

THE RECOLETOS

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Walking Together

8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



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National Library of Spain, where the historic Augustinian Recollects Convent of Madrid was located.

Four centuries of the First General Chapter (1621-2021)

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November 19, 1621. It is the date of the beginning of the first general

chapter of the Augustinian Recollects. We are in Madrid, in the convent whose construction works had been completed just a few months earlier. In the Chapter of the then Congregation of the Augustinian Recollects, it was decided to create the Provinces of

Castilla, Aragon, Andalusia, and the Philippines, the latter with the name of San Nicolás de Tolentino. It was the continuation of a path that had begun on December 5, 1588, and that, despite the difficulties, would not have an apparent end.



The Order of Augustinian Recollects will begin to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the first general chapter, which took place from November 19 to 30, 1621. The beginning of this year of remembrance and celebration will be in the same place where the remembered event began: in the original and historic convent of the Augustinian Recollects in Madrid, where the National Library of Spain is currently located. On November 29 at 10 am (Spanish time) a commemorative event will be held at the Spanish National Library. Subsequently, on November 30, the date on which the chapter concluded, the opening Eucharist will be celebrated at the Monastery of the Incarnation, of the Augustinian Recollects, in Madrid.

Centennial opening in Madrid

The commemorative act of January 29 will recall the origins of the place, the importance of the fact that is remembered, and the history that the Augustinian Recollects have traveled through the centuries since its foundation in 1588. The Prior General and the president of the Institute of Spirituality and History of the Order will take part in the event, which will be presented by the director of the magazine Vida Nueva, José Beltrán.

The Monastery of the Incarnation has been the place chosen to celebrate

the opening Eucharist that will officially begin the 400th anniversary of the first general chapter. The celebration will be presided over by the Prior General, Miguel Miró, and will be attended by the major superiors, religious, members of the Augustinian Recollect family, and invited personalities.

It will be the starting point of a year in which the Order of Augustinian Recollects intends to remember the past to look to the future. The main milestone of this year of celebration will be the 56th General Chapter, which will take place from on March 1 in Rome, and the four provincial chapters will take place throughout the year 2022. The closing will be on December 5, 2022, on the 434th anniversary of the Augustinian Recollection.

“Hope for the future”

The Chapter of 1621 was summoned by order of Cardinal Antonio Sauli, protector of the Order of Saint Augustine, whom Pope Gregory XV had commissioned the execution of what was established in his brief *Militantis Ecclesiae*, of June 5, 1621. With this brief, the Pontiff elevated the Province of Augustinian Recollects to the rank of Congregation, entrusted its government to a Vicar General, and granted the new Congregation the power to organize itself in provinces, according to the geographical distribution of the

convents, according to Ángel Martínez Cuesta in the first volume of the *History of the Augustinian Recollects*.

In a letter sent to the Augustinian Recollect religious, the Prior General, Miguel Miró, assured that “this Centenary is an opportunity to let the Lord touch our hearts.” “Let’s all stop for a bit, stop along the way, take a look at these 400 years, and try to extract proposals for life and hope for the future,” he says. **RD**

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The Prior General, Miguel Miró, OAR





“Be not afraid, the Lord is with us”: Fray Miró, OAR



The Prior General presided over the opening Eucharist for the 400th anniversary of the first General Chapter, highlighting the “new horizons of life and hope” that will open up in this year of celebration.

On November 30, 1621, the first general chapter of the Augustinian Recollects concluded. Four centuries later, the Prior General, accompanied by a large group of religious and laity, presided at the opening Eucharist of the year-long celebration and commemoration of this important event. The Monastery of the Incarnation, specially prepared for the occasion, was the venue chosen by the Order for the solemn celebration in which Fray Miguel Miró encouraged the faithful to live this time in “communion, participation, and mission.”

In his homily, the Prior General of the Augustinian Recollects recalled the commemorated event asking the Lord to “infuse us with his Spirit so that today we too may respond with boldness and availability.” Just as the Augustinian religious did in 1588 and during the first chapter, and in the same way that

Saint Andrew felt it – whose feast was celebrated this Tuesday – following the example of Saint Augustine, Fray Miró encouraged us to listen to the Lord’s call: “Jesus keeps calling us as we pass by. soul of our life; his words inspire love and trust.”

Likewise, he also assured us that “this Centennial year is an opportunity for prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment.” The central moments of the year will be the chapters -general and provincial- that the Order of Augustinian Recollects will celebrate in 2022.” That is why he affirmed that “this time of grace that we begin today is in tune with the synodal process that the Church is experiencing today. The chapters open us to new horizons of life and hope,” he said. He also highlighted three keywords: “Communion, participation, and mission.”

On the other hand, he encouraged the members of the Order to be brave

in the face of difficulty. “Be not afraid, the Lord is with us. Faced with the darkness of the night or the difficulties of the road, let us not forget that the Lord uses the weakness of this world to carry out his plans,” he said. He also thanked the prayer of the contemplative Augustinian Recollects, who live in the Royal Monastery of the Incarnation and support, as they maintained in 1621, the future of the Order.

After the Eucharist, all the religious renewed their consecration to Our Lady Mother of Consolation in a simple and emotional gesture. The Marian image had been arranged on the main altar, something unusual and unique for this prayer. **RD**

Note: This article was translated from the original Spanish article posted on the official website of the Order of Augustinian Recollects (www.agustinosrecoletos.com)



The 56th General Chapter commences; capitulars elect the Council of the Chapter.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects officially began its 56th General Chapter Tuesday, March 1, in Rome, with the presence of 34 religious capitulars from 11 countries. The assembly, which is the Order’s highest authority took its first steps.

The first session saw the constitution of the Chapter’s Council. The capitulars elected Miguel Miró as Chapter president and head of the council; Miguel Ángel Hernández, as first moderator; Francisco Javier Acero, as second moderator; René Paglinawan, as counsel; and Juan Pablo Martínez, as secretary.

Committees were also formed: communications, liturgy, and messages (sending and responding). The Chapter has opened the email address capitulogeneral@oar. it to those who may wish to send messages.

The first two items in the Chapter agenda were then discussed: the Vision-Mission of the Order and the Formation and Accompaniment of the Religious, the latter item under the aspects of ongoing formation, formation of leaders, and formation of companions.

“Building the charism in this moment of grace”

Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, presided at the opening Eucharist. The Cardinal invited the capitulars to “look to the person of Jesus” to understand fraternity and community life. He also assured that he will pray during these weeks so that “the light of the Spirit will illuminate the whole Chapter” and make the



religious happy in the task of “building the charism in this moment of grace”.

The 56th General Chapter officially opened with the singing of ‘Veni Creator Spiritus’ and the greeting of the Prior General, Miguel Miro. Inviting the capitulars to speak freely during these days, he said: “Each chapter is a charismatic and ecclesial event that manifests the action of God in the life and history of our Order”. He also recalled the year-long celebration, begun last November, of the 4th centenary of the Recollection’s first General Chapter in Madrid in 1621, and aligned the celebration with the synodal process of the Church. **RD**





The 56th OAR General Chapter starts



The Chapter gathers 35 religious from 11 countries in Rome to program the strategic lines of the Order for the period 2022-2028.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects begins this Tuesday, March 1, the celebration of its 56th General Chapter, which takes place in Rome. 35 religious, coming from 11 countries, will participate in the chapter, which will set the objectives and strategic lines for the next six years.

The General Chapter, as indicated in the Constitutions of the Augustinian Recollects, is “the supreme authority of the Order” and is celebrated every six years. In a message before the meeting, the outgoing Prior General Miguel Miro has assured that they are celebrating this chapter in line with the synodal process of the Church, “with the desire to evangelize and to be in harmony with the Church”.

The opening Eucharist will be presided over by Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The General Chapter will then officially begin with the singing of the *Veni Creator* and the Prior General's greeting.

The themes to be discussed during the General Chapter are outlined in the preparatory document prepared by the pre-capitular commission. During the previous months, the work team has

tried to listen to the proposals of the religious and to gather them so that they can be taken into account.

The last general chapter, held in 2016, decided to reduce the provinces from eight to four. During the last six years, the process of the union has been carried out, guided by the words of Pope Francis in the audience he held with the previous chapter: “The Lord asks us to be his ‘creators of communion’”.

The motto chosen for this occasion is “I have come that all may have life” (Jn 10:10). With it, the Order intends to indicate the vital dynamism of the charism, which pushes to walk day by day together with the Church in the evangelizing task in the world.

The 56th General Chapter is framed within the year of commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the first General Chapter, celebrated in 1621 in Madrid. This General Chapter and the chapters of the four provinces, which will be celebrated throughout 2022, are the most important milestones of this centenary. **RD**





Miguel Ángel Hernández, new Prior General of the Augustinian Recollects



The Spanish Augustinian Recollect, born in Madrid in 1965, has been elected Prior General by the 56th General Chapter, which is being held in Rome.

The participants in the 56th General Chapter elected Miguel Ángel Hernández Domínguez as Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects on Tuesday, March 22. The Spanish religious, born in Madrid, will be in the service of the government of the Order for the period 2022-2028.

In this way, he succeeds Miguel Miro, who has held the office of Prior General for the last twelve years. Capitulars elected their new Prior General once all the ordinances have been voted. The new Superior General of the Order will now have to elect his council, which will be endorsed by the General Chapter.

Biography

Miguel Ángel Hernández Domínguez

was born in Collado Villalba (Madrid, Spain) on January 19, 1965. After completing his novitiate in Los Negrals (Madrid) and Burgos, he made his simple profession on June 24, 1989, and later, in the same place on December 10, 1988, he made his solemn profession of vows as an Augustinian Recollect. He was ordained deacon in 1989 in Madrid, at the hands of the auxiliary bishop of the same diocese, Bishop Luis Gutierrez. Months later, on June 30, 1990, also in Madrid, the Augustinian Recollect Bishop Florentino Zabalza ordained him to the priesthood.

From 1990 until 2006, Miguel Ángel Hernández carried out his pastoral work in Brazil, first in Rio de

Janeiro, then in Sao Paulo and, later, in Belém do Pará, as a formator. In the period 2000-2006, for two three-year terms, he served as Vicar Provincial. On July 20, 2006, the Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova elected him prior provincial, a position he held until 2012.

For six years, Hernandez dedicated himself to the formation of young Augustinian Recollects, first in the novitiate of Monteagudo and then in the theologate in Granada. In 2018, the religious of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova elected him prior provincial again, a task to which he was dedicating himself until this time. **RD**



Pope Francis' speech to the Augustinian Recollects

Dear Brothers:

Good morning! I am happy to welcome you on the occasion of the celebration of your General Chapter, a time of grace which embraces the whole Augustinian Recollect Family.

I thank the Prior General for his words, which give an account of the process of renewal and revitalization of your charismatic identity that you have been carrying out for several years now.

The motto that guided you in the preparation of the Chapter and is especially accompanying you during these days, is: We walk together "I have come that they may have life" (Jn 10:10).

