate of Mexico and Costa Rica, Fray Fabian Martin Gomez, OAR. Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR, National Vocation Director, was the sole participant from the Province of San Ezekiel Moreno. These vocation directors and promoters are working in different parts of the globe such as in Costa Rica, Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and the Philippines.

The main objectives of this gathering were, first, to hear from the brothers the positive and

negative experiences that they have which include the ecclesiastical and civil implications of promoting religious and priestly vocation. Second, to evaluate the existing documents pertaining to the group of vocation promoters. Lastly, to propose matters for the betterment of the vocation campaign to the religious life.

Aside from the aforementioned objectives, the brothers were also asked to solicit and prepare succeeding programs for upcoming Order-wide celebrations. This moment was also an ample time to listen, act, and celebrate as an Order.

Prior to this encounter, the President of the General Secretariat for Vocations and Youth, Fray Juan Pablo Pelaez Martinez, OAR, convoked a three-day meeting of the members of the General Secretariat for Vocations last April 25-27, 2019. **RO**





# ARSisters

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[ ar.sisters ]

## Talangpaz Foundation Meeting 2019: “A flicker of hope” unveiled

By Sr. Rhena Sherra Caranzo, AR

**M**Quiapo, MANILA—THE TALANGPAZ FOUNDATION HELD its 7<sup>TH</sup> annual meeting today, March 23, 2019. The meeting started at 9:00 AM with 74% attendance of its members. The discussion centered on the reports of Mother Lucena L. Antipala, A.R., Sr. Maria Lirio L. Guillermo, A.R., member of the Commission on the Beatification of the Talangpaz Sisters and Sr. Ma. Irma L. Castrodes, A.R on financial matters.

Mother Lucena, appreciated the propagation of the Talangpaz Sisters and their heroic virtues through the Talangpaz Outreach Program (TOP) held in local communities. She informed us that the highest rate in terms of the implementation of the Foundation's purpose is on scholarship grants and that other purposes may seem to be less implemented which may mean there is no need on these or maybe the people concerned are not aware of this kind of benefit they can avail of from the Talangpaz Foundation. She exhorts everyone to hope, pray and work for the furtherance of our works of charity, helping the needy, and for the cause of the Beatification of our Foundresses.

Sr. Maria Lirio L. Guillermo, A.R. started with a prayer for the repose of the soul of Dr. Luciano P.R. Santiago, a historian and a dedicated author of the "Stars of Peace: The Talangpaz Sisters", who passed away a few months ago. She presented the two direct quotes of the Talangpaz Sisters as a highlight of the latest work of Dr. Luciano. A noteworthy update from her is about the discovery of a possible document

of the Talangpaz Sisters as reported by our Sisters in Spain. She termed it as a "flicker of hope." The members were all happy with this news.

Sr. Ma. Irma Castrodos, A.R. presented the financial statement of the foundation. Prior to her turn, there was an extensive exchange of thoughts about the Talangpaz Scholarship program and the sources of funds as part of the purpose of the Foundation. All the sisters were encouraged to raise the funds for less fortunate yet deserving students.

Moreover, Sr. Cleofe Maria J. Agua, A.R., chair of the Beatification Commission, said that all efforts should move the sisters to work for the beatification of the Talangpaz Sisters with the grace of God. In her statement, she said that there is a need to send a sister to Rome to study and the write the "Positio," a document or collection of documents used in the process by which a person is declared Venerable.

We all pray that God may grant us the grace of the Beatification and that we may be worthy of asking this grace. **RD**



## newsbits

### SR. MARISSA BERNASOR, AR: FIRST AR GRADUATE OF UST CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

By ARS Correspondent

Quiapo, MANILA—It was a melodious day for Sr. Marisa Tutor Bernasor, AR who graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Music Major in Music Education at the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (UST) Manila on June 4, 2019. Joining her at UST were Sr. Antonietta Castanares, AR, Sr. Cleofe Maria Agua, AR, Sr. Maria Lirio Guillermo, AR and Sr. Vicenta Climacosa, AR.

She had her Graduation Recital in Piano on May 20, 2019 which was well attended by AR Sisters and Fray Rene Paglinawan, OAR. Based on AR History, she is the first AR sister to obtain that degree—indeed a blessing for the Augustinian Recollect Family!

Sr Marisa has been sharing her talent in music for several years in collaboration with other AR musicians. As a musician and educator, she will continue to spread music like that of David in the Book of Psalms. Presently assigned at Saint Rita College Manila as School Registrar, she will also handle Music classes. Congratulations our dear Sr. Maris!



# ARSC National Advisory Board holds First Meeting for Academic Years 2018-2024

By Sr. Rhena Sherra Caranzo, AR

*Quiapo, MANILA*—THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT STUDENTS CRUSADERS NATIONAL Advisory Board met at Saint Rita College, Manila on January 5-6, 2019.

Sr. Ingrid C. Gueriña, A.R., the new ARSC National Directress, called for a meeting with a vision that the Life and Mission Project (LAMP) 2018-2024, artifact of the recent 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Chapter, will be cascaded in Augustinian Recollect Students Crusaders area. The meeting was participated by the ARSC National Advisory Board Members who were elected in 2017 during the ARSC National Congress in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

On January 5, 2019, Reverend Mother Lucena L. Antipala, A.R. was invited to give the opening address. She encouraged the participants to review and revisit the new evangelization and the Augustinian Recollect Spiritual Exercises (ARSE) and be integrated into all ARSC programs.

After two days of discerning the future of the organization, the board finally designed the Development Plan including the Program for Provincial Congress for A.Y. 2019-2020 and National Congress for A.Y. 2020-2021. The general objectives of the development plan are focused on continuing

the work of the New Evangelization, empowering the evangelizers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, producing holistic Augustinian Recollect Student Crusaders to do God's will and become defenders of faith, seekers of Spiritual Beauty, Truth and Wisdom in the spirit of St. Augustine.

It is the prayer of the whole ARSC Family that this will all be translated into action for the praise and glory of God. **RO**



## newsbits

### PILGRIM RELICS OF SAINT RITA OF CASCIA GRACES SAN SEBASTIAN BASILICA

By Sr. Rhena Sherra Caranzo, AR

*Quiapo, MANILA*—Devotees, expatriates, and Sunday Mass attendees welcomed the pilgrim relics of Saint Rita of Cascia on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019, at San Sebastian Basilica, Quiapo, Manila. These relics were Saint Rita's cincture and a piece of bone were kept in her monastery shrine in Cascia, Italy since her death in 1457.

Fray Julius Marcos, OAR, ministered the welcome Mass. Just before the final blessing, Reverend Fray Alexis E. Mansueto, OAR carried the relics in procession from the entrance of the Church towards the altar. The sacred roses were also blessed to be given to people especially to those who are sick in prayers that they may be healed through the intercession of Saint Rita.

It was then placed for people to venerate until 10:00 P.M of the same day.



[ ar.sisters ]

# Bishop Uy encourages AR Jubilarians 2019 to SMILE

By Sr. Flora Mae Lanuza, AR

*Quiapo, MANILA*—APRIL 24, 2019 WAS ONE OF THE MOST AWAITED EVENTS IN THE life of the eight Augustinian Recollect Sisters who celebrated their silver and diamond religious profession.

The AR sisters who celebrated their silver jubilee in the religious profession were Sr. Marieta Angelica Gunayan from Mabolo, Cebu City, Sr. Herminilda Ceniza from Pinamungahan, Cebu and Sr. Rona Alaza from Banga, South Cotabato. The AR who celebrated their diamond jubilee in the religious profession were Sr. Teresita Aurigue, AR from Malabon, Metro Manila, Sr. Angelica Fuentes, AR from Clarin, Misamis Occidental, Sr. Marcelina Diaz from Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Gerarda De la Riarde from Lugait, Misamis Oriental and Sr. Anastacia Fangon from Agoo, Launion. The said celebration was held in San Sebastian Basilica, Quiapo, Manila and was presided by His Excellency, Most Reverend Alberto S. Uy, DD, Bishop of Tagbilaran.

The silver and diamond jubillarians expressed their gratitude to God for His faithfulness to them together

with the Superior General, Mo. Lucena Antipala, AR, the General Council, AR Sisters, families, friends, and visitors.

In his homily, Bishop Uy said that like the two disciples journeying to Emmaus who failed to recognize God in their midst because of disappointments and regrets, we too can sometimes be blinded and drowned in the streams of the past. Like the two disciples, our regrets and disappointments, pains and failed expectations can be hindrances for us to recognize God and His will.

The bishop concludes by cautioning the jubilarians that they we can only recognize God in the breaking of the bread—in the Eucharist. With Him, and nourished by the Bread of Life, we can the SMILE—see the merits of life everyday! **RD**

[ ar.sisters ]

## ARSC National Office declares 10<sup>th</sup> Provincial Congress Theme Song and Logo Winners

By Sr. Rhena Sherra Caranzo, AR

*Quiapo, MANILA*—SR. INGRID GUERINA, A.R., the National Directress of the Augustinian Recollect Student Crusaders (ARSC) declared the winners of the theme song and logo contests for the 10<sup>th</sup> ARSC Provincial Congress on August 6, 2018, Feast of the Transfiguration.

To be one with the Church, the theme of the Year of the Youth was adopted. Hence, the 10<sup>th</sup> ARSC Provincial Congress theme: “ARSCians: Beloved, Gifted, Empowered.”

The painting of Abegael Mae B. Gepitulan of ARSC Local Chapter Toledo City was chosen to be the 10<sup>th</sup> ARSC Provincial Logo and the song composed by the ARSCians of ICC Balayan Batangas was selected as the official theme song.