Indeed, it is time to walk together, always forward, with our eyes and hearts centered on Jesus. In the journey that you are now undertaking – the way of synodality – in communion with the whole Church, I suggest that you contemplate once more the figure of Saint Joseph, whose solemnity we will celebrate on Saturday, and whom you venerate as Protector of the Order. I would like to highlight two aspects of this beloved saint that can also be of use to us.

In the first place, I would like that we all keep in mind that every

consecrated person, every religion, and every priest is called, like Joseph, to have a "father's heart", that is to say, a *restless heart* that shows great love and concern for the sons and daughters entrusted to him, especially the weakest, those who suffer, those who have not had the experience of fatherly love. It is a heart that refuses to rest until these brothers and sisters of ours have an encounter with the Lord; in this way, all may have life in abundance, as affirms the text that

illuminates your Chapter.

But, take note, let us not forget that we cannot be true fathers without experiencing being sons, sons of the heavenly Father. He knows what we need and He calls us. Let us not cease to turn to Him every day with confidence. He listens to us, he hears the desires and needs of our hearts, and he shows us the way to follow.

Secondly, another characteristic of St. Joseph that I would like to highlight is "creative courage". Ours are not



Image: Vatican News



easy times, we know that. They were not easy for Joseph, either. He trusted God, he trusted fully, and he offered all his abilities, his talents, his skills to serve Him. And God trusted Joseph and gave him the grace to be able to carry out the mission He entrusted to him. In the same way, today, as on the day of our consecration, we will do well to bring to the altar all that we are, and let the Lord transform it into a “living sacrifice, holy and pleasing” (Rom 12:1). And, having made this offering, we should go out on a mission with confidence, courage, and creativity. He is with us, walks beside us, and helps us to make decisions.

There is something that the Prior General has said that is happening everywhere, in all dioceses, and all religious congregations, but because it is so widespread, we cannot let it pass as if it were not happening to us. We have to take responsibility for what is happening to us. He said that there were eight provinces in the Order and now there are four. This means that, in terms of numbers, we are falling off the cliff. And this is a reality that we cannot ignore. There are thousands of explanations: that today’s youth are groping in uncertainty, that there are fewer young people than before the birth rate has gone down – that Europe and America are not giving what they use to give in terms of vocations, that we have to search in other cultures and elsewhere, however, you may put it. But there is a question that we have to ask ourselves: look at the future, project the age that you will have, and say: from four shall there be only two provinces? Don’t be afraid to ask the question. The day when there will be no more Augustinian Recollects, the day when there will not be enough priestly vocations for everyone, the day when such and such – the day when such a day comes, have we prepared the laity, have we prepared people to continue with the Church’s pastoral work? And you, have you prepared the people to continue with your spirituality, which is a gift from

God, to carry it forward? I don’t dare to be a prophet and predict the future. It worries me, I am preoccupied. I trust in the Lord, but I have to say this: let us prepare ourselves for what can happen, and let us give our charism, our gift to those who can bring it forward. Please, let us not mend things that are beyond repair because of cultural imposition. Of course, we have to keep the charism firm, we have to be firm in our life of consecration, but let us not engage in wishful thinking. And let us continue to pray that the Lord sends us vocations but that He also prepares us when our numbers diminish to entrust our gift to those who can collaborate with us.

And to ask the grace to know when and how to act as the Lord wants, not as sociologists or psychologists would put it. No, but as the Lord wants it.

I encourage you to move forward trusting in the promise of the Lord and to carry out the mission entrusted to us by God.

May God bless you, and may He bless all the members of the Augustinian Recollect family. And may the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph guide and accompany you. And please, don’t forget to pray for me. Thank you.

RD





Restructuring of provinces, six years later

The Prior General, the Priors Provincial, and the capitulars share their views on the process of the union of provinces that began in 2010.

On its third day, the 56th General Chapter analyzed one of the main decisions of the previous General Chapter: the process of restructuring the Order. The union of provinces, which began to be defined in 2010, was implemented during the sexennium 2016-2022. The capitulars reviewed the results that have taken place since 2017 when the process became effective.

The Prior General informed on the matter, along the lines of the previously-sent report on the state of the Order. In the same vein, the priors provincial shared their views, based on their visits to the communities of their respective



provinces and on their interviews with the individual religious. Likewise, the presidents of the secretariats and commissions also expressed their evaluation.

The usefulness of the Life and Mission Project, the programmatic document prepared for the first time for the 2016-2022 period, was also discussed. In the reporters' view, it is a relevant instrument for the fulfillment of most of the decisions of the General Chapter.

The heads of secretariats and commissions also considered the possibility of streamlining the Order's structures and organisms, to make

them more active and effective, in communion with the Church.

The chapter, through the work of the commissions and plenary, also considered another topic, the vision, and mission of the Order.

At the beginning of the session, the greetings sent to the General Chapter by Cardinals José Luis Lacunza, Giovanni Batista Re, and Aquilino Bocos; bishops; Augustinian Recollect religious and members of the Augustinian Recollect family were read.

The morning Eucharist was celebrated in Portuguese and presided over by Fr. Danilo Janegitz. **RD**



The message of the 56th General Chapter of the Order

We, Augustinian Recollects, coming from different countries and places, from different communities and ministries, have gathered at the 56th General Chapter to give thanks for our lived experience, to examine our present, and to discern what we want to live with passion and hope in the future.

We walk together in prayer

Every day, at the rising of the sun and its setting, we met in the place of prayer to pray together to Jesus, who always comes to us so that we may have life, and life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). We have placed our hearts in him so that he may transform them with his Spirit, so that we may love him with all our being and thus have life (cf. Dt 30:6).

We walk together like the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

As we listen to our Order's life story, we are filled with joy in contemplating what God has done in these last years, ever since, moved by the Spirit of Pentecost, we decided to follow the path of restructuring and revitalization. We were not afraid to take on challenges that overwhelmed us, that committed us to a greater identity as Augustinian Recollects, that demanded more time to pray together, that invited us to ongoing formation and conversion, that required from us a love and service that was more dedicated, generous and selfless. We decisively embraced the challenge of uniting along the way to be of one soul and one heart directed toward God (cf. St. Augustine, Rule 1:2).

We would have liked to walk faster and more firmly, but the fast ones had to wait for the slow ones, the firm could not abandon those who tarried, and the daring ones ignore



**Caminamos
Juntos
56° Capítulo
General
agustinos recoletos**

Yo he venido para que todos tengan vida (Jn 10,10)

those who back out. What started as a goal that enthused ran the risk of becoming a frustration. Then Jesus, who walks beside us, adjusted to our pace and made us see that "those who love walk because toward God we do not run with feet but with the affect" (St. Augustine, Sermon 306 B, 1; cf. Sermon 250:3; 76:6; 101:9). He helped us understand that he who travels the Way – and He is this Way – is the one who has a father's heart and "shows great love and concern for the sons and daughters entrusted to him, especially the weakest, those who suffer, those who have not had the experience of fatherly love" .. who "refuses to rest until these brothers and sisters of ours are an encounter with the Lord; in this way, all may have life in abundance, as affirms the text that illumines your Chapter". (cf. Audience of Pope Francis).

In these weeks, we have celebrated the Eucharist together every day,

eager to live the same experience of the disciples of Emmaus: to recognize Jesus at the breaking of the bread (cf. Lk 24:31), which sustains our faith, strengthens our hope and gives us eternal life (cf. Jn 6:40).

We walk together with the whole Order and with the Church

We have wanted to continue with the same thrust and determination that fired the Augustinian Recollects four hundred years ago when they celebrated the first General Chapter in 1621. They also lived through difficult times; however, they had the boldness to embark on a new adventure and, as an "Iglesia en salida" (Church on a mission), they plunged into the "mission with confidence, with courage, with creativity" (Audience of Pope Francis). In ships that sailed the seas to the Philippines; in fragile canoes that traversed the rivers to the farthest reaches of Brazil; in horses that crossed arid deserts and plains



in Colombia; amid wars, dangers, and persecutions in China and Japan; in the new foundations of Central America, South America, and Cuba, everyone said to himself: “He is with us, he walks beside us and helps us to make decisions” (Audience of Pope Francis).

Throughout our history we have been part of the Church, we have been and are Church; with her, we suffer the crises of faith, with her we are saddened by the sin that has been the cause of suffering for the weakest, the minors, and the vulnerable. With the Church, our hearts have also been filled with joy at having brothers and sisters who love and take pleasure in serving. “One sometimes meets just persons and rejoices with them; and it is necessary to rejoice, for there can be no true charity without joy” (St. Augustine, Commentary on Psalm 76, 6). In our communities, in the Order, in the Church herself, and in the face of a wounded society and world, we again want to build, re-construct, “improve, and walk together towards being a community that knows how to live forgiveness and love” (Fraternal Life in Community 26).

In our community life, we wish to care for each other and to allow ourselves to be cared for through accompaniment; we wish to show special care to our elderly and sick members and to receive from them the wisdom of their experience and with them to dream dreams (cf. Joel 3:1). Together we also want to care for creation, God’s work. We are pained and dismayed by the damage it has suffered in recent years and we join in the commitment to ecology, so we can continue admiring and contemplating the beauty of our world and the universe. We will take care of creation because in its beauty we see the beauty of our God (cf. Conf. 11:4).

We walk together as an Augustinian Recollect family

We know that those who want

to block our way are not those who rebuke us for our weaknesses or those who reject our faith and persecute it, but those who, being discouraged themselves, tempt us to join their ranks; those who try to convince us that it is not worth our while to sail forth and to take the risk in treading new paths, those who want us to disregard what God asks us to do and what Jesus calls us to each day.

We have always been witnesses of those who walked beside us, and of the many who joined us along the way. We have felt secure, convinced that it was we who supported them, who evangelized them, who guaranteed with our guidance and knowledge the goodness of their relationship with God in the contemplative life. But we all walk together, they and we, nuns, missionaries, faithful lay Christians, men and women, who alongside us have felt strongly for the way of Augustine, for the Recollect aim of going further and higher for the sake of the Gospel. We cannot but highlight the great number and the excellence of women who have joined us in the cause of the Gospel and fraternity. Their future prominence in the Augustinian Recollect family fills us with hope. For all this, we cannot but give thanks to God.

It does not matter so much if we Augustinian Recollects become fewer as the years go by. It does matter that with the laity we become more permeated with Augustinian spirituality, with the love for the charism that asks us to live in unity, as Saint Augustine asked, and to aspire to surrender to God and the brothers without conditions, as the initiators of the Recollection wanted. As long as there are in the Church those who are infected with our charism, be they religious or secular Augustinian Recollects, our charism, which we proclaim to be a treasure, will not be lost (cf. Audience of Pope Francis). The

hostile outsiders and the doomsday insiders “if they find Christians who defend the weak, courageously proclaim their faith, freely profess it, are prudent in teaching it and charitable in instructing others, they will keep silent, believe me, for they have nothing to say” (St. Augustine, Sermon 306 B, 7).

By walking with the laity in the way of synodality and sharing with them our spirituality and charism, the magisterium of St. Augustine, and the renewing élan of the Recollection, we will live on in the Church and the world. Our experience in the Church will be that of one who lives fraternity, in communion of heart and soul, that of one who is concerned about the brother at risk of straying to encourage him to return, and that of one who, in humility, goes to the contemplative nuns and secular fraternities to allow himself to be challenged and called out. We will then be living a common history of growth, permanent formation, and mutual accompaniment. As we walk we pray that we have by our side the strength of the Spirit to push and encourage us to move forward, to give us the courage to face our fears and confidence in our strength to overcome our weaknesses.

We walk together attentive to humanity

In this General Chapter, we have felt the need for the Order and for each one of the friars to open our ears and eyes to what is happening beyond our path: the cries of the poor, of the helpless, of the victims of the pandemic, of the abused and vulnerable minors, of the dead, wounded and displaced by wars, of the forgotten minorities whose cries do not reach us. Millions of people have already fallen victim to the violence of the ambitious, trampled underfoot by those who have grasped power to impose their interests and ideologies.



Seeing and listening leads us to be committed to being with them and to remain at their side. These times of uncertainty and darkness that the world is experiencing are telling us that the will of God, the Father of us all, is that we walk together, because only by leaning on each other can we help the world to find Peace.

We walk and we continue to walk together

As we end our 56th General Chapter we thank those who have devoted themselves to the service of the whole Order during these last six years that are coming to a close and all those who have contributed to the holding of this chapter, those who have sent messages of support and have prayed for the chapter, and those who have remained manning the ministries and performing the duties while the chapter was being held.

We also wish that this chapter message, which we send to the entire Augustinian Recollect family, may help “that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name” (Jn 20:31).

May Mary, who gathered with the apostles and other women to pray (cf. Acts 1:14), who was with the believers on the day of Pentecost to receive the Holy Spirit, and whom we invoke with the title of Mother of Consolation, pray to God the Father and her Son for the whole Augustinian Recollect family. **RD**

The 56th General Chapter in Pictures





TIMELINE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



May 16, 2022—Most Rev. Jose S. Palma, D.D., Archbishop of Cebu presided over the Mass of the Holy Spirit on the first day of the 8th Provincial Chapter, together with the concelebrating capitular father. The bishop challenged the capitulars to embrace the spirit of synodality that Pope Francis has constantly exhorted the faithful, “ ... spirit of community, participation, and mission should be maintained. What better way to proclaim as a church and as a religious than to be examples of communion first to God and then to one another?”

May 17, 2022—The second day was the election of the new Prior Provincial of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province.

The president of the chapter requested the chapter secretary to present the shortlist of the ternary for the election of the prior provincial. The ternary elected by the religious members of the province were: Frays Leander Barrot, Bernard Amparado, and Ian Anthony Espartero. After three rounds of voting, Fray Bernard Amparado was elected as the new prior provincial of the province. Fray Amparado subsequently accepted his election as the new prior provincial.

Recollection facilitated by Fr. Elias Ayuban, CMF, was the second part of the day’s schedule. The first conference centered on the themes “Walking Together” and where God is calling us; followed up by a talk on themes of departures, stops, audacity and mission hopes.



May 19, 2022—Day 3 began the information and discussion phase. Fr. Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr. was the moderator of the morning session. Representing the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality, Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, Head of the Section for Spirituality, and Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, President of the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality presented the respective secretariat’s implementation of the ordinances proper to their section. Frays Kenneth Onda and James Castelo added information relative to the formation of formators and the province’s program for ongoing formation. The afternoon session was dedicated to the report of the Commission of Social and Ecological Concerns and ARCORES-Filipinas.



May 20, 2022—The information and discussion phase continued. The current situation of the Recollect Augustinian Youth in the Philippines was presented by Fray Emmanuel Bolilia. The National Vocation Director (NVD) and Head of the Section for Vocation Ministry graphically presented how the NVD and the local promoters work hand in hand to plan and implement the modality of the vocation campaign for Recollect religious and priestly life. Later in the morning, the Section for Ministerial and Mission Apostolates presented their accomplishment reports. Fr. Edgar Tubio, head of the said section, gave an update on the possible mission and mission-like territories offered to the Recollects by local ordinaries. Some missionaries present during the chapter also shared their experiences in the mission.

May 21, 2022—On the fifth day, the chairmen of the Province’s Commission on Communications and Publications—Recoletos (CCP-R), Commission on History, Culture, and Heritage-Recoletos CoHCH-R), and Commission for the Protection of Minors presented their reports to the capitulars. Added to these reports were updates on BasteCon and the status of RESOURCE-Handumanan Foundation.

May 22, 2022—The Chapter’s information and discussion phase was concluded.



May 23, 2022—After an exhausting first week of reporting and discussions, the capitulars had a day off. They spent the day visiting pilgrim places and had a relaxing afternoon in Moalboal beach.

May 24, 2022—Commission Phase of the Chapter began. The capitulars were organized into smaller commissions to design determinations aligned with the vision, mission, and objectives of the 56th General Chapter of the Order and the 8th Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. Assigned commission groups started to study, deliberate, and craft alternative proposals for the priority objective of the province.



May 25, 2022—The second day of the commission phase was dedicated to finalizing the priority objective of the Province for the next triennium. Alternative versions of the priority objectives of the province were presented to the body. After a long deliberation, the version prepared by the Commission on Spirituality and Charism was taken up as a guide as the capitular fathers crafted the determinations of the province as it faces the challenges of the years to come.

May 26, 2022—Deliberations commenced in the afternoon session of the 10th day. Two commissions presented their proposals: The Commission on Governance and Economy with twenty-nine proposals and the Commission on Initial and Permanent Formation with eleven proposals.

May 27, 2022—During the morning sessions, all the commissions completed the reading of their proposed determinations. The afternoon session was dedicated to the reading of the proposed message of the chapter and the proposed organizational chart of the province drafted by the Commission on Governance and Economy. At 4:50 p.m., the second presentation and voting of the determination commenced.



May 28, 2022—The approval of the actas was followed by the second reading and voting for chapter determinations. Proposals of the Commission on Vocation and Youth (9) and the Commission on Spirituality and Charism (8) were approved by the capitulars. The Life and Mission Project of the Province for the triennium 2022-2025 was concluded and now ready for promulgation and dissemination. With the direction of the province for the next triennium in place, came next was the approval and signing of documents: 1) endorsement of the dedication of the Atrium in Bulwagang Recoletos to Fray German Chicote, OAR, as recognition for his invaluable contributions to the formation of the Filipino Recollect identity, 2) petition to the Vatican for the endorsement of the Canonical Coronation of the almost 400-year-old image of Nuestra Senora de la Salud. The afternoon session began with the solemn confirmation of the new prior provincial. The final session was the election of the councilors of the new prior provincial. Chosen and approved by the capitular were: Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda (Vicar of the Province), Fray Leander Barrot, (2nd Councilor), Fray Anthony Morillo (3rd Councilor) and Fray Rafael Pecson (4th Councilor). **RD**



PROVINCE OF SAINT EZEQUIEL MORENO

8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Cardinal Eduardo F. Pironio¹ said that “a chapter is always a paschal celebration”. That is why its essential framework must be in the context of Easter, with all that Easter implies of cross and hope, of death and resurrection. A chapter is not a simple study meeting, a superficial encounter or a momentary revision of life. It has a great component of Paschal novelty, of new creation in the Spirit, and of firm and committed hope.

What makes a chapter “paschal” is undoubtedly our attitude, because we must not forget that, for something new to be born, we must first dream it, imagine it, desire it. And this desired dream must then be designed and concretized by all of us. The future belongs to the great dreamers, to those who have nothing to lose, to defend or to keep.

What attitudes are necessary to celebrate a chapter correctly, to make it a paschal event? Basically, three attitudes are asked of us:

Attitude of poverty: Of detachment. Of knowing that we are not in control of everything, neither of the times nor of the decisions, because we are in the hands of others and all are in the hands of God. The poor feel they are in open field, unprotected and therefore necessarily open to the surprises of each day. This dependence on God and on our brothers must make us, who aspire to incarnate this spirit of poverty, banish any attitude of arrogance, self-sufficiency, domination or imposition. The poor person is one who necessarily always has to count on others, to hope in others, to trust in others, because he knows that he does not depend on himself and this leads him to be humble of heart.

Attitude of prayer: This is the environment wherein the Chapter must develop, in a climate of prayer, which is the only possible atmosphere for the exercise of discernment.



Prayer that implies an attitude of listening: “Here I am Lord, speak, for your servant is listening”. Prayer that implies the sincere desire that God’s will prevail above all else: “your will and not mine be done”. Prayer that means docility to the Spirit of the Lord: “he was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted”. Prayer that means taking off our shoes, laying aside our securities and resistances, having our feet grounded on reality but our heart in God, and that means also being aware that each one of us here present is sacred ground, ground that God makes germinate with his presence. “Take your shoes off because the ground you tread is sacred”.

Putting the chapter and the decisions it makes in

¹ Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in 1975-1984 – translator’s note.



God's hands means giving the Lord the lead role and the place that He deserves, and letting Him, rather than our interests, move the strings of our history.

Attitude of fraternal charity: We are not holding a championship match or a competition out of which there must be winners and losers. Ours is not an arm-wrestling journey to see who is the strongest and most capable in imposing his ideas. A chapter is a meeting of brothers who seek the best for their family, based on the criteria of the Gospel. A meeting of brothers, sometimes with different ways of thinking, of seeing things and of understanding life, because each one has had different life journeys and lived different life-experiences that make us see things differently and therefore we must respect this variety of ideas, proposals, thoughts, etc.

A provincial chapter is God passing through our lives and inviting us to grow in authenticity and fidelity in living our Augustinian Recollect charism.

The Chapter is a fundamental instrument to gauge the religious life of our communities, and to recognize where we are, where we want to go, to check if we have significantly deviated during the four-year period or if we have simply remained half-way or stopped altogether. The Chapter is an instrument, perhaps the most important one, in the road to renewal, and the one that should direct us how to proceed, what to prioritize, what to insist on, so that the distance between what our religious profession calls us to and where we actually are in our concrete and limited response may increasingly be shortened.

This Provincial Chapter is being held just two months after the General Chapter and we are all aware that we must keep in mind the decisions of the General Chapter in order to walk in communion with the LAMP of the Order. *[It was] a chapter that has reinforced and insisted on the need to continue building a project of communion that generates life, because communion cannot only be the objective of a sexennium, but it must always be our task, our constant challenge and also our main mission. Communion that is in the essence of our charismatic identity and that today is presented to the world under the name of synodality.*

What aspects must we ever keep in our sights if we want to walk in communion with the whole Order? Five aspects:

1. Accompaniment and ongoing formation

We often worry about how to be effective administrators in the management, records-keeping or other departments of our schools or universities. I know that our schools are nationally recognized for their excellent teaching, structures and organization. This should make us feel very proud, because there is behind all this a lot of effort, work, dedication, commitment as well as investment and financial sacrifices; the same could be said of our parishes.