# Relics of Saint Rita of Cascia: A Gift of Presence

By Sr. Rhena Sherra Caranzo, AR

*Quiapo, MANILA*—THE RELICS OF SAINT RITA OF CASCIA THAT GRACED SAN Sebastian Basilica yesterday visited the neighbor yet her home— Saint Rita College-Manila on June 10, 2019, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM

Fray Alexis E. Mansueto, OAR, assistant parish priest of San Sebastian Basilica carried solemnly the relics from San Sebastian to the chapel of Saint Rita College-Manila. People of different intentions and unique prayers offered roses and venerated the relics as the choir sang melodious hymns.

Fr. Dennis Ruiz, OAD, Postulator General of the Discalced Augustinian and the facilitator of the visit of the relic in the Philippines, thank the sisters for the warm welcome attributed to the relics and he appreciated the songs for her. The veneration of the relics continued and was opened to the public while the sisters prayed silently until the relics were returned to the Parish.

## **Saint Rita College- Manila—her home in Quiapo**

A home is where your soul finds rest; a home is a place that when you have to go there, they have to take you in.

The history as to why the first school of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters was named after Saint Rita was unwritten. We could just have the thought that Saint Rita was canonized in the 1900s and was so famous at that time and perhaps the sisters began (or even before her canonization) their devotion to the newly canonized Augustinian Saint and the first school of the Congregation founded in 1907 was attributed in her name. It did not happen by chance. For the sisters, it is one of her miracles and will continue to share miracles to the lives of the people.

Saint Rita, from Cascia to the Philippines, was taken by the Sisters hundred years ago but unnoticed by a visible eye because she was taken home her Quiapo in the hearts of the sisters and the people who were with them. Her relics that visited this day is a gift of presence that forever marks a special place in the hearts of the sisters.

## **The Cincture**

For the Augustinians, the cincture marks the goodness of Our Lady of Consolation, who offered Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine, the black leather belt as a sign of her presence and consolation for her son Augustine, who is in constant search for the Truth. As a symbol of the presence of the Blessed Mother, it is also a sign of purity that reminds the vow of chastity.

## **The Bone**

The bone relic is a part of the incorrupt body of Saint Rita who died in 1457. The incorrupt body of this patron saint of the impossible and hopeless cases can be seen at the Basilica of Saint Rita in Cascia, Italy. It is publicly known that her body has been seen in different positions in the glass case, as well as eyes have opened and closed unaided.

Is it possible that her body be brought her in Saint Rita College-Manila one day? Who knows? Perhaps it can be another prayer that the Saint of the Impossible would listen to. For now, let us allow God to work in us and imitate the virtues of Saint Rita as we ask her intercessions. **RD**



# OARNuns



[ oar.nuns ]

## Trapped by love?

**By Sr. Alicia Correa Fernández, OAR (Monasterio Santísimo Corpus Christi – Granada, Spain)**  
**English translation by Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR**

**I** IS IT WORTH FOR SOMETHING TODAY TO LIVE AS A cloistered nun? Sr. Alicia Correa is an Augustinian Recollect contemplative nun. In this article she narrates a beautiful anecdote that made her find the meaning of contemplative life in our time.

I start with this question: Trapped by Love?

I share this to you that during one of the days of this Christmas, I received a pleasant visit. My visitors were the parents of Guadalupe, a blonde, lively, four-year girl with tousled hair,

**The brief silence awakened in me another great question: “Is it worth for something today to live as a cloistered nun?”**

who also came with them. After greeting us, [nuns], Guadalupe looked at me intently, and after clinging to the bars of the grille that separated us, she, with wide eyes, threw me this question: “And you, why are you trapped here?”

A smile was drawn on the faces of those present and there was a brief silence. That was what she perceived after seeing my silhouette appear behind the grille. She questioned her [mother] about the reason of this way of living or at least of “being.” With kindness, her mother tried to make her understand saying: “Guadalupe, como se dice ‘cerrado’ en inglés?” [“Guadalupe, how do you say ‘cerrado’ in English?”] To which she responded without hesitation: “Closed.” “Very good! Well, [Sister] Alicia is a cloistered nun. She is enclosed; she lives this way because she is always with God. She prays for all of us.”

The brief silence awakened in me another great question: “Is it worth for something today to live as a cloistered nun?” The question that Guadalupe asked me has much to think about, much to tell...

In a media-conditioned society such as ours, in which changes take place at a dizzying speed, and which is characterized by what was once and used to have value, today this value no longer exists. Ours is a society where there seems to be no employment, personnel, nor emotional stability; in which everything is about using and throwing away; and is dependent on the good or benefit that brings me.

The OAR monastery in Bacolod City which houses nuns who willfully present themselves to get “trapped” by love and for love.

This is a society where everything is fleeting and unstable, where competition is played; a world that is determined by hedonism, pleasure, minimal effort, by making life

choices easy, by living in complete freedom; in which the values of yore have gone into a nosedive and have been replaced by other very different ones.

It is a society where everything is done in a hurry, and the expression “I do not have time” is often heard; where we are “forced” many times to live wearing masks even if we know it, just to pretend, not to be “less” than the others.

It is a society where many times we live at a dizzying pace, and everything tends to tilt outward—empty of what is truly important, bereft of giving an option to think, to introspection—rather than to assert our very own rights because we are important persons. Does it make sense, therefore, to live in the cloister in our society today?

Personally, I do not like to define myself with this term “cloister.” I prefer to talk about contemplation. At a glance, “closed” already denotes something like: to isolate, to close oneself, to put oneself in solitary confinement, to separate oneself. If this alone is understood as “cruel” (“a ‘sangre fría’”), literally, not only does it not make sense to live as a cloistered or contemplative nun, but also—I dare to say—it is foolishness.

However, everything has a background, a meaning. Everything in life has an explanation, a why, a goal and a purpose. Everything has a beginning and a reason why it happens. It is the result of something preceding that gives its identity and style of being. Therefore, trapped, yes, but for something, for something, or better still, for Someone.

The cloister only makes sense today when it is lived as a means and not as an end. When it is assumed in freedom and for love of Someone higher than you, who loves you and who wants to take you to a particular place and away from everything else, to a solitude, in order

**The man and woman of today need, more than ever, those spaces of interiority to discover themselves and that possible option of a different life.**

that He will speak to your heart, (and not because the outside is considered bad, or an escape).

It is a quick, happy and generous response to the call that has been felt from the depths of one's being. You choose the life of the cloister as a means that favors dedicating yourself completely to God so that there may be least possible disturbances in your dealing and relationship with Him.

It is the offering of yourself for a cause, including the offering of the place where you will develop your life. The cloister favors tranquility and peace of the spirit necessary and essential for the encounter with Love (God) who is contemplation. He is sought to be "caught", to be "trapped" by Him, to live as close as possible and to speak to God from the heart of all the brothers and sisters who live outside the monastery, because there is another

possible, different way of living—it is the one that provides peace, quietness, tranquility, knowing that there is always Someone within ourselves who dwells within us, cares for us, and pampers us; and that it is possible that we may not pay enough attention, that Someone gives true meaning to our existence and for Him we make this choice of contemplative life.

Everything has a reason and a purpose, hence, I ask myself again, I go back to raise the question: "Does it make sense to live like this?" The man and woman of today need, more than ever, those spaces of interiority to discover themselves and that possible option of a different life.

I think I have answered Guadalupe's question. I live trapped by Love and in order to love. **RO**

*HAPPILY TRAPPED. The OAR nuns listening to Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR with smiles on their faces.*

▼





# One year of contemplative Augustinian Recollect life in Colombia

By Agustinos Recoletos

*Bogotá, COLOMBIA*—ON JUNE 12, 2018, SEVEN AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT NUNS, accompanied by the Federal President of Mexico, departed from the Monastery of Cuernavaca for Colombia.

It was the foundation of the first community of the contemplative Augustinian Recollect nuns in Colombia. In the country where the Augustinian Recollection began in South America, the cloistered nuns arrived for the first time. They were received by the Prior Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Candelaria, Fray Albeiro Arenas, OAR, together with all the affection of the Augustinian Recollect family of Colombia, who welcomed them with open arms.

After eleven months and about to celebrate one year in the Convent of Our Lady of Candelaria, in Bogotá, the seven nuns are happy with their new surroundings. “Coming to Colombia has been a very strong call for me,” says Sister Ermila Sanchez. Along the same lines, Sister Heriberta Rosas Mena assures that for her, this foundation in Colombia has been “a new vocation.”

The change of convent was difficult for some religious. Sister Eva Villa Martínez affirms that it has been difficult for her to go to Colombia because it entails detachment, similar to the one she made when

she decided to give her life to God as an Augustinian Recollect. “It is still difficult,” says Sister Blanca Lizette García, who recognizes that for her, the new foundation has been “a challenge.”

Amidst these challenges, their happy faces show their happiness for carrying out the contemplative work in Bogotá, where they have been welcomed with affection especially by the Augustinian Recollect religious, with whom they collaborate in some pastoral or solidarity actions. Part of their apostolate is their inclusion in ARCORES Colombia.

They are not only in Colombia to pray. The Augustinian Recollect nuns dedicate their days, among other things, to the production of walnut or orange cookies that they offer in the Augustinian Recollect schools or to the making of habits for the friars or for the nuns.

After a year, they only have one word to show their state in Colombia: HAPPINESS. “It has been something strong but we are happy with this new mission,” concludes Sister Huaraní Esparza. **RO**



# SARFraternity



[ sar.fraternity ]

## Huling Hirit sa Tag-init: SARF National Council Summer Community Bonding

By Sis. Yolanda Zaragoza, SARF

**P***Pansol, LAGUNA*—SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER. LATELY, WE'VE been having intermittent rain showers especially at night. This however did not deter the Secular Augustinian Recollects and their guests from enjoying two days of fun, laughter and camaraderie at the Villa San Ezekiel Moreno (formerly Villa San Miguel) in Pansol, Calamba, Laguna on May 23 - 24, 2019 for the first ever National Council Summer Community Bonding.

Present during the event is SARF National Adviser, Fray Bernabe Dosdos, OAR, SARF National President Edwin T. Ruiz and more than sixty brothers and sisters from the different SARF chapters in Luzon and their guests. The three swimming pools were more than enough to accommodate everyone but for those who did not want to swim, a videoke machine was made available for the duration of the bonding for some non-stop singing. The oldies (which means nearly everyone) need not worry about catching colds or having a “rayuma” attack since the water in the pools was warm. The rooms were airconditioned so there was no problem with the summer heat. Food was provided by the different chapters in accordance with the food assignments.

Activities were provided. Worth mentioning is the activity whereby the members were grouped into

10 and discussed their thoughts on the community bonding, experiences as a member of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity, etc.

Said activity served as a venue for the brothers and sisters to get to know the members from the other chapters.

A short meeting of the National/Regional Council was also held to discuss the SEC registration and the fund-raising activities of the National Council. Another meeting was held for members of the different committees to discuss plans on a national level in accordance with the LAMP. My committee resolved to meet later for another caucus.

Many thanks to the OAR specially to Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR for affording us the use of Villa San Ezekiel Moreno. Hasta luego my brothers and sisters in the Lord. *Sana maulit muli...* **RO**



[ sar.fraternity ]

## SARF-UNO-R sponsors Zumba for a cause

By UNO-R Correspondent

*Bacolod City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*—THE SECULAR AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT Fraternity – UNO-R Chapter sponsored a Zumba for a Cause, February 11, 2019 at the University Gymnasium.

It was an activity that ushered the opening of the Sportsfest 2019. Recognizing the invaluable contribution of the youth in vocation promotion/faith formation, SARF-UNO-R Chapter encouraged the National Service Training Program (NSTP) and UNO-R students to join the fund raising activity. Likewise, the NSTP instructors, NTP and SARF Talisay joined the said activity.

Dr. Carmenda Leonoras, President SARF-UNO-R Chapter gave the opening remarks while Engr. Christopher Taclobos, SARF Vice President, gave the closing remarks. Joining the activity with SARF were the NSTP Instructors: Mrs. Lilibeth Hablo, Mr. Bismark Penascoza, Mr. Jovito Moral, and Mr. Ruby Ravelista.



# 18<sup>th</sup> SARF Visayas Regional Reunion

By Sis. Colan Claire Bayona, SARF

*Talisay, NEGROSOCCIDENTAL*—THE SECULAR AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FRATERNITY (SARF), Talisay Chapter, hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> SARF Visayas Regional Annual Reunion last October 19-20, 2019 held at Natures Village Resort, Talisay City.

This year's reunion had a theme "SARF: Empowering the youth of today, in Communion with the church." There was a record breaking attendance of 144 participants from six chapters including the national officers and as well as a perfect attendance of all the spiritual advisers. There were 23 participants from the UNO-R Bacolod Chapter, 32 participants from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cebu Chapter, 14 Participants from SARF Valencia Chapter, 9 participants from Our Lady of Consolacion Laray Chapter, 33 participants from San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish Talisay Chapter, 25 participants from SARF-San Carlos Chapter and eight National Officers.

On the first day of the reunion, Fray Niño Cesar R. Ruiz, Parish Priest of San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, gave a welcome address followed by giving of the overview of Sis. Carmenda S. Leonoras, the Vice President of Sarf Visayas.

The reunion benefitted greatly from the participation of a broad range of distinguished speakers from the OAR priests. During the first day of the reunion the first speaker was Fray Leonardo Pauligue, OAR. He tackled about being the "Beloved of God" and "Love and Divine Choice".

The second speaker was Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR. He talked about how we can live in the communal prayer of one soul and one heart, a life directed towards God with Mary our mother.

SARF National President, Bro. Edwin T. Ruiz gave updates and over view on the different projects and activities of SARF National.

In the evening, there was a celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Integrated Vespers. The main celebrant was Fray Emeterio Buñao, OAR, National Vice-Chairman of SARF Executive Committee.

After dinner, there was a fellowship night. Each chapter had a ballroom dance presentation. It was full of fun and laughter. Everyone was dress up in colorful and fancy dresses with makeup and hairdos.

The second day of the reunion started with the rosary and morning prayer. Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, gave his inspirational message and announced that he is the new spiritual adviser for Negros.

The speaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> session was Fray Leopoldo Estioko, OAR, who talked about the importance of Lectio Divina.

The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Rites of Admittance to the Trial Period and Promise members was held at San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish. The main celebrant was Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial. There were 20 candidates for the admittance to the Trial Period: eight from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cebu Chapter, four from Our Lady of Abandoned Parish, Valencia Chapter, four from UNO-R, Bacolod Chapter and four from San Nicolas de Tolentino Paresh, Talisay Chapter. There were four promise candidates. one from Our Lady of Consolation Laray, Cebu Chapter, one from Colegio Sto. Tomas Recoletos, San Carlos Chapter and two from our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Cebu Chapter.

Rose Mary E. Chua, President of SARF Talisay Chapter gave a closing Remarks and Fray Bernabe M. Dosdos, OAR, SARF National Spiritual Adviser gave his closing message.

It was indeed a successful 18<sup>th</sup> SARF Visayas Regional Annual Reunion. **RD**





# SARF Luzon holds Regional Annual Reunion

By Sis. Yoland Zaragoza, SARF

*Intramuros, MANILA*—THE MEMBERS OF THE TEN CHAPTERS OF THE SECULAR Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) belonging to the Luzon region held their annual reunion last October 26, 2019 at the historic Intramuros, Manila more specially at the equally historic Colegio de Santa Rosa, a tertiary school established on August 30, 1750 and presently administered by the Augustinian Recollect sisters. Also present were Fray Bernabe Dosdos, OAR, SARF National Spiritual Adviser, the Spiritual Advisers of the local chapters, other religious, friends and observers

Registration began at 6am. After registering, most of the delegates headed to the first floor lobby to have breakfast. Since not a few had left their homes very early in preparation for the notorious Saturday traffic, breakfast was most appreciated. After breakfast everyone proceeded to the auditorium for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am with Rites of Admittance to the Trial period and Promises with integrated lauds. The Mass presider was Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, President, Secretariat of Spirituality and Formation, and Vicar of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. Fourteen (14) candidates from the different chapters made their Promises before the superior and the members of the OAR community. Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, accepted their Promises as a Secular Augustinian Recollect, declared them members of the SARF and children of the Augustinian Recollect family in the name and place of OAR Prior General, Very Rev. Fray Miguel Miro, OAR. On the other hand, twenty (20) candidates transitioned from Pre-trial to the Trial period. They were admitted by Bro. Edwin T. Ruiz, SARF National President.

The two hundred sixty-four (264) delegates were welcomed by Sr. Damie Tafalla, AR, Superior of Colegio

de Santa Rosa. A welcome message was given by Fray Rene Paglinawan, OAR, Spiritual Adviser of SARF OLPGV, the host chapter. The guest speaker was Fray Jovy Gallego, OAR. He gave a talk on the reunion's theme "SARF kalakbay ng Birheng Maria sa Paglalakbay ng Kabataan". Fray Jovy enjoined everyone to share in solving suicide among the youth by journeying with them, giving them time and listening to them.

The participating chapters were requested to prepare a presentation based on a Marian song. Judging from the quality of the presentations (including the costumes), I think most will agree with me that the presentations this year have improved a lot.

Congratulations everyone! SARF Philippines is indeed very much alive and growing. See you all in San Carlos City next year for the National Convention.

RD



# ARCORES



[ arccores ]

## ARCORES Int'l bigwigs visit PH, survey Recoletos solidarity programs

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR

**P**rovincial Curia, QUEZON CITY—TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN a structure and organization that help institutionalize the co-responsibility and coordination of social actions in the Augustinian Recollect communities, high-ranking representatives of the ARCORES International visited and assessed those areas directly under the Recoletos management and covered by the project portfolio of the said international NGO.

ARCORES which stands for “Augustinian Recollect International Solidarity Network” is a group of non-profit entities of diverse legal nature, dedicated to international cooperation and social action. It is currently present in 22 countries, including the Philippines.

Fray Simón Puertas, OAR, Board of Directors Vice President, and Mr. Javier Sánchez, Executive Director, made an ocular visit to major target areas such as Cebu, Casian in Palawan, and Laoang in Northern Samar.

Fray Raul Buhay, OAR, who accompanied the two Spaniards to those places, said that they made an area and activity assessment in Casian Island and followed up the two projects with the AR Sisters particularly the scholarship programs for students in Alang-alang, Leyte and Liminangcong in Palawan.

“The latter was included in the report of projects for review by the Prior Provincial, while the former needs yet to be concretized for presentation,” Fray Buhay said.

But the visit to Colegio de Sta. Teresita run by the AR Sisters in the island of Laoang in Northern Samar was another possible area to roll out an extension program.

The visiting ARCORES authorities based in Madrid started their “tour of duty” on February 11 in Palawan, especially in the Recollect communities in the Apostolic Vicariates of Puerto Princesa and Taytay. On February 13, they flew to Tacloban in the Eastern Visayas and took a land trip towards the northernmost

tip of Northern Samar where they crossed by boat to Laoang.