But I would like to remind you that our goal is not only to be good professionals, excellent officials, well prepared, well trained, with optimal governance and leadership skills, with masters and degrees. This can all be acquired in business administration courses, or in pedagogical careers, etc. We are called to be disciples and this can only be learned at the feet of the Master. That is why we need accompaniment. Obviously, accompaniment does not consist in filling our heads with ideas and information, but in making our hearts attuned to the feelings of Christ, and for this we need teachers experienced in the art of discernment who walk by our side and help us understand the ways of the Spirit.

And who needs to be accompanied: the friars in formation, the young friars, the friars who have had problems, the friars who are in crisis? Yes, they too, but accompaniment is for everyone, from the Prior General, to the Prior Provincial and his council, to the most recently professed friar. We all need to open our hearts, lay aside our resistances and in the light of God allow the Holy Spirit to accompany and guide us through brothers more experienced than "me" in the life of the Spirit. Because we must not forget that our reason for being in religious life is not only to be good professionals, but primarily to be holy religious. Let us remember the words Pope Francis said about the danger of not having a companion in religious life: *"We cease to be pilgrims and become wanderers, always going around ourselves, without getting anywhere"* (EG. 170). *Only through a process of true accompaniment, as Pope Francis says, can we find the paths of genuine growth, awaken the desire for the Christian ideal, the yearning to respond fully to the love of God, and the longing to develop the best that God has sown in our own lives* (EG 171).

This Provincial Chapter of St. Ezekiel, which we are starting, must support these initiatives, adapt them and propose others it deems necessary and complement those proposed by the General Chapter.

We have to make it clear that accompaniment is one thing and ongoing formation is quite another. It is possible to have a very well-organized ongoing formation in the Province while having a big deficiency in the area of accompaniment.

2. Placing our charism in the hands of our laity

This was the challenge that Pope Francis launched in the special audience he gave to the General Chapter participants: placing the charism in the hands of the laity, not out of necessity, but out of conviction. Not because we are fewer (perhaps this is not so patent in the Province of St. Ezekiel, where most of the religious are young and there are vocations), but because what we love cannot be kept under lock and key, it must be shared, made known and spread. This has very clear implications: we need to form the laity of our apostolates very well, especially those who



want to share our charism: Secular Fraternity, RAY, etc. And we need to accompany the faith processes of those who work with us.

Our concern cannot be only to have manpower for our initiatives, our pastoral work: catechists, coordinators, group leaders... we have to be concerned about the person of each of our catechists: How is their faith life? Are they growing in their Christian life process? Are they maturing? I believe this is a new and great challenge in understanding shared mission; it a big task that we face as well because I think in the universal Church accompaniment of those we call our collaborators is generally quite neglected. We often have a nice friendship with these people, we have a good time with them, we go out to dinner together, but we do not enter into their life of faith. And the Lord calls us as religious, inadequate instruments that we are, so that his saving action may reach all these people through us. The catechists, for example, who are the channel of grace for our children, adolescents and young people, should be the first to benefit from the work they do. They take care of our children, adolescents and young people and their families, they dedicate many hours in organizing meetings and gatherings... but who takes care of the catechists? It is not a question of offering them a course or workshops to equip them better. That is not the question, but it is about taking care of their spiritual health and accompanying them on the journey of faith. They may be working as catechists, but we know nothing about their family and work situation. Sometimes they smile at us, but deep down they are dying; they may be giving catechesis but at the same time undergo a strong crisis of faith. Those who work with us in pastoral ministry or in our schools have to be accompanied.

3. Arcores and social action in the Order and the Provinces

We are progressing a lot, fast and well. We are very happy with the work done by Arcores within the Order but we want more, we do not want to rest content with what we have achieved so far. The Lord is giving us much and we have to freely give what we freely receive. I would like that the concern for the poor, for the most disadvantaged of society, be in the Order's DNA, that this concern becomes something essential in our way of understanding Augustinian Recollect life, meaning that the concern and commitment to the poor take more root in our living of the charism. That being Augustinian Recollects cannot be understood apart from being interested in our brothers and sisters. I know that it is proper of any baptized person, but I hope that we grow in sensitivity, commitment and dedication to those who are the preferred ones in the Kingdom. The General Chapter made many decisions about Arcores – nine, if my

memory serves me. We cannot ignore in the Province the importance that the Order wants to give to our solidarity network and our work with the poorest of society.

4. Care of minors and vulnerable persons

It is an area wherein much progress has been made in the Order in recent years and I would dare to say that in many things we have been pioneers and are ahead of many Orders and congregations much larger than ours.

I do not want us to run the risk of this topic being only the concern of the provincial and his council and much less that it only preoccupies us when problems arise with a fellow religious. I ask you to make all the documents that the Order possesses become reality in our communities and pastoral work. What have you done in the parish, in the school, in the seminary, in the apostolate wherein you work, so that our environments are safe and so that the people who are with our minors are not a threat but a guarantee of safety and good conduct?

And I would like to add a topic, which the General Chapter may not have treated principally but I believe that we cannot leave aside:

5. Recollect identity of our parishes

We have to implement the Order's pastoral guide in our parish ministries. I am tired of hearing that parishes have to follow the diocesan guidelines. That is true and no one objects to that, but one can follow the directives of the Diocese as any diocesan priest or as an Augustinian Recollect. Is there any diocese that prohibits Secular Fraternities, or youth groups related to our charism, or Augustinian spiritual exercises or Augustinian prayer workshops? Is there any Diocese that bans a course on the Confessions of St. Augustine or the celebration of Augustinian saints in the liturgy? I don't know of any, and if there is, we should consider leaving it because it does not allow us to exercise our ministry from our Augustinian Recollect identity. Generally, there are no major conflicts of interest between the Order and the Dioceses; what exist are numerous excuses from those who do not want to work too much and have settled for giving the minimum required to our parishioners. If you love the charism, if you are convinced that it is worth dedicating your life to, if you are in love with your vocation, you will feel the desire to make it known. Our parishes, always in communion with the bishop and following his program and pastoral plan, should have an increasingly Augustinian character. And the Augustinian character is that of welcome, fraternity, teamwork, that manner so peculiarly ours of being family, of interiority, of search for truth and wisdom through formation and study, and of commitment with the most disadvantaged and with evangelization and of course the communion with the local



church.

It is my wish that, as the motto of the General Chapter says, we walk together. It is not only the Philippines that has to learn from the rest of the Order. It is the rest of the Order that has and must learn from the Recollection in the Philippines. We need to export from the Philippines to the world, to the whole Recollect geography, all the initiatives that work here and that help us to live our charism better. For that to happen, there must be a close collaboration between the Provinces with the General Curia and among all of them with each other, as well as a great desire to contribute with our best practices in building the Order, which also aspires to live the spirit of the synodality.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother of Consolation, and St. Ezekiel Moreno help us to arrive together at the most adequate decisions and proposals needed by the Province to continue advancing in evangelization, communion, revitalization and authentic living of our Augustinian Recollect charism. **RD**

I DECLARE THE 8th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF SAINT EZEQUIEL MORENO OPEN.

HOMILY: MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

8th Provincial Chapter

MOST REV. JOSE PALMA, D.D.
Archbishop of Cebu

Querido hermano, el Prior General, Reverendo Padre Miguel Angel Hernández, Prior Provincial, Fr. Dionisio Selma, Fr. Leopoldo Estioko, the prior of USJ-R community, and to you, our dear brother participants of the 8th Provincial Chapter... I would like to manifest my desire to be united with you in prayer as you come to this propitious and significant event—the 8th provincial chapter.

I would like to assure you that, in my humble way, I pray to the same spirit that has journeyed in the church for a thousand years now, that he continues to be present with you to make this provincial chapter truly a fruitful one.

I was thinking what a propitious moment to hold the provincial chapter in the context of the recent as well as the forthcoming events in the life of your community. We know, for instance, you have just celebrated your 400 years of presence in Cebu. That certainly is a very significant event. We are also aware of how the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish celebrated its golden anniversary last year 2021. We are also aware that in 2022 we celebrated the diamond jubilee of our own beloved University of San Jose Recoletos. We also celebrated the 65th anniversary of the SARF of our Lady of Mount Carmel chapter. So, when I think of 2021-2022, I can only glorify the Lord because all 3 of these are fruits of the 500 years of evangelization (YOC). This latter celebration culminated just this April, yet the year of grace continues until and beyond 2022. And so, when I mentioned the wonderful event in the life of the OAR, my reminder is for you to continue gracing and thanking the Lord for the gift of these marvelous events within 400 years of presence in Cebu.



OAR Friars singing the morning praise.



I do believe there is grace in these events. Thus, we include in our celebrations sincere and joyful thanksgiving to the Lord for these marvelous events. As we look back with gratitude, we are reminded that these are gifts to the Order. Starting with that precious wonderful gift of our father St. Augustine— his love for the church and what he has done for the church. All these translated into the formation of many communities that have become part of the wonderful Augustinian family—you—among the more recognized and devoted members of that community. We thank the Lord that through the years you have been faithful to that charism.

When I think of your presence and your ministry, I continue to thank the Lord for the many parishes you have created (almost 11). I know that you are very much a part of that journey toward a stable, balanced, and long-lasting church. You are very much a part of the making of this community. 4 When I think of your contribution to evangelization, formation, and education, you would readily give us statistics of many graduates from your academic institutions who are now professionals. These have become part of that huge Christian community that profited from your training and formation and are now active participants in the building of our communities.

When I think of space [even before and more so when I became a bishop, I have been coming to this place; I can close my eyes and not be lost in this house] you have provided us a place of familiarity and encounter with God's presence. This house of prayer certainly accommodates us in an ambiance of prayer. We often associate high places with meeting God. I am sure, that people who come here really felt God's calling to intimacy. And I am sure that this is part of your contribution for which, I repeat, is an occasion to thank the Lord.

We start with gratitude in the context of the provincial chapter.

Knowing what a chapter is, I am sure, your prayer is to be in touch with God, to be led by Him in your ministry, and to be thankful for the wonderful events especially the celebration of the 500 years of Christianity. The exhortation of Pope Francis is likewise a wonderful aid to set the ambiance of the chapter. His invitation to embrace the spirit of synodality. The spirit of community, participation 5, and mission should be maintained. What better way to proclaim as a church and a religious than to be examples of communion first to God and then to one another?

Yesterday's gospel was a tribute to the praise of the early Christian community because they loved one another. There was communion. I think, people also seek that communion from us. Also in Acts, the first community was imaged to have strived to be united with God and to be in communion with one another. If we can offer to people authentic communion, then the chapter becomes very meaningful and significant. This means that we honestly and sincerely need to appreciate each other on a personal level. We are not only to tolerate each other. When we are able to appreciate each other—thanking the Lord for the gift of personality and individuality, we also are able to appreciate our contribution to and participation in the community.