After the visit in Laoang, Sr. Juliet Natinga, AR, superior of the convent and school principal, reported that the ARCORES administrators expressed their support for the construction of a new two-storey school building. This, she said, could help solve their increasing enrollment in their school and the transfer of classrooms from the second floor of the old building which is in dire need of rehabilitation.

The ARCORES gentlemen made their “semifinal touches” on their Philippine meeting at the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City where they met the people behind INFECOP (Institute of Non-Formal Education and Community Outreach Program). The latter introduced to them the university’s continuing extension program namely, but not limited to, outreach planning and implementation, community organizing, project development, networking and linkages for extension programs, people and community empowerment, and prison ministry.

As their last activity, the ARCORES personnel accompanied by other visiting Recollect friars from other Provinces of the Order, made their courtesy call on Mo. Lucena Antipala, AR, Superior of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters in Quiapo, Manila.

The visit was a consolidation of the linkages and support system pledged by ARCORES International to the social involvements of the Augustinian Recollect Family in the Philippines, in particular, and in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, in general. **RO**





[ arcores ]

# ARCORES Filipinas, USJ-R help Cebu fire victims

By Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR

*Cebu City, CEBU*—IN ITS CONCERTED EFFORTS TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS of a recent fire in Cebu City, ARCORES Filipinas through its active network in Recoletos de Cebu, organized an emergency response team to provide food packs to 644 families left homeless by the tragedy.

According to the local news, around 2,578 individuals were displaced when a fire broke out in the afternoon of February 5, 2019, affecting Sitios Bato, Pig Vendor, and Castilaan in Barangay Ermita, which is part of the pastoral territory of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish-Recoletos (OLMCP-R) in Cebu City.

Some members of the RAY (Recollect Augustinian Youth) and of the parish church organizations were affected by the disaster, said one OLMCP-R parishioner in his Facebook post.

With its usual program of community service, the Institute of Non-Formal Education and Community Outreach Program (INFECOP) of the University of San Jose-Recoletos in collaboration with ARCORES (Augustinian Recollect Solidarity Network) joined hands to help the victims.

Despite the criticism against the use of plastic bags to distribute food and water, Fray Jaazeal Jakosalem, OAR, who is himself against the use of plastics, clarified: “Our convenience should not hinder us to be compassionate to those who suffered,” referring to the fire victims. “We all knew about this campaign (against the use of plastics). The plight of the fire victims is more important...”

Fray Jakosalem, Chairman of the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos (CSEC-R), heads the various networks of ARCORES Filipinas that actually covers the entire Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno with missionary presence in Taiwan, Sierra Leone, Saipan and Indonesia.

**RD**



*READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. USJ-R volunteers prepare packed goods for the fire victims in Cebu City.*





[ arcores ]

## Six ARCORES representatives from Spain train in USJ-R

By Cyde Obrero

*Cebu City, CEBU*—TO PREPARE FOR A MISSION IN PALAWAN, SIX DELEGATES OF ARCORES – España visited the University of San Jose–Recoletos to train from August 3 to 5.

They are Marta Molinero Avilés, Ana Luna Avilés, Blanca Antolin Barrios, Juan Miguel Morales Moya, Victor Molinero Avilés, and Fray Luciano Adisio, OAR. They represent ARCORES, an Augustinian Recollect solidarity network primarily based in Spain. They are here in the Philippines for twenty days to go to the different islands of Casian, Taytay in Palawan.

Casian is a far-flung fishing community. In 2018, three Augustinian Recollects of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno begin a mission to help improve the quality of life in the said area.

The six Spaniards will be assisting the said priests and implement outreach programs. Since they are not yet familiar with the place and its culture, they needed to undergo an orientation first.

On their first day, they learned basic Tagalog and Cuyuno dialect (Casian language). They also went to different landmarks in Cebu City to get more familiar with the Filipino way of life.

On the second day, they were taught how to install solar lamps by representatives of USJ-R College of Engineering. Aside from putting up the solar lamps and teaching it to the people of the Casian community, the delegation hopes to observe what more they can do more to help the people.

The ARCORES delegates expect to learn from the Casians as well. On a personal level, Victor expected that he will have a brand new experience.

“Give myself, what I have, what I am,” he expressed.

Meanwhile, Martha expected people would be warm and accommodating. Ana is looking forward to learning more about the Casian people while Blanca is curious and wants to have a different perspective on life. Juan Miguel added that he wanted to see a different culture. Furthermore, Fray Luciano said that he wanted to learn from people, to see if the mission will work, and lastly, to spread evangelization.

The highlights of their stay were that they see a big difference between the culture from the Philippines to them. When asked, the strong faith of the Cebuanos was their most significant observation.

Victor explained they learned that Filipinos would take the Mass seriously. People wave goodbye to the Sto. Niño simply and sympathetically. The church was jam-packed.

Lastly, Fray Luciano said that he was impressed with the Josenians for embodying the Tatak Recoleta and Spaniards can learn a lot from how Filipinos convey respect to God, their families, and their fellowmen. **RO**

# ARCORES International receives official recognition

By **Agustinos Recoletos**

ARCORES HAS ALREADY RECEIVED OFFICIAL recognition in Italy, where it will be the legal headquarters of the Network that includes the solidarity actions of the Augustinian Recollect family in the 22 countries in which it is present.

ARCORES is already a reality. The Agustino Recoleta International Solidarity Network has already been officially constituted in Italy. In a simple act, the first board of directors of ARCORES International signed the constitution document in Rome, where the legal headquarters of the Network will be located.

The event was attended by Fray José Ramón Pérez, OAR, as representative of the Order of Augustinian Recollects in Italy; Sr. Nieves M<sup>a</sup> Castro, Superior General of the Augustinian Recollect Missionaries; Fray Pablo Panedas, OAR, as a delegate of Fray Simón Puertas, OAR; and Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR, General Counsellor of the Social Apostolate.

All of them will form the Board of Directors of the recently released International Solidarity Network. The Augustinian Recollects Fray Antonio Carrón, Fray José Ramón Pérez and Fray Simón Puertas will act as president, treasurer and secretary, respectively; while the religious

Nieves M<sup>a</sup> Castro, missionary Augustinian Recollect, will be a counsellor.

The official constitution of ARCORES is the first step of the internationalization and construction of the project. The following takes place from this Tuesday, with the celebration of the first general assembly, to be held at the General Curia of the Augustinian Recollects in Rome. The ARCORES International statutes will be presented at the meeting and the structure and dynamics foreseen in them will be launched.

In this way, the project that began to take shape in 2017 is consolidated. ARCORES already has an official entity that will host all the national ARCORES and will encompass the solidarity work of the Augustinian Recollect family in the world. **RO**



## newsbits

### RESOURCE-HANDUMANAN HOLDS NOVENA AND CELEBRATES FIESTA

By UNO-R Correspondent

Brgy. Handumanan, Bacolod City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—The Community of the Recoletos Social Outreach Center (RESOURCE) in Purok San Ezekiel Moreno, Handumanan, Bacolod City will celebrate the Feast St. Ezekiel Moreno, Patron Saint of Cancer patients, with the theme: “Pagtukod sang Katilingban: Paghili-usa sang Balatyagon kag Hunahuna padulong sa Diyos.” on August 19, 2019 with a Solemn Concelebrated Mass at 9 am with Fray Amado Lucero, OAR, VP-Student Welfare of UNO-R, as Main Celebrant.

Prior to the fiesta celebration on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, rosary and novena Masses were to be celebrated beginning on August 10 and will end on August 18, Saturday at 5:30 pm. During the August 10 novena Mass, the Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, was the presider; Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, OAR, UNO-R Integrated School Director, on August 11; Fray Leonardo Pauligue, OAR, Local Prior of Recoletos de Talisay community, on August 12; Rev. Fr. Casimiro Batalla, Parish Priest of Handumanan on August 13; Fray Jose Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR, Property Administrator of UNO-R on August 14; Fray Vicente Ramon, OAR, Local Prior of Recoletos de San Carlos with Fray Rafael Cabarles, OAR on August 15; Fray William Villafior, OAR, Local Prior of Recoletos de Bacolod, on August 16; Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR, President of RESOURCE, on August 17; Fray Nino Cesar Ruiz, OAR, Parish Priest San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Talisay City, on August 18.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREENHEART HERMITAGE (FACEBOOK.COM)

[ arcoces ]

# Understanding Climate Emergency

By Fray Jaazeal Estelou Jakosalem, OAR

CLIMATE EMERGENCY IS A DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF climate justice, securing a sustainable future for the coming generations. It is a declaration that requires immediate action, not just words on paper or document. When a town or city declares 'climate emergency', the next day all business related to mining, logging, or reclamation project must end; continue transforming our lives for a greener future-stop contributing waste recycle and re-use instead, participate in growing more trees not cutting them, care more for people and the planet. It is environmental action truly lived as a result of declaration.

Institutions are now declaring ‘climate emergency’, but are failing to defend nature, declaration only in words. Declaration means to be bold and not afraid to denounce environmental criminals, not be paralyzed to take the words to heart that we need to defend the planet.

We have seen the climate actions inspired by Greta Thunberg, campaigning on her own and rippled into a global and phenomenal mobilizations. And yet, let this mobilization not be fizzled-out just like the many emerging social movements that almost toppled oppressive state-structures but run-dry and ended-up un-sustained. Let her inspiration embolden more our declaration.

But how can we make this ‘climate emergency declaration’ be understood in the communities, and be fully embraced by an ordinary person?