Whenever, I think of St. Ezekiel Moreno, I think of Palawan. In one of the thanksgiving masses I attended, I recall that the driver had placed three spare tires in his jeepney. I wondered why there were three when normally, there would only be one. Traveling to our destination, almost a ninety-kilometer distance, we had three tire breakdowns. He needed to change the tires three times due to bad road conditions. My point 6 is, how challenging it was during the time of St. Ezekiel. What other difficulties there would have been during St. Ezekiel's times? This missionary spirit of St. Ezekiel should always be present



today. We hope and pray that what we do now will bring conversion, hope, and growth in the far-flung barangays.

I join you in prayer. I do believe in the openness of your heart and your missionary desires. You have been in this wonderful family in the spirit of mission. These missionary endeavors are your ways of saying, "O God, on our own we can do little if not nothing. We need your grace, guidance, and love. We need you because only you— God knows what is best for us and the people."

In a spirit of trust, we ask the intercession of Mama Mary, St. Augustine, Joseph, and St. Ezekiel Moreno, and your patron saints. In a spirit of humility, we ask for the grace of God through the Holy Spirit.

I may be out of sight after the coffee break, but my heart remains with you in prayer for a fruitful provincial chapter. **RO**



PARTICIPANTS 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Fray Miguel Angel Hernandez	Prior General/Chapter President
Fray Dinisio Selma	Outgoing Prior Provincial
Fray Bernard Amparado	Prior Provincial-elect
Fray Ian Anthony Espartero	Vicar of the Province
Fray William Emilito Villaflor	2nd Councilor
Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia	3rd Councilor
Fray Edgar Tubio	4th Councilor
Fray Ernil Jose Almayo	Provincial Secretary



DELEGATES TO THE EIGHT PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Local Priors	Formation Apostolate	Educational Apostolate	Ministries of Palawan, Tambo, Surigao and Pangasinan
Fray Leopoldo Estioko Fray Paulino Dacanay	Fray James Castelo Fray Joseph Trayvilla Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda	Fray Henry Santiago Fray Christopher Maspara Fray Romeo Ben Potencio Fray Anthony Morillo Fray Rafael Pecson	Fray Regino Bangcaya
Religious Brothers	Ministerial Apostolate	Vocation and Youth Ministry	Mission Apostolate
Fray Feliciano Campomanes, Jr.	Fray Rene Paglinawan Fray Nino Cesar Ruiz ray Roderick Deguit Fray Jay Parilla	Fray Allan Jacinto	Fray Corvin Maturan Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo Fray Russel Lapidez



COMMISSIONS OF THE EIGHT PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

GOVERNANCE & ECONOMY <small>(Protection of Minors, Patrimony, Communications)</small>	INITIAL & PERMANENT FORMATION	EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL APOSTOLATE
Fray Dionisio Selma Fray Miguel Angel Hernández Fray Romeo Ben Potencio Jr. Fray Leopoldo Estioko Fray Bernard Amparado	Fray Ian Anthony Espartero Fray James Castelo Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda Fray Joseph Philip Trayvilla Fray René Paglinawan	Fray Henry Santiago Fray William Emilito Villaflor Fray Rafael Pecson Fray Anthony Morillo Fray Cristopher Maspara
MISSION, MINISTERIAL, & SOCIAL APOSTOLATE	VOCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY	SPIRITUALITY & CHARISM
Fray Roderick Deguit Fray Corvin Maturan Fray Edgar Tubio Fray Russell Lapidez Fray Jay Parilla	Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia Fray Feliciano Campomanes Jr. Fray Allan Jacinto Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo	Fray Jose Ernil Almayo Fray Paulino Dacanay Fray Regino Bangcaya Fray Niño Cesar Ruiz





“The Church rejoices and celebrates” - Bishop Bacani says on Fray Bitancor’s Presbyteral Ordination

FRAY JAMES FRANCIS BAGO, OAR

Mira Nila, QUEZON CITY—An Augustinian Recollect deacon was ordained to the Sacred Order of Presbyterate on Saturday, December 4, 2021, a day before the 433rd founding anniversary of the Augustinian Recollection, at Our Lady of Consolation Parish.

Most Rev. Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., DD, Bishop-Emeritus of Novaliches, officiated the Presbyteral Ordination, together with Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, Vicar of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, Fray Hector Gonzales, OAR, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Consolation Parish, the members of Formation Team of Recoletos Formation Center, and other OAR priests from different communities in Luzon.

Fray Ramon Buslon Bitancor III, OAR, 27 years old, hails from Tagbilaran City, Bohol. After the period of long seminary years of formation, he is the only one in his batch who offered his entire self to God as he was solemnly consecrated to the presbyteral rank.

Since there was already a low risk of contamination from the COVID-19 virus, the event was attended in person by a good number of Augustinian Recollect friars and sisters, Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity members, Recollect



Augustinian Youth and the parents of the candidate. It was also aired via Facebook live for those who were not able to attend in person.

Fray Bitancor with his parents who were present during his Presbyteral Ordination.

Bishop Bacani, in his homily, addressed the ordinandus, “Rev. Ramon, on the day of your ordination it is not you alone who rejoices and celebrate, the Church rejoices and celebrates,” said the bishop. He also pointed out the reason why we celebrate, that the ordination is worth rejoicing for the Church. The good Bishop also quoted a phrase from St. Augustine as he said, “Your ordination is for you to help you come nearer to the Lord but it is even more for the Church, St. Augustine said it beautifully, ‘with you I am a Christian, for you, I am a bishop, the first is a title of honor, the second a duty...’ how happy we are to you, come forward to the Church, to serve not in your name but to serve the Lord Jesus.”

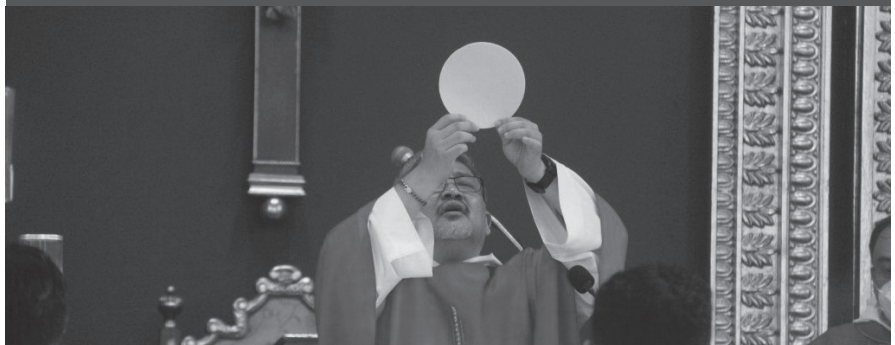
After the communion, the newly ordained priest delivered his words of gratitude emotionally as he thanked the Order, the Province, the communities where he was assigned, his parents, relatives, and friends. Lastly, he is forever grateful to the Almighty Father that in his journey he is definitely not alone despite being the only ordinandus on this special day of his life. Before the final blessing, Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, awarded the parents the Plaque of Appreciation, for generously offering their son the Augustinian Recollect way of life. After which, he announced to the public the patente, the official document stating where he is to be assigned. Fray Bitancor will live and work in the community of brothers of Our Lady of Visitation Parish-Recoletos, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan. **RD**

RST Celebrates Mass of the Holy Spirit

FRAY RAFAEL MARTIN MUSA, OSA

MIRA NILA HOMES, Quezon City–The Recoletos School of Theology (RST) celebrated its Mass of the Holy Spirit at Our Lady of Consolation Parish last August 26, 2022.

The celebration was presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Bernard Cañada Amparado, OAR, the newly elected prior provincial of the Augustinian Recollect Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. Also, present concelebrating in the Eucharistic celebration were Rev. Fr. Ian Anthony R. Espartero, OAR, Dean of Studies of RST, and Rev. Fr. Mark Rochelle F. Renacia, OAR, Rector and President of RST. They were also joined by some of the professors and formators of the students.



In his homily, Fr. Amparado pointed out that “a good person is someone who conquers with the action of the Holy Spirit and so he encouraged the students to respond to His promptings by allowing Him to work in them.” After the homily, the professors, led by Fr. Espartero had their profession of faith. And before the final blessing was given, the newly elected officers of the RST Students’ Forum came forward for their oath-taking. It was then followed by the official declaration of the Academic Year 2022-2023 by Fr. Renacia. Afterward, the students and formators enjoyed a simple snack prepared for them.

Present during the said event were the students of theology from the different religious congregations, pious unions, and dioceses who are enrolled in RST – from the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR), Order of St. Augustine Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu (OSA), Emmanuel Servant of the Holy Trinity (ESHT), Servants of Charity (SdC), PACEM Missionaries, Dominican Missionaries for the Deaf Apostolate, Marian Missionaries of the Holy Cross (MMHC), Marian Society of the Holy Redeemer (MSHR), Franciscans Sons of Mercy, Clerical Congregation of the Korean Martyrs (BMC), Society of Catholic Apostolate, Order of St. Benedict Celestines (OSB- Cel.), Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SCJ), and students from the Diocese of Tandag and the Diocese of Urdaneta. **RD**



Seminarians donate blood a second time

BRO. JESSE MEER E. ALIPES

After two years, the Baguio General Hospital Medical Center (BGHMC) conducted a blood donation drive at Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary last March 13, 2020.

The BGHMC headed by Dr. Aurelia Navarro, MD in partnership with Asin Health Center harvested 25 bags of blood; just three bags shy from the last collection last June 17, 2020.

“I was nervous because, for the first time, I experienced being inserted with a large needle,” said Bro. Palmis. “Yet, I am happy, because I was able to help others who are in need.”

Bro. Janrhey Palmis, a first-year college seminarian, is one of the 25 seminarians who qualified for blood donation out of 34 formands who volunteered.

First Blood. Bro. Janrhey Palmis (middle) is one of the first-time donors during the donation drive.

The beneficiaries of blood donation are cancer patients, bleeders, accident and trauma patients, elective surgery patients, patients with anemia, and patients undergoing dialysis.

Nurse Dolly Ocampo, RN explained how the pandemic affected the number of blood donations and the demand for it is still constant.

“Because of the virus, people feared coming to the hospital for fear of infection, causing a deficit of blood donations,” said Nurse Ocampo of Asin Health Center.

Since the start of the pandemic, the BGHMC in coordination with different barangay health centers holds mobile blood donations to different communities to answer the need for blood.

Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary is the first community visited by the medical team for the year 2022.

Hoping for More

Due to the subsequent lockdowns imposed on the seminary, BGHMC failed to come back for another blood donation.

“Thankfully, we are already on alert level one and everything is going back to normal,” said Nurse Ocampo, and expressed her hope to come back after three months.