#### **Causes why we have the Climate Emergency:**

*Lack of the sense for the common good.* Nature or the environment is a common good, so are the natural resources. Common good, does not mean ownership nor having the right/s to abuse the natural resources, but rather, having a responsibility to nurture and ensure sustainability. We have allowed the limitless ownership and destruction of our natural resources—for political, business and development reasons. Sacrificing in the

end, our common ownership. Persons, communities and nature incorporate the global society, the need to ensure climate and universal justice for them constitute a common concern. Care for our common home, as Pope Francis rightly calls.

*Lack of the sense of social justice.* Any government systems fail if social justice is not prioritized. Social

justice takes the form of governance and the grounded vision it provides, and also it can

take form of economy and the cycle it can bring, especially the poor.

*Lack of the sense of the future.* Sustainable future is a right of every human being. The immensity of the damages done to our environment creates a clear sign of ‘no future’ for our people and planet. The amount of waste we are producing and dumping daily; the destruction and loss of our forests; the

pollution of our atmosphere (including the oceans and rivers); and the elimination of plant and animal species—all these reflect a bleak future for all of us. Sadly, governments allow companies and businesses to destroy our environment—in the form of development aggression.

*Lack of the sense of accountability.* Imposing accountability structures thru policies will caution and ultimately discourage greed-driven enterprises. The effects of extractive industries are already measurable, and yet we still allow them to destroy our ridges and reefs. We have read news and stories of deaths and destruction in mining sites, areas affected by development aggression, the massive fires in the Amazon region and Indonesia and yet our governments still allow corporation to operate and continue destroying our forests.

#### **We can address Climate Emergency by:**

- Sourcing and Eating healthy food products.
- Encouraging and supporting local agriculture enterprise (healthy food security).
- Developing a sustainable food-future, by limiting the development or conversion of agricultural areas from business enterprises.
- Supporting local organic farmers and cooperatives. Not-patronizing commercially-driven enterprises using fertilizers and GMOs on food

**“Institutions are now declaring ‘climate emergency’, but are failing to defend nature, declaration only in words.”**

FRAY JAAZEAL ESTELOU  
JAKO SALEM, OAR

**“Climate Emergency is a declaration of the principle of climate justice, securing a sustainable future for the coming generations.”**

FRAY JAAZEAL ESTELOU  
JAKO SALEM, OAR



- products.
- Providing clean water to communities.
- Claiming the Rights of Nature to secure a sustainable planet.
- Ending destructive development aggression in both local and national areas (Mining, Reclamation Projects, Quarrying, Logging).
- Living a fossil-free future towards a consistent transition to renewable energy (Break-free from Fossil fuel).
- Imposing consistently the ban on plastic use (homes, offices and communities).
- Managing an integrated pro-nature waste segregation (pollution-free).
- Creating a local-based biodiversity plan from ridge to reef (inventory, protection and criminalization).
- Imposing strict pollution-control compliance (transport, institutions, business and industries).
- Demanding climate justice; as well as extracting just compensation from environmental violators causing deaths on persons and damages on nature.
- Investing in ethical business enterprises and banks.
- Divesting from non-ethical corporate business investments. **RD**



[ arcores ]

## RBGS Conducts its first Leadership Training series at the RESOURCE-Handumanan

By Andro Camposagrado

*Brgy. Handumanan, BACOLOD CITY*—FACED WITH VARIETALS OF PAST AND concurrent social issues and social realities within the country and abroad, these problems have influenced many individuals in the society. Striving to solve these social issues, holistic awareness and proactive response from the society were essential factors to effectively identify, plan, organize and mobilize collective approaches to address these social ills and discuss their relevance to individual's life. Adherence to resolve social issues, potential leaders emerge during the process. Leaders that will raise awareness and spark social consciousness among each other.

The UNO-R Recoletos de Bacolod Graduate School (RBGS) Student Council (AY 2019- 2020) has organized an Outreach Activity entitled Leadership Training towards Awareness and Response to Social Issues last September 8, 2019 at 2PM in Recoletos Social Outreach Center (RESOURCE) Purok St. Ezekiel Moreno, Brgy. Handuman, Bacolod City. This activity was the first leadership training series crafted by the council. This aims to inspire community actions and responses to different social issues through leadership formation as the foundation. Attended by 31 participants from the RESOURCE community, it was comprised of seven males and 24 females in various age groups.

Opening preliminaries and welcome message were given by Mr. Sunday Vince Latergo, PhD-EM student and Council President of RBGS. Miss Corazon Vecino, PhD-EM student facilitated the Group Task Activities and participants were arranged into three groups. Through a colourful art workshop, they drew their reflections about the reality of a sick community and shared their outputs in the plenary. In response to their first activity, another group task was given to them. They performed a role play using some political titles as leaders. They initiated action plans, activities and programs that they have felt and perceived necessary that will resolve those social issues their group had identified. Both the group task activities were processed and synthesized by Miss Vecino.

Ms. Sharon Tusalem, MPAG alumna and the main resource person, discussed Teenage Pregnancy. The high prevalence and alarming incidence of early pregnancy among 9-18 years old teenage girls has raised awareness among parents in RESOURCE Community. Ms. Tusalem presented general information and number of incidence rates globally and within the Province of Negros Occidental. Parents and teenage participants were enlightened during the session. Highlighting parental accountability, responsible

adolescent and spirituality were the main keypoints of the resource person. Sharing and discussion of feelings, observations, learning and application of the topic from the participants were facilitated by Ms. Tusalem. "Nabatyagan ko gid sa tagipuso-on ko ang importansya sang maayo kag responsable nga pag-ubay sang mga ginikanan sa pagpadako sang mga kabataan nga may kahadlok sa Ginoo," said Almira, 19, student participant. The graduate school students were accompanied by Dr. Richelle H. Verdeprado, Program Head of the Social Work and the RBGS Outreach coordinator. The activity was ended by giving of certificates to the resource persons and to the participants. As the increasing social issues affected the individual's quality of life, demands for social actions and solutions already developed at the basic foundation of the society, the family. Parents as leaders and in charge of their family must enhance their parental effectiveness in critical thinking and decision making in solving and discussing social issues. Training and capability building activities were mainstreamed by the RBGS Student Council to raise awareness in order to be sensitive and responsive to the social issues and needs of the family, community and society today and for the future. **RD**





[ ray / jar ]

## Recoletos de Cavite hosts 2019 RAY-Luzon Regional Summit

By Fray Jose Enrico Gallego, OAR

**C**avite City, CAVITE—THE SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE Recoletos de Cavite opens the three-day regional summit for the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) in mainland Luzon on February 1, 2019. The biennial event began with the Eucharistic celebration presided by the Prior Provincial, Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR, with some OAR priests from all over Luzon as concelebrants.

In his homily, Father Selma explained the difference of the RAY from other parish youth organizations. The members of the RAY, he said, undergo formation in the Augustinian Recollect charism and spirituality.

He also emphasized the importance of the RAY as part of the family structure of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, and the members' role especially in this "Year of the Youth" for the Philippine Church.

A total of 129 Recollect Augustinian Youth delegates hailing from all the Recoletos communities

and apostolate areas in mainland Luzon came to participate in the summit: San Sebastian College-Recoletos (Cavite, Manila, and Canlubang), Recoletos Formation Center in Miranila, St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos in Antipolo, Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary in Baguio City, San Sebastian Parish in Manila, Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish in Tondo, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Pangasinan, and San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Quezon City. **RD**

[ ray / jar ]

## RAY Regional Summit in Cavite: "Memorable and Life-changing"

By Ella Caringal, R.M. Polangco, Alyssa Esquillo, and Julianne Singson

*Cavite City, CAVITE—DAYS TWO AND THREE OF THE RECOLLECT AUGUSTINIAN Youth (RAY) Regional Summit were days of encounter with the Lord through the celebrations of the Holy Mass, gathering around the Blessed Sacrament, inputs from four speakers, sharing of reflections and cultural talents.*





## Day Two

The Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) de Cavite have successfully hosted the second day (February 2, 2019) of the RAY Regional Summit.

The line-up of activities did not fail to nurture the delegates' spiritual formation, particularly with their participation in the morning praise, Eucharistic celebration, inputs, praying of the creative rosary, and lucenarium.

**“Being a RAY is more than that (collecting and animating). We are a family.”**

FRAY JOSEPH DEXTER  
PALAGTIOSA, OAR

Fray Allan Jacinto, OAR, Section Head for Vocations, elaborated the theme of the 34<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day recently held in Panama: “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38).

He emphasized how the youth should imitate Mary, the Mother of Jesus, for having a brave heart to follow God's plan, and for being a source of healing and encouragement to others.

The second talk entitled “Youth: Messengers and Instruments of God's Love” was given by Fray Rafael B. Pecson OAR, President of SSC-R de Cavite. He offered some tips for a happy, gifted, and empowered youth. And one way, according to Fray Pecson, is by daily sanctification, that is, by offering to God whatever we do and everything we are.

The activities of the day had its touching moments, such as the lucenarium, during which “each one of us has a solemn moment to reflect,” said Emmanuelle Fullante, a delegate from Cavite City. “This is the most peaceful part that we've experienced in the summit.”

Hyping the night, a cultural show was staged. Each group or school participant showed amazing performances showcasing their talents. The tiresome day was closed, but the delegates wore their happy faces for their memorable experiences.

## Day Three

“Your youthfulness can be translated into

a more mature gesture,” this line uttered by Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia wrapped up the last day of the 2019 Regional Summit of the Recollect Augustinian Youth when he presided the Mass at San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite.