When fractioned into plasma, platelets, and red blood cells, a bag of blood could benefit up to 3 patients at a time, said Roselyn Reyes, Medical Technologist III of BGHMC.

But Ms. Reyes also confided that blood donation is beneficial not only to the beneficiary but also to the donor.

“Blood donation helps not only the patient but also the one who donates,” she said, “, especially with men who do not have the natural capacity to menstruate,” she added.

Mr. Jovencio Lastian explains to Bro. Ken Joshua Manalo the do’s and don’ts after blood donation. Wounded Soldiers. Brother seminarians pose before the camera after blood donation. **RD**

14 Simply Professed Friars renew their vows

FRAY LLOYD JOREM TERANIA, OAR

MIRA NILA HOMES, Quezon City-Fourteen simply professed friars of Recoletos Formation Center renew their simple profession of vows as a religious of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. Their renewal was received at St. Thomas de Villanova last June 20, 2022, by Fray Lauro V. Larlar, OAR, the outgoing Local Prior with two other witnesses Fray Ian Anthony R. Espartero, OAR, in coming RFC Local Prior and Fray Joseph Kenneth



L. Onda, OAR the outgoing Master of the Professed and the newly elected Vicar of the Province.

Fray Espartero pointed out in his homily that despite being a sinner they are loved, delighted, and cherished by God, who gifted them with the vocation to religious life.

The following are the newly renewed friars:

Fray Ivan C. Cuison, OAR from Baguio City;

Fray Jhyryx Vincent F. Gamulo, OAR from Bayawan City, Negros Oriental;

Fray Helfrid D. Palmis, OAR from Ayungon, Negros Oriental;

Fray Rey Jay Y. Quevedo, OAR from San Agustin, Surigao;

Fray Jhoben M. Rodriguez, OAR from Brooke's Point, Palawan;

Fray Neil Robert M. Alilain, OAR from Talisay City, Negros Occidental;

Fray Mark Joseph F. Quirante, OAR from Quezon City;

Fray Joseph Neil E. Baygan, OAR Jagna, Bohol;

Fray James G. Esplanada, OAR from Cainta, Rizal;

Fray Judd C. Galinato, OAR from Guindulman, Bohol;

Fray John Arnold P. Lozada, OAR from Zamboanga City;

Fray Roldan T. Benemerito, OAR Badian, Cebu;

Fray Lloyd Jorem E. Terania, OAR from Bayawan City, Negros Oriental; and

Fray James Francis M. Bago, OAR from Banga, South Cotabato.

There are all in all 16 simply professed friars, Fray Mc Airel S. Capinpin, OAR, from Brooke's Point, Palawan, renewed his vows last June 15, 2022, while Fray Chrislean Rey R. Pamilaga, OAR, from Rizal, Palawan, renewed his vows last December 31, 2021. **RO**

RST holds Solemn Investiture with new Prior General and Prior Provincial

FRAY LLOYD JOREM TERANIA, OAR

MIRA-NILA, Quezon City – June 3, 2022, was a meaningful day for the graduating students of Recoletos School of Theology (RST). Rev. Fr. Bernard C. Amparado, OAR, the Prior Provincial-elect and the new RST Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presided over the mass alongside Fr. Miguel Angel Hernandez, the new Prior General together with the seminary formators. For the first time in the history of the Recoletos School of Theology, the Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, attended the graduation rites and Solemn Investiture of the school.

The rite of Solemn Investiture was headed by Fr. Leander Barrot, OAR, (RST Rector), Fr. Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR (RST Dean of Studies), and Fr. Rodel Aligan, OP (UST-Manila Dean of the Faculty of Ecclesiastical Studies). Professors and formators from different religious congregations, orders, and pious congregations were also present at the ceremony.





Six (6) graduates for the Master of Theology (MAT) degree program:

Only one (1) graduated from the original batch this year:

Bro. Nguyen Thanh Hoai, SCJ, from Vietnam

Thesis Title: Reconciliation, a Way of Doing Mission in Vietnam: The Case of Filial Piety

Adviser: Fr Edgar Javier, SVD, SThD

Three (3) of the graduates of the MAT program came from the Order of the Augustinian Recollects:

Fray Jhoben M. Rodriguez, OAR (Cum Laude)

Thesis Title: The Holy Eucharist as a Sacrament of Unity: A Response to Individualism in Catholic Filipino Family

Adviser: Fr. Dexter Austria, OP, SThD

Fray Jhyryx Vincent F. Gamulo, OAR

Thesis Title: Santo Tomas de Villanueva in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental: Its First Twenty-Two Years (1876-1898)

Adviser: Fr. Rene Paglinawan, OAR, HEL

Fray Jose Enrico V. Gallego, OAR

Thesis Title: The Sacramental Nature of Aesthetics in Sacred Architecture

Adviser: Fr. Carmelo P. Arada, Jr., SThL

Two (2) candidates finished the MAT program with a non-thesis degree masteral program.

Br. Renante D. Jarito, OATH

Translation from English to Waray: Misericordiae Vultus

Adviser: Prof. Richard Tuba, PhD

Fray Ariel A. Panimdim, OSA

Translation from English to Cebuano: Christus Vivit

Adviser: Fr. Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, PhD

Thirteen (13) graduates of the degree of Bachelor in Sacred Theology (SThB) • six got (6) Latin Awardees: four (4) Cum Laude, two (2) Magna Cum Laude, and one (1) OAR graduate, Fray Neil Robert M. Alilain, OAR, who graduated Cum Laude.

Bro. Nguyen Thanh Hoai, SCJ, delivered their Address of Gratitude on behalf of their batch. Meanwhile, Bro. Jimmy Saloney, OSB Cel. received a special award, the St. Ezekiel Moreno Leadership Award, this award is given to students who served tirelessly in the institution. The program ended with the singing of the RST Hymn and the rite was officially closed by Fr. Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR. **RO**

Los Vocacionados 2022: Journeying towards the call

BRO. XAVIER ROMEO EMNACE

BAGUIO CITY-As a new formation year begins, young men from various provinces of the country have assembled and stayed in the Minor Basilica and Parish of San Sebastian in Quiapo, Manila, for three days before proceeding to Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary last July 20-23, 2022. There are six aspirants from Bohol, four from Negros Occidental; two from Negros Oriental; three from Metro Manila; one from Southern Leyte; one from the following: Palawan, Pangasinan, Baguio, Cebu, and Subic, with a total of 21 neophytes who desires to enter the Seminary. That same night, the neophytes spent some time getting acquainted with fellow aspirants after dinner.

The second day commenced with the celebration of the Holy Mass in the Basilica, presided by Rev. Fr. Emeterio Buñao, OAR. In his homily, he mentioned Jesus telling us that by welcoming Him into our lives and listening with understanding to His teachings, we will be nourished and enriched by the truth and beauty of His message. Our interest in Him will increase, and by constantly listening to His words, more revelations are given to us. We then grow in wisdom and knowledge. However, if we reject Him or stop listening to Him, we will lose whatever we have learned from Him. We become less and less interested in Him until our heart becomes so hard that His words can no longer penetrate. To be followed by two consecutive breakfast meals courtesy of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters and San Sebastian College- Recoletos. Afterward, Rev. Fr. Allan Jacinto, OAR, gave a small talk on the history



of the Order of Augustinian Recollects and its presence here in the Philippines and their significant contributions to various needs, silently building and enriching communities throughout the country's history up until the present. Towards the end of his short talk, Fr Allan divided the brothers into four smaller groups: young professionals and three subgroups composed of the younger batch of aspirants. The groups were given Micah 6:7-8 as their point of reflection for their group-sharing activity.

The afternoon session is divided into three parts. First, Fr. Allan introduced two lay volunteers from the Parish and shared some words of wisdom and encouragement for the brothers. Subsequently, the Augustinian Recollect Sisters' aspirants and juniors paid a visit to the brother aspirants and engaged in an afternoon of healthy discussion and laughter, focusing on the aspects and expectations for the upcoming seminary formation of the brothers. They also shared their personal stories of encounters with the Lord during their initial formation inside their convent. This simple gathering of young men and women striving to serve the Lord in his vineyard exemplifies a community that shares Jesus' gift of vocation that eventually gives inspiration and a source of comfort to all, knowing that we are not alone. The activity ended with a short visit to the Mother House of the AR Sisters. The brothers muster their courage as a choir to sing at the Basilica during the 6 pm Mass.

The brothers spent the penultimate day visiting the different communities of the Province in Metro Manila and Antipolo. They visited the pre-novitiate and Novitiate Formation house in Antipolo, where they had their morning Mass and breakfast. The brothers initiated a welcome program wherein they shared experiences and gave pieces of advice to the aspirants on what to do, especially in coping with their new environment, dealing with their separation anxieties, mental crisis, etc. Aside from that, the neophytes had a glimpse of the Clausura. After which, they proceeded to their next destination, the Theologate.

Upon arrival at the Recoletos Formation Center, the neophytes met some of the Father formators. They visited the Museum, the Library, and the Bulwagang Rekoletto Conservation facility. Their exploration of the Recoletos Formation Center would not be complete without visiting the Our Lady of Consolation Parish, where the Recollect Friars' ordination occurs. Underneath the Parish also lies the Columbarium. From death, they proceeded to the RFC's garden, where animals are domesticated. The neophytes joined the community in their midday prayer and lunch.

The last stop was at the Provincialate House in Quezon City, where the neophytes had the opportunity to meet

the new Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, Rev. Fr. Bernard Amparado, OAR. They introduced themselves before Fr. Bernard. In response, he gave the neophytes some words of encouragement that they should persevere in their vocation despite the trials. After the encounter with the Provincial, everybody enjoyed a respite in the Provincialate's pool. But the night was far from over as they shared dinner with the community. Afterward, they bid farewell and returned to SSC-R after a long but fun and grace-filled day.

The 21 brave young men were welcomed with a bang at Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary when they arrived on the afternoon of July 23, 2022. **RO**





Prior Provincial receives 2 Recollect friars in the Solemn Profession

FRAY JAMES FRANCIS BAGO, OAR

Mira Nila Homes, QUEZON CITY – Two Augustinian Recollect friars said their definitive ‘yes’ to God as they Solemnly Professed the Evangelical Counsels last Saturday, October 15, 2022, at Our Lady of Consolation Parish. They were Fray Ivan C. Cuison, OAR, and Fray Jhoben M. Rodriguez, OAR, who are now incorporated perpetually as members of the Order of Augustinian Recollects.



Rev. Fr. Bernard C. Amparado, OAR, Prior Provincial of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province, presided over the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Rite of the Admittance to the Solemn Profession. Together with him were Fr. Ian Anthony R. Espartero, OAR, Prior of Recoletos Formation Center, Fr. James C. Castelo, OAR, Master of the Professed, and some Augustinian Recollect Priests from different communities.