Fray Bolilia is the President of the Secretariat of Vocations and Youth Ministry of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

The closing day of the said summit – on February 3, 2019 – delegates prepared themselves by waking up early to participate in the morning activities. Morning Praise was led by Sir Jhersie Manesca and Miss Reina Elmira Esquillo. delegates from Cavite City and Antipolo City, respectively. Zumba right after the lauds energized the delegates. Breakfast followed.

Fray Joseph Dexter Palagtiosa, Section Head for the Recollect Augustinian Youth, was the speaker for the third session. He talked about the real meaning of RAY, which was a significant point especially for first timers in this summit.

The different stages and formation process that every RAY member should go through, its way of life and the charism of the Augustinian Recollection were also among the things that he shared.

“Being a RAY is more than that (collecting and animating). We are a family,” Fray Palagtiosa said.

That gave a lesson for the summit participants to learn from: that being a RAY member requires commitment and faithfulness to God. That their will to serve the Lord as a RAY member can lead them to their desired path of happiness.

Fray Palagtiosa mentioned further that the Recoletos communities taking charge of a RAY group ought to accompany the candidates until they become full-fledged members. He also gave some updates on the different communities and the relevant programs that should be practiced.

The awarding of certificates to all the delegates ensued. Then, lunch was shared by everyone. Afterwards, they bade goodbye, which means, time to apply the Augustinian Recollect values and practices in order to grow more and become living witnesses of the Gospel and the teachings of our Father

St. Augustine.

As R.M. Polangco, one of the delegates, expressed it well: "The Regional RAY Summit 2019 ended successfully. The three-day program has molded the characters of the delegates who still learned more values and practices of a true Augustinian Recollect."

"The RAY Summit was truly an amazing experience for everybody for it was really memorable and life-changing experience," she concluded.

### The Poem

Ms. Julianne Singson, a delegate with the special task to document this year's RAY Regional Summit, let her pen scribble some lines about the ongoing event. She admitted: "I wrote this poem because everytime I experience an amazing event, I used this kind of literature to express how grateful I am that I had the opportunity to join."

When asked about the central points of her poem, she replied: "The message of the poem is for the youth, especially for the members of Recollect Augustinian Youth. This is to make them realize that RAY is not just an organization but a family and a way of life. In addition, the RAY Regional Summit is an event that helps every Augustinian Recollect community to gather to be able to have a strong bond not just within their respective community but with others as well."

### Pagtitipon ng RAY ni: Cyrene Julianne Singson

Pagkasabik, ngunit may halong kaba  
Puyat at pagod, mga kabataang nakiisa

Dahil sa byahe, para lang makadalo  
Sa pagtitipong kakaiba.  
Regional RAY Summit 2019,  
ang rason ng rekoletong komunidad nang  
magtipon sila.

Nagmula man sa iba't ibang parte ng Luzon,  
Ang mga rekoleta ay isang buong batalyon,  
Nagsumikap at buong pusong dumayo,  
Sa siyudad ng Cavite na siyang namuno.

Sari saring aktibidad ang inihanda,  
Upang lahat ay maging masigla  
Nang sa huli'y maging di malilimutan na  
alaala  
Na puno ng aral, at walang katumbas na saya

Nawa'y tumatak sa isip ng bawat isa,  
Ang tunay na kahulugan ng tema,  
Mga Kabataan Nagmimisyon: Minamahal.  
Biniyayaan. Pinalakas.

Mga katagang may maitutulong  
Upang ang kabataan ay may maisulong  
Pagiging matatag na alagad ni Kristo  
Alinsunod sa karisma ng mga Rekoletong  
Agustino.

Tulad ni Maria, nararapat na ang kabataan  
May pusong di naiinggit,  
Puso na nakapagpapagaling na syang  
dahilan  
Upang mangarap ng may patutunguhan

Samakatuwid, ang mga kabataang nagtipon  
May iisang tatak sa isip at puso,  
Ang tatak, tatak ng pagiging rekoleta  
Na handang maglingkod,  
Handang magsakripisyo, gaya ni Kristo. **RO**





[ ray / jar ]

## Vicarial Youth Camp 2019 held at Recoletos de Caidiocan

By Judith Mondejar

*Caidiocan, Valencia, NEGROS ORIENTAL*—YOUTH DELEGATES FROM THE VICARIATE of St. John of the Diocese of Dumaguete were gathered at St. Ezekiel Moreno Quasi-Parish for the three-day annual Vicarial Youth Camp from June 21 to 23, 2019. Re-echoing the World Youth Day 2019 theme: “I am the servant of the Lord, may it be done unto me according to Your Word (Lk. 1:38),” VYC 2019’s objectives were to strengthen the minds of the young; to draw them closer to Jesus through Mary; and to encourage the youth to enjoy the life with Jesus. The youth camp also coincided with the celebration of the Year of the Youth throughout the whole Catholic Church in the Philippines.



The Vicariate of St. John is composed of parishes and quasi-parishes under the Diocese of Dumaguete. These are: St. Ezekiel Moreno Quasi-Parish, Caidiocan, Valencia; Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Valencia; St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, Dauin; St. Nicholas of Tolentine Quasi-Parish, Magsaysay; St. Vincent Ferrer Quasi-Parish, Apo Island, Dauin; St. Augustine of Hippo Parish, Bacong; and St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Zamboanguita.

Spearheaded by Fray Roderick Deguit, OAR, Vicarial Youth Director, and Judith Mondejar, President of RAY-Caidiocan Chapter and President of VYC, the youth camp started with the registration where 254 delegates officially signed in on June 21, 2019, followed by the Opening Mass presided by Fray Deguit, OAR. After the Holy Mass, the Opening Program was done to welcome the participants.

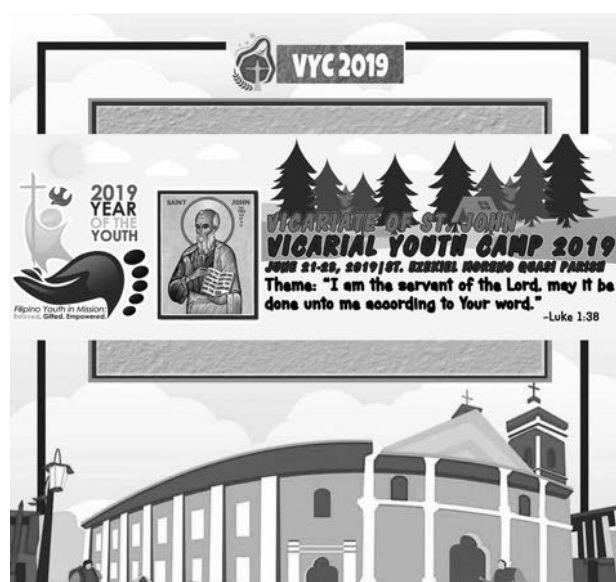
During the second day, series of talks from invited speakers tackling on the youth and vocation awareness were scheduled. Ms. Maria Theresa Aranco from University of San Jose-Recoletos Campus Ministry Office gave a talk on the theme. She also gave a workshop for the youth about their role as youth in the Church. Mini talk entitled "LTE: Let's Talk Experiences" shed light on vocation awareness was also presented by speakers who came from the different sectors of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Entanal shared their experience as married couple. Ms. Herculana and Ms. Flora Cardo added their insights on how to be happy and contented as single-blesseds. Sharing their religious life with the youth, Sr. Juliet Naga from the Sisters of Mt. Carmel and Br. Fidel Moreno from the Marian Missionaries, gave a talk on religious vocation.

After the talks, the participants were divided into ten teams for the team building activity. This activity helped the participants to know more their co-youth from different parishes and quasi-parishes in the Vicariate of St. John. It was also an avenue to build unity, teamwork, camaraderie and trust among the youth.

In the evening of the second day, the Cultural Night was held at San Pedro Academy-Recoletos grounds. The youth from different parishes and quasi-parishes showcased their talents in singing, dancing, and dramatics. After the presentations, CFC-YFC Provincial Chapter led the participants to praise the Lord through music, singing, and dancing.

The third day was opened with the praying of the Holy Rosary at dawn. Following the praying of the Holy Rosary was a Zumba exercise led by Benedict Lobo, a RAY member. To memorialize their presence in Caidiocan and to show their love for Mother Nature, the participants did tree planting activity which they tagged as "Plant a Tree Today."

The last part of the youth camp was the Holy Mass presided by Msgr. Julius Heruela, Vicar Forane of the Vicariate of St. John. After the Holy Mass, the Closing Program was held. The participants were excited during the program. They were excited because their cellphones and gadgets, which were collected at the beginning of the youth camp, were given back to them. But the memories, friendships, and insights that they gained from the youth camp were kept in their heart by each delegate as they went back to their respective homes. **RD**





# RAY-Luzon Encounter: Youth as Blessed, Gifted, and Empowered

By Bro. Audel Ken Santillan

*Antipolo City, RIZAL*—TO PREPARE THE YOUTH FOR THE FEAST OF ST. EZEKIEL Moreno, the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) in Luzon communities were gathered together in St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos (SEMoNoRe) on August 11, 2019 to have a youth encounter. The theme of this year's youth encounter was "Kabataang Rekoleta: Tinawag sa Iisang Misyon Kasama si San Ezekiel Moreno Minahal, Pinagpala, Pinalakas."

There were 84 delegates from five OAR communities in Luzon: San Sebastian Basilica (Manila), San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish (Quezon City), Our Lady of Consolation Parish (Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City), St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos (Antipolo), and San Sebastian College Recoletos de Cavite (Cavite City).

This youth encounter commenced with the celebration of the Holy Mass held in the Chapel of St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos and followed by registration and breakfast.

The delegates were formally welcomed by the Vice-Prior of SEMoNoRe, Fray Emeterio Buñao, OAR. In his address, he said, "This youth encounter is organized with the hope that one of the RAY will become an Augustinian Recollects in the future". Moreover, he conveyed that this youth encounter was organized as a concrete response to the Church's call to let the young people feel and experience the sense of belongingness to a community, the Church, and admonished them to follow the footsteps of St. Ezekiel Moreno in submitting oneself to the service of the Church. In this, the Augustinian spirituality is very conducive for RAY's formation.

In the morning, Ms. Ma. Nabel N. Belonio, the leader of the Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Pasig, gave a talk integrated with some activities. She focused on the topic about St. Ezekiel Moreno and the Year of the Youth as beloved, gifted, and empowered. She addressed, "You should not lose hope in love. Instead, you should take courage, because amidst the storms of life God stands as a dwelling place where everyone can have grip as the source of strength."

The talk was concluded by a captivating line quoted from the words of St. John Paul II, "The youth are the

catalyst of change in the church for they are the now of the church, whom are making change in the future." Finally, she gave some guide questions to be reflected and shared in the group sharing activity.

In the afternoon, group dynamic activities ensued and followed by presentations from participating communities to the delight of everyone present. Fray Dexter Palagtiosa, OAR, RAY National Coordinator and Head of the Section for Youth, took time to inform the young, saying that "the RAY is enforced, for it is a way of life in which commitment serves as the very essential element. That is the reason why there would be lots of qualifications to be complied in becoming a full-fledged RAY member".

After presenting a long list of the requirements and qualifications in becoming a full-fledged RAY member, the praise and worship started followed by the Closing Liturgy and Mission Sending. To close the day's gathering, the participants sang the song "Tell the world of His love" to proclaim their mission to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world as beloved, gifted, and empowered. **RD**



# RAY Vis-Min get challenge on Regional Summit

By Georgene Quilaton-Tambiga

*San Carlos City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*—“BE ON A MISSION, FILIPINO YOUTH!” FRAY Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, called to the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) participants of the Regional RAY Summit at Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos.

The challenge came at the tail of the inspiring homily of Fray Ramon who was the main celebrant of the opening Holy Mass at the evening of the feast day of St. Bartholomew, Apostle.

## RAY Vis-Min

The youth from 14 Augustinian Recollect communities, specifically from the eight OAR schools and six quasi-parishes and chaplaincies administered by the Augustinian Recollects, were gathered for the 2019 Regional RAY (Visayas-Mindanao Area) from August 24 to 26, 2019.

The RAY from Cebu were from University of San Jose-Recoletos Main, Basak and Balamban; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ermita; Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Laray.

The Negrense RAY were from University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod; Colegio de San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos, Talisay; San Pedro Academy, Valencia; San Pedro Academy-Recoletos, Caidiocan; Our Lady of the Abandoned, Valencia; Our Lady of Lourdes Chaplaincy, Tambo, Ayungon; and CST-R.

The Surigaonon delegates were from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur led by Fray Mark Saludes, OAR.

## C.H.R.I.S.T.-like Millenials

Anchoring his homily on the theme, “The Filipino Youth in Mission: Beloved. Gifted. Empowered,” Fray Ramon challenged the millennial Recollects.

“Millenials, you are called to be like Christ.”

He went on to dissect CHRIST to define the Recollect Augustinian Youth as “Change-makers, Heartbreakers, Responders, Influencers, Seekers and Servers, and Trailblazers.”

Fray Vicente, who has practically have been assigned to various apostolates of the Province where the participants are from, confronted contemporary social issues that directly affect the Filipino youth like the controversial yet never ending pre-marital sex and abortion, the continuous environmental degradation, and even the harrowing extra-judicial killings that he described to be “the killing of the poor.”

## One Recoleta

Meanwhile, Fray Randy Castillo, OAR, Regional Youth and Vocation Promoter and the Parochial Vicar of San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, Talisay City, Negros Occidental, thanked the CST-R community and his brother-priests for coming together to lead their young parishioners in the varied activities of RAY. Among the co-celebrants of the Holy Mass were Fray Jose Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR (University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod City), Fray William Cordero, OAR (Our Lady of Lourdes Quasi Parish, Tambo, Ayungon), Fray Invenzor Melgaso, OAR (Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Laray, Talisay City, Cebu), Fray Domingo Saladaga (University of San Jose-Recoletos, Balamban) and Fray Renie Alviola (Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos, San Carlos City).

The Diocesan Youth Council of the Diocese of San Carlos also showed solidarity by sending the Pilgrim Cross as a symbol of the 2019 Year of the Youth.

**“Millenials, you are called to be like Christ.”**

FRAY VICENTE RAMON, OAR

The second day of the summit will involve group dynamics and team building activities that will build camaraderie and develop leadership skills among RAY. On the third day, selected speakers will give the participants talks about contemporary issues and their effects on the Recollect youth. **RD**

# 2019 EVENTS TO REMEMBER

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS-RECOLETOS

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
PROVINCE-WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY AT  
THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE (6:00 PM)

**05  
JAN**

**16  
JAN**

## FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SSC-R MANILA'S FOUNDATION  
CELEBRATIONS

**MEETING IN ROME**  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON  
FINANCE AND ASSETS IN ROME

**04  
FEB**

Inclusive dates: 4-8  
February 2019

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
CORE GROUP OF THE SECRETARIAT OF  
SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION

**10  
FEB**

## 20<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURATION ANNIVERSARY

OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL  
MORENO (1999-2019)

**MEETING IN ROME**  
MEETING OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF VOCATIONS AND YOUTH IN ROME

**11  
FEB**

Inclusive dates: 11-12  
February 2019

**11  
FEB**

## ARRIVAL IN PH

PRIOR GENERAL'S ARRIVAL IN PH FOR  
THE VISIT OF RENEWAL

**ARRIVAL IN PALAWAN**  
VISIT OF RENEWAL TO THE OAR  
COMMUNITIES IN PALAWAN

**12  
FEB**

*Renewal visit to Recoletos de Inagawan  
and Recoletos de Plaridel*

12 February

*Renewal visit to Recoletos de Casian*

14 February

*Prior General's meeting with the AR Sisters and SARF-  
Palawan Chapters at SEMSDC, Puerto Princesa City*

16 February

16  
FEB

## ARRIVAL IN CEBU

VISIT OF RENEWAL TO OAR  
COMMUNITIES IN CEBU

- 17 February *Renewal visit to Recoletos de Balamban*
- 18 February *Renewal visit to Recoletos de Laray and Recoletos de Cebu (USJ-R)*
- 20 February *Prior General joins meeting with the General Secretariat of Apostolate in Talavera*

## ARRIVAL IN NEGROS

VISIT OF RENEWAL TO OAR  
COMMUNITIES IN NEGROS

- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Valencia*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Tambo*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de San Carlos*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Bacolod*
- Prior General's visit to OAR nuns in Tanguib Monastery and Renewal visit to Recoletos de Talisay*

21  
FEB

- 22 February
- 23 February
- 24 February
- 25 February
- 27 February

01  
MAR

## ARRIVAL IN TANDAG CITY

VISIT OF RENEWAL TO LONE OAR  
COMMUNITY IN MINDANAO

- 1 March *Courtesy call with the Bishop of Tandag*
- 2 March *Renewal visit to Recoletos de Hinatuan*

## ARRIVAL IN MANILA

VISIT OF RENEWAL TO OAR  
COMMUNITIES IN LUZON AND ABROAD

- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Manila*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Tondo*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Cavite*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de MiraNila*
- Blessing of the Pilgrim Center of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Tondo, Manila*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Antipolo*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Baguio*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Pangasinan and Blessing of the renovated wings of the parish church of Our Lady of the Visitation*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Provincialate*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Taiwan*
- Renewal visit to Recoletos de Saipan*
- Prior General's special session with the Provincial Council*
- Despedida for the Prior General*

03  
MAR

- 4 March
- 6 March
- 6-7 March
- 8-10 March
- 10 March
- 11 March
- 13-14 March
- 15 March
- 16 March
- 18 March
- 22 March
- 23 March
- 24 March

01  
APR

## MEETING WITH PRIORS PROVINCIAL

MEETING OF THE PRIOR GENERAL WITH  
THE PRIORS PROVINCIAL IN ROME

Inclusive dates: 1-5 April  
2019



**24<sup>TH</sup> RECAMS**  
24<sup>TH</sup> RECOLLECT CAMPUS MINISTRY  
SUMMER INSTITUTE IN SSC-R CAVITE

**29  
APR**

Inclusive dates: 29 April -  
3 May 2019

**07  
MAY**

Inclusive dates: 7-9 May  
2019

**OAR FORMANDS' CONVENTION**  
BIENNIAL GATHERING OF OAR FORMANDS IN  
RFC, MIRANILA HOMES, QUEZON CITY

**08  
JUN**

Inclusive dates: 8-12 June  
2019

**MEETING OF LVD'S & YMD'S**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL VOCATION  
DIRECTORS AND YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTORS  
IN THE PPROVINCIAL CURIA

**15  
JUL**

Inclusive dates: 15-16  
July 2019

**ENCOUNTER OF NOVICES**  
ENCOUNTER OF NOVICES FOR MONTEAGUDO

**24  
JUL**

Inclusive dates: 24-27  
July 2019

**04  
AUG**

Inclusive dates: 4-6  
August 2019

## **MEETING OF PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES**

MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES WITH  
THE GENERAL SECRETARY IN ROME