In the homily of Fr. Bernard cited the three different vocations in the Church and highlighted the vocation to consecrated life. He said that religions are the light of the world and they become the heralds in spreading the Good news of salvation. “They become the living signs of the joy of the Gospel which filled the hearts of all who have met Jesus and this joy of consecrated life comes from following Jesus,” said Fr. Bernard.

Before the final blessing, Fray Ivan C. Cuison, OAR, delivered his message of gratitude to all the persons who are supporting and journeying with them.

Before their solemn profession of vows, last October 14, 2022, the community of Recoletos Formation Center witnessed the Rite of Renunciation of the two candidates held at St. Thomas of Villanova Chapel. Fr. Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, officiated the Rite of Renunciation, and Fr. Kenneth Joseph Onda, OAR, and Fr. James Castelo, OAR, acted as witnesses. **RD**





SeMoNore inaugurates reliquarium

BRO. JESSE MEER E. ALIPES

ANTIPOLOCITY—St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos inaugurates reliquarium (Chapel of the Sacred Relics) last November 12, 2022.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Panaligan, OAR, Vice-Prior of the Recoletos de Antipolo Community, led the blessing of the chapel which contains the sacred relics of the different Augustinian saints and blessed, most of which are first class.

“We thank the Lord for this precious gift. It is indeed a blessing. May we use this reliquary according to its intended purpose,” said Rev. Fr. Rommel Rubia, OAR, Novice Master of the SeMoNoRe, in his speech before the rite.

The Novice Master thanked the efforts of Fray Lounal Jarumay, OAR, Fray Dennis Ruiz, OAD, and Fr. Hansel Marasigan, who facilitated the process of the acquisition and transfer of the relics from Rome to the Philippines.

He also thanked the Novices, the SARF, and personnel who assisted in the transformation of the reliquarium into a “fitting place” for the relics which he described as “treasure considered ‘more precious than gold,’” using the words of the bishop of Smyrna who collected the bones of St. Polycarp.

Relics are Reminders. Rev. Fr. Rommel Rubia, OAR gave a short speech before the celebration of the rite.

The reliquarium is located near the entrance of the Novitiate and is open for public veneration from 6:15 AM to 8:00 PM from Monday to Sunday.

Relics: Reminder of Sanctity and Intercession



“The presence and the inauguration of this reliquarium is truly a blessing to the Augustinian Recollects of Antipolo,” said Fr. Rubia. He also confided that the reliquarium brings to mind two purposes: a reminder of sanctity and a reminder of intercession.

First, Fr. Rubia expressed his hope that the presence of the relics would inspire the people to lead “holy lives by being faithful to the Augustinian Recollect way of life and charism.

“The Reliquarium is a reminder for all of us, most especially the members of this Recolecto community and our novices, that sanctity is our primary vocation. Sanctity should be our aim, goal, and ambition in life,” he added.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Panaligan, OAR led the blessing and inauguration of the Reliquarium Members of the SARF

Antipolo Chapter witness the solemn rites.

Borrowing the words of Rev. Fr. Jenaro Fernandez, OAR, a candidate for canonization, Fr Rubia asked “If I am not holy, what do I want my life for.”

Secondly, the reliquarium serves as a reminder that the “faithful departed, marked with the sign of faith,” is there to intercede with their prayers.

“The presence of these sacred relics here in the novitiate house brings our saintly brothers and sisters in the Order close to us in both body and spirit,” he added.

Hoping for more. The reliquarium contains different relics of different Augustinian saints and blessed, and hopefully other saints blessed in the future. **RD**



Newly-Ordained Deacons told: “You are first of all servants of Christ”

BRO. JESSE MEER E. ALIPES

QUEZON CITY- You are first of all servants of Christ.

This is what Most Rev. Emeritus Teodoro Bacani, DD reminded the two Recollect friars in their diaconal ordination last November 19, 2022, at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira Nila Homes, Quezon City.

“It is important to serve the people. But before serving the people, and with serving the people, please do not forget that you are first of all servants of Christ,” said the ordaining prelate to Rev. Ivan Cuison, OAR, and Rev. Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR.

The Bishop-Emeritus of Novaliches recounted the Gospel account of the restoration of St. Peter. “Remember that the Lord entrusted His sheep to Peter only after he said that ‘Lord you know that I love you,’ then Christ said ‘Follow me.’”

The ordaining prelate recalled the Gospel of St. John to remind the deacons that they can only serve the people if they truly serve Christ.

“You can serve Christ, according to the Bible and St. Augustine if you love,” he added.

Bp. Bacani added that as servants of Christ, they are also friends of Christ who do His command.

Give Thanks to the Lord

The celebration is attended by the Vicar of the Province, Rev. Fr. Kenneth Onda, OAR who represented the Prior Provincial. Other Recollect Priests



concelebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Quoting the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, Rev. Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR said “Give thanks to the Lord in all circumstances,” as he started his message of Gratitude.

Rev. Rodriguez thanked all the people who helped them throughout the years of their formation.

“No thanks, can we utter to all of you, even our good actions will not suffice your goodness to us,

but once more accept our sincerest thanks. I and Rev. Ivan, and the whole community of the Recoletos Formation Center are forever grateful. Laus Deo!” he ended.

The two newly-ordained deacons solemnly professed their vow of evangelical counsels last October 15, 2022.

Rev. Ivan Cuison, OAR is a native of Baguio City, while Rev. Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR is from Brooke’s Point, Palawan. **RO**



Four Augustinian Recollect Friars Ordained

BRO. JESSE MEER E. ALIPES

QUEZON CITY— Four Augustinian Recollect Friars join the ranks of presbyters last December 3, 2022, at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira Nila Homes, Quezon City.



Most Rev. Joel Z. Baylon, DD Bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi ordained to priesthood Rev. Fr. Cristito Rey P. Tepace, OAR from Laoang, Northern Samar; Rev. Fr. Julius James T. Tinapao, OAR from Bayawan, Negros Oriental; Rev. Fr. Ricky John A. Austria, OAR from Tiwi, Albay; and Rev. Fr. James Eroid P. Gatinao, OAR from Narra Palawan.

“Certainly, this day marks the beginning of our priestly ministry, of course, this would never happen without your guidance and moral support,” said Rev. Fr. Cristito Rey P. Tepace, OAR as he delivered his words of gratitude on behalf of the neo-presbyters.

In his speech, Fr. Tepace, OAR thanked the persons who helped them in their initial formation and their

previous pastoral assignments.

“Indeed it was not an easy journey for us, for the four of us, yet with your prayers and support, together with God’s Mercy and Grace we can persevere in our initial formation,” he said.

“As we travel in this field of ministry rest assured, that all of you will be part of our day-to-day prayers and masses. As we continue to pray for you, please continue to include us in your daily intercessions, for us to carry out our priestly vocation,” he ended.

Present in the celebration is Rev. Fr. Bernard Amparado, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province, who gave the Plaque of Appreciation to the parents of the newly-ordained priests before the final blessing.

Before the final blessing, Rev. Fr. Jose Enril Almayo, OAR, Secretary of the Province, read the assignments of the newly-ordained ministers. Their new communities are as follows:

Rev. Fr. Cristito Rey P. Tepace, OAR

– Nuestra Señora del Carmen Quasi-Parish, Brgy. Dugmanon ,Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur

Rev. Fr. Julius James T. Tinapao, OAR

– San Pedro Academy-Recoletos, Caidiocan, Valencia, Negros Oriental

Rev. Fr. Ricky John A. Austria, OAR

– San Isidro Labrador Parish, Casian Island, Taytay, Palawan

Rev. Fr. James Eroid P. Gatinao, OAR

– Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Inagawan, Puerto Princesa Palawan.



Sent to the World

Concelebrating the occasion are the priests from the different OAR communities.

Bp. Baylon, DD thanked the members of the Order of Augustinian Recollects for the invitation which he says is a “momentous event.”

“This is something we would not simply take for granted. A special event indeed. But it is very much a statement of affirmation on the part of our Lord, that he continues to bless us with an abundance of Priests,” he said.

The Ordaining Prelate related a story of young men who tricked people to look for a goat painted with the number three. He related the search for the non-existent goat to people’s search for happiness in this world.

“In our search for goat number three, what do we do? We rely on the promises of the world. We take advantage of the promises of power, money, prestige, even sex hoping that we would find goat number three, but there is no goat number three,” Bp. Baylon said.

In this quest, people end up destroying themselves as they walk in the “darkness of selfishness and sin.”

“The Lord is sending you to the world, as the Father sent Him to the world. It is the world that continues to look for goat number three. Tell them, that there is no goat number three, if there is a goat that they are looking for, it is THE GOAT—God Of All Time.”

The prelate reminded the ordinands that other than the mission to proclaim the Good News about Jesus they also need to journey into themselves. Borrowing the words of St. Augustine the bishop invited them to look for the GOAT in their hearts.

“‘Lord you are closer to me than I am to me.’ And it is this journey to this self, my heart, my being, that you are also called to. Unless you experience the darkness that will empty yourself, and allow God to be there present, you will never be true witnesses to the Word that you will proclaim to the world,” he said. **RD**





Six OAR priests celebrate the 25th Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary

LORRAINE MITZI A. AMBRAD



Six Augustinian Recollect friars renewed their vows today, April 25, at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish – Recoletos.

They are Fray Corvin R. Maturan, OAR, Fray Julius M. Marcos, OAR, Fray Anthony A. Morillo, OAR, Fray Vicente L. Ramon, OAR, Fray Ferdinand V. Fornillos, OAR, and Fray Cristopher C. Maspara, OAR.

The rite of renewal of religious vows was presided over by Rev. Fr. Leopoldo Estioko, OAR. It was done in time for the six's 25th Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary and 30th Anniversary of Simple Profession of Vows.

It was attended by lay and religious priests hailing from the different Augustinian Recollect communities in the Visayas such as Augustinian Recollect Sisters, and Colegio de Sto. Tomas – Recoletos (San Carlos City, Negros

Occidental), University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (Bacolod City, Negros Occidental), Our Lady of Consolation Parish Recoletos (Talisay City, Cebu), Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF), families and benefactors of the jubilarians.

One of the formators of the jubilarians, Fray Joseph Philip Trayvilla, OAR, gave the homily and addressed a message to the six priests.

“My dear jubilarians, God’s grace has been sufficient and will always be sufficient for us. Mao na nga ania pa ta,” he said.

The Holy Mass was followed by the taking of pictures of the priests with their family and friends.

Then, a short program came after at the USJ-R main lobby. To cap off the event, a handwritten scroll from the Vatican was given to each of the jubilarians. **RD**





“Bisyap” joins Recoletos de Cuba community

FRAY JOSE ERNIL ALMAYO, OAR

In the Comunidad San Ezequiel Moreno in Banes (Holguín, Cuba), the 24th day of July 2022 was no ordinary day! It marked the arrival of its fourth member: Fray Keneth B. Pahamutang, or “Bisyap” as he is fondly called particularly by his contemporaries.



With other Recollect friars of the Vicariate of Mexico

The lone Recoletos convent in this Caribbean island nation warmly welcomed the Filipino Recollect who represents the St. Ezekiel Province. Fray Keneth was the latest addition to this international community whose members represent the different provinces of the Order: Frays Noé Servín (San Nicolás); Ismael Xuruc, the local prior (Candelaria); and Julián Vallejos (Sto. Tomás).

In mid-June this year, the former Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, also arrived here to be part of the community which is very dear to his heart. In an interview in 2019, Father Miró said: “In this international and interprovincial community, we want to show that we are a sign of communion

within the Order, a sign of communion with all the [Recollect] provinces, and a sign of communion in the church here in Cuba.”

But for the Province of St. Ezekiel, this is also a sign of continuity of its firm commitment to collaborate in the mission works in Cuba. Accordingly, it also complies with what is stated in the newly-crafted Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the Order for this sexennium (2022-2028): “To strengthen the interprovincial missionary presence in Cuba” (D.10).

Last year, towards the end of July, the first Filipino Recollect missionary here, Fray Joel Naranja, contracted Covid-19 and died on August 8. Of him was said: “[He was] like a wheat that has to fall to the ground [of Cuba] and

die so that he will be able to produce much fruit.” Regardless of whatever that meant, Fray Naranja’s earlier suggestion to the Provincial Council to look for a replacement was far from complicated because “Bisyap” had already indicated, even while still a deacon, his desire to go to a foreign mission field.

Preparations starting from Panama

Fray Keneth, who has just turned 32, hails from Tagbilaran City, Bohol. He made his simple profession of vows on April 27, 2013, and his solemn profession on August 28, 2017. Together with five confreres, he was ordained a deacon the following month. He spent his diaconal



exposure in two pastoral centers: in San Sebastian Parish, Manila, and Panama. In the latter, he arrived in early April of 2018 and stayed at Colegio de San Agustín, in the capital, where he got the opportunity to hone his Spanish language for five months. Had he arrived a month earlier, he would have witnessed the send-off rites officiated by Fray Miró for the four pioneer missionaries to Cuba at the nearby Parroquia de San Lucas.

Return to the Philippines

With the fusion of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, to which Panama belongs, with the Province of Candelaria in June 2018, the interprovincial collaboration between the former and the San Ezekiel Province was implicitly closed. In September of the same year, together with another Filipino confrere assigned in Bocas del Toro, Fray Pahamutang flew back to the Philippines.

On December 5, 2018, he was ordained a priest, and his *patente* brought him to Sto. Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Formation House (San Carlos City, Negros Occidental) where he was the Prefect of Discipline of the senior high school interns. But then again, the desire to work in a mission land kept ablaze in him. So, he wrote to the Father Provincial a letter in June 2019

expressing this “desire and intention.”

The Provincial Council welcomed the positive disposition of Fray Pahamutang. He was already eyed to substitute Fray Naranja who had hinted to just finish his assignment in Cuba at the end of the quadrennium and come back to the Philippines. In his last letter dated March 10, 2021, to then Father Provincial, Fray Selma, Fray Naranja said that “[I am] giving myself another year of mission work here in Cuba then give the opportunity to Fray Pahamutang to fulfill his dream of coming here for mission work.”

After Fray Pahamutang’s pastoral stint at the Recollect-administered parish in barangay Plaridel of Aborlan, Palawan, from November 2020 to early 2022, he was called to prepare his travel documents.

On April 20, 2022, during vespers, a send-off rite for “Bisyap” was officiated by Father Provincial at the chapel of the provincialate house. The next day, he left for Mexico via Tokyo.

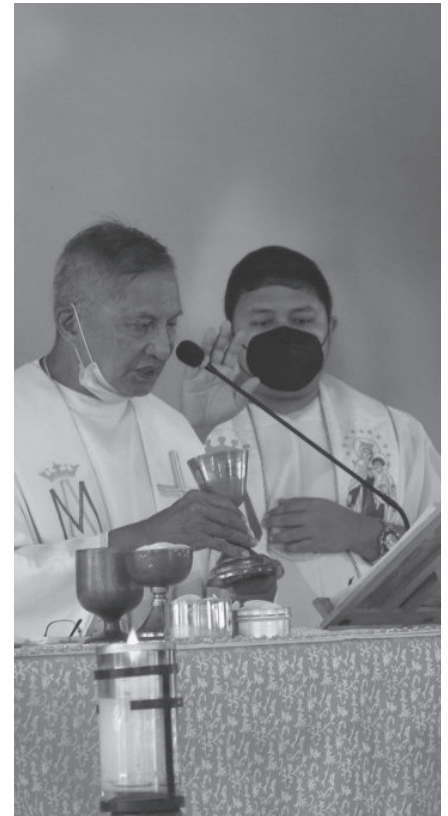
Language preps in Mexico

Fray Pahamutang stayed in Postulantado San Agustín in Ciudad de Mexico for around three months to refresh and improve his Spanish language skills. In this sense, Mexico continues to play an important role, as in the past, to be a convenient place for a stop-over before proceeding

to the final destination. European missionaries stopped off here before going to the Philippines. This time, it’s a reverse. It’s the realization of what it means to be “gifted to give.”

Welcome to Cuba!

On July 18, Fray Pahamutang landed in Havana. He temporarily stayed in the convent of the Siervas de María Sisters there for six days to process and collect his Cuban residence permit. Then, on July 24, after 13 hours of travel, thanks to the bishop of Holguín who accompanied him, he arrived in Banes. The Recollect community of San Ezequiel led by the outgoing local prior, Fray Ismael, welcomed him with the usual warmth of brotherhood. Soon, the community will welcome its new local prior, Fray Joseph Shonibare, OAR. **RD**



With Fray Rex Bangcaya, Prior of Recoletos de Plaridel, presiding over the holy mass On April 20, 2022, during vespers, a send-off rite for “Bisyap” was officiated by Father Provincial at the chapel of the provincialate house. The next day, he left for Mexico via Tokyo.



L-R: Frays Julián Vallejos, Noé Servín, Miguel Miro, Keneth Pahamutang and Ismael Xuruc



Fr. Miro presides the funeral mass for Fr. Joel “Notnot” Naranja

FRAY RENÉ PAGLINAWAN, OAR

His soul has gone back to the Father, and his mortal remains are going back to the Philippines.

Fr. Joel “Notnot” Naranja’s remains are contained in an urn. The OAR constitutions, the violet stole of Lent, and the marble bas-relief of Our Lady of Consolation appearing to Saint Monica and Saint Augustine are graphic reminders remind of his Augustinian Recollect priesthood. Fr. Notnot’s mortal remains wait at the private chapel of the general curia community for the final trip to the Philippines

The urn containing the ashes of Augustinian Recollect Fr. Joel Naranja, the member of the pioneering Recollect community in Cuba who succumbed to Covid-19 last August 8, finally arrived in Rome yesterday afternoon. Fellow Recollect Fr. Noe Servin personally brought it from that Caribbean country.

Ex-Prior General Fr. Miguel Miro presided at the evening mass at the curia’s Our Lady of Consolation chapel. In his homily, he recalled how Fr. Joel readily accepted his invitation to start, with three other Recollects, our first mission in Cuba in 2018. Fr. Joel’s legacy, Fr. Miro said, was the life he kept not for himself but gave in service to others. Not in grandiose projects, but in simplicity, with his ever-present smile, all done in love for his Recollect brothers and his parishioners. Amidst the difficulties, including a general lack of food and means of transport and unenthusiastic reception from the faithful, Fr. Joel chose to stay on, instead of remaining in the Philippines as he could have done after a medical break.

Before the end of this month, his family and countrymen will finally be able to welcome him on his native soil. In the meantime, the urn is kept at the private chapel of the general curia community.

In yesterday’s Gospel Jesus assured “If any man keeps my word, he shall not see death forever” (Jn 8:51). May the Father give eternal rest to our brother, Fr. Joel “Notnot” Naranja. **RD**





Recollect Parish in Indonesia, Inaugurated

FRAY JAMES EROLD P. GATINAO, OAR

Ledo, West Kalimantan, Indonesia – The Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno and the Archdiocese of Pontianak inaugurated the new Augustinian Recollect Parish in Kecamatan Ledo, Kabupaten Bengkayang, Kalimantan Barat, Indonesia last August 28, 2022, the day of the solemn feast of our Father St. Augustine. The new parish was declared as “Paroki Santo Agustinus Dari Hippo-Ledo” which would be comprised of 26 stasi (chapels).



Presided by the Archbishop of Pontianak, Msgr. Agustinus Agus, the solemn Mass, and the inaugural event were graced by several lay faithful, clergy, and government officials. The Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno showed their support through the presence of Fray Anthony Morillo, OAR, and Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, who were the delegates from the Philippines.

Fray Russel Lapidez, OAR was installed as the Prior and Parish Priest of the Recollect community in Ledo, with Fray Jovy Gallego, OAR as the Parish Vicar and Community Procurator.

The highlight of the event was the Holy Mass that includes the signing of the inauguration marker by Msgr. Agus, the cutting of ribbon on the new parish signage, and the celebration program afterward.

On September 19, 2018, Fray Russel Lapidez, OAR, and Fray Dominador Mercado, OAR arrived together with the then Prior Provincial Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, and former Head of Secretariat of Mission Apostolate Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR, to pioneer the OAR presence in Indonesia. **RD**





MOA Signing with Bishop Ryan of Saipan, CNMI – OAR to work in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa



Photo Credits: Fray Bernard C. Amparado, OAR



Cebu's Mount Carmel Parish declared an archdiocesan shrine

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – Recoletos in the heart of Cebu City formally declared an archdiocesan shrine on April 29.

The elevation to its new status was held during Mass presided over by Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu.

In his homily, he noted that “for all of us who have experiences of both joys and difficulties, we know that we have Mama Mary.”

Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu leads Mass to elevate the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – Recoletos to archdiocesan shrine status, April 29, 2022. ARCHDIOCESE OF CEBU

“Carmel is Mama Mary and her assurance of protection,” Palma said.

In a decree dated March 7, 2022, the archbishop wrote that the shrine will now be called “Santuario Arquidiocesano de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, La Limpia” (Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Clean One).

During the celebration, Palma approached the venerated image to place his gift, an ex-voto medallion with the image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Among those in attendance were Cebu Auxiliary Bishop Midyphil Billones, Cebu Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Antonio Rañola, a delegate of the Recollect General Curia in Rome, Recollect Philippine Prior Provincial Dionisio Selma, and priests of the Recollect Order and the Cebu archdiocese.

Cebu Archdiocesan Chancellor Msgr. Renato Beltran, Jr., also announced during the event that the shrine received a “special year of grace” wherein a plenary indulgence is granted to pilgrims who come to the shrine from April 29, 2022, to April 29, 2023.

Another highlight of the celebration was the procession of the Mount Carmel image at the newly-inaugurated Cebu – Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX), now the longest bridge in the country.



The parish, currently found within the main campus of the University of San José – Recoletos