## **FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY**

39<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY OF  
RECOLETOS DE CEBU

## **MEETING IN ROME**

MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL  
PROCURATORS IN ROME

## **INITIAL FORMATION MEETING IN SPAIN**

ORDER-LEVEL MEETING OF  
THE SECTION FOR INITIAL  
FORMATION IN SPAIN

**ARCORES' ARRIVAL IN CEBU**  
ARRIVAL IN CEBU OF VOLUNTEERS OF  
ARCORES INTERNATIONAL FOR A MONTH-LONG  
IMMERSION IN CASIAN ISLAND

**07  
AUG**

**08  
AUG** **NEW OAR SCHOOL TURN-OVER**  
TURN-OVER OF THE SACRED HEART  
SCHOOL OF CAVITE TO THE RECOLLECTS

**ESTABLISHMENT ANNIVERSARY**  
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
RECOLETOS DE BALAMBAN COMMUNITY

**19  
AUG**

**24  
AUG** **NEW BISHOP'S INSTALLATION**  
INSTALLATION OF BISHOP ROBERTO GAA, DD  
AS BISHOP OF NOVALICHES

**BOOK LAUNCH**  
LAUNCHING OF THE BOOK "ST. EZEKIEL MORENO: STUDIES  
ON HIS MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE PHILIPPINES" IN  
USJ-R, CEBU CITY

**10  
SEP**

**14  
SEP** **PARISH PRIESTS IN TAIWAN**  
TAIWAN VISIT AND RENEWAL PROGRAM OF  
OAR PARISH PRIESTS AND CHAPLAINS

Inclusive dates: 14-19  
September 2019

**SARF REGIONAL GATHERING**  
SARF-VISAYAS REGIONAL GATHERING IN SAN NICOLAS DE  
TOLENTINO PARISH IN TALISAY CITY

**19  
OCT**

Inclusive dates: 19-20  
October 2019

**05  
NOV** **SCORES IN CAVITE**  
34<sup>TH</sup> STUDENTS' CONGRESS OF RECOLLECT  
SCHOOLS (SCORES) IN SSC-R DE CAVITE  
(THEME: "REKOLETO YOUTH: CATALYST FOR  
CHANGE FOR NATION BUILDING")

Inclusive dates: 5-9  
November 2019

**CEAR IN BRAZIL**  
2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER OF CEAR IN RIO DE  
JANEIRO, BRAZIL

**12  
NOV**

Inclusive dates: 12-15  
November 2019

**15  
NOV**

**PRIOR GENERAL IN AFRICA**

PRIOR GENERAL'S RENEWAL VISIT TO THE TWO  
OAR COMMUNITIES IN SIERRA LEONE

15 November

*Prior General's arrival in Sierra Leone*

16 November

*Renewal visit to Recoletos de Kamalo*

20 November

*Renewal visit to Recoletos de Kamabai*

24 November

*Prior General's flight to Rome*

**PROVINCE @ 21 YEARS OLD**

21<sup>ST</sup> FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROVINCE  
OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO AND BOOK LAUNCHING OF  
THE NEW ALBUM "MOVED BY THE SPIRIT"

**28  
NOV**

**30  
NOV**

**OAR & AR FORMANDS' MEET**

CONVENTION OF THE OAR AND AR FORMANDS IN  
TAGASTE RETREAT HOUSE IN TAGAYTAY CITY

**SARF MEETING IN ROME**

ENCOUNTER OF NATIONAL SARF PRESIDENTS  
IN THE GENERAL CURIA IN ROME

**03  
DEC**

Inclusive dates: 3-6  
December 2019

**05  
DEC**

**ORDER @ 431 YEARS OLD**

431<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY (1588-2019) OF THE  
AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTION

**GCCP MEETING IN ROME**  
MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS IN ROME

**16  
DEC**

Inclusive dates: 16-18  
December 2019



# POINTLESS POINTS TO PONDER NOT

BY FRAY FRANCISCO L. ANTONIO, OAR



---

**WHEN MAKING A COMMENT ON YOUR BROTHERS,**  
ALWAYS SAY IT WITH TACT AND SUBTLETY, AS IN...

---



Brother so and so is not really **CONCEITED**...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS EXTREMELY AWARE OF HIS BEST QUALITIES.



Brother so and so is not really **DUMB**...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE LIVES MILES AWAY FROM THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY.



Brother so and so is not really a **NOISY** fellow...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS VOCALLY EXCITED.



Brother so and so is not really **EFFEMINATE**...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS SO IN TOUCH WITH HIS FEMININE SIDE.



Brother so and so is not really an **IDEALIST**...  
IT'S JUST THAT HIS SENSE OF REALITY IS IMPAIRED.





Brother so and so is not really DRUNK or TIPSY...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS CHEMICALLY INCOMMODDED.



Brother so and so is not really COLD...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS THERMALLY UNAPPROACHABLE.



Brother so and so is not really a NAGGER...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS VERBALLY REPETITIVE.



Brother so and so does not really HATE SPORTS EVENTS...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS ATHELETICALLY IN THE DARK.



Brother so and so is not really HOT-TEMPERED...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS TORMENTED BY INCESSANT BLOOD DISPLACEMENT.



Brother so and so is not really a GOSSIP...  
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS A RUMOR FRIENDLY BUDDY, GIFTED WITH HIGH WAVE FREQUENCY.

...AND YOU'LL END THE DAY AT PEACE WITH EVERYBODY.

**ONZ, OAR**



## THE RECOLETOS OBSERVER

### Moderator

Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR

### Editor

Fray Francisco Antonio, OAR

### Contributors

Fray Leo Alaras, OAR  
Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR  
Fray Francisco Antonio, OAR  
Fray Jayferson Baldelovar, OAR  
Fray Sixto Ciriaco Bitangjol, OAR  
Fray Randy Castillo, OAR  
Fray Paul Demillones, OAR  
Fray Joel Dequilla, OAR  
Fray Sir Michael Dineros, OAR  
Fray Leopoldo Estioko, OAR

Fray Jovy Gallego, OAR  
Fray Jose Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR  
Fray Jaazeal Jakosalem, OAR  
Fray Russell Lapidez, OAR  
Fray Alexis Mansueto, OAR  
Fray Jessriel Marcha, OAR  
Fray Keneth Pahamutang, OAR  
Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR  
Fray Mark Ryan Prado, OAR  
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 Dr. Richelle Verdeprado, RSW  
 Dominic Villagas  
 Jan Angelieka Marie Villapez  
 Sis. Yolanda Zaragoza, SAR

#### Lay-out

Fray Jessriel Marcha, OAR  
 Fray Robin Ross Plata, OAR

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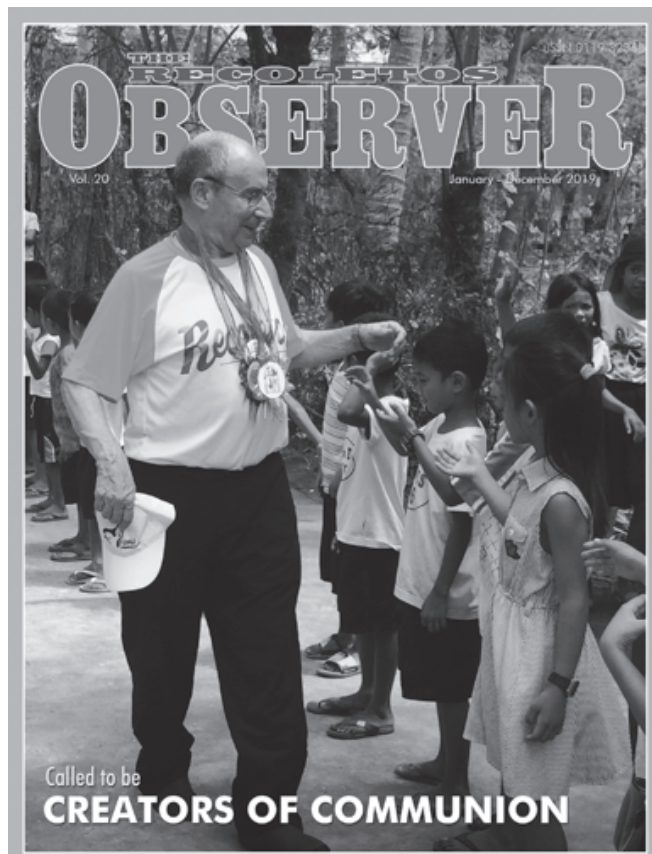
Ms. Anthoneth Salcedo

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#### The RCI Team

Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, CCP-R  
*Chairman, RCI President &  
 Editor: Bulletin of the Province*  
 Fray Francisco Antonio,  
*Editor: Recoletos Observer*  
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 Fray Emilio Larlar & Fray Dunstan  
 Huberto Decena, *Translators*  
 Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla, Fray Jaazeal  
 Jakosalem, Fray Jessriel Marcha  
 & Fray Robin Ross Plata, *Creative  
 Designs*  
 Ms. Anthoneth Salcedo, *Staff*



**The Cover:** Encouraged by Pope Francis to become “Creators of Communion,” Fray Miguel Miró Miró, OAR, (Prior General) goes about the communities in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, bringing the message of renewal to become real creators of communion in their respective localities.

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24 Neptune St., Congressional Subd.  
 Brgy. Bahay Toro (P.O. Box 1127)  
 1106 Quezon City, Philippines  
 Tel. (02) 8921-6103  
 Fax. (02) 8456-1658  
 email: rci.stezekiel@gmail.com  
 website: recoletosfilipinas.org





# 21<sup>ST</sup> FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

PROVINCE OF SAINT EZEKIEL MORENO • 28 NOVEMBER 1998 • 2019



## Moved by the *Spirit*

Album of Religious and Communities  
PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO  
ORDER OF AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS



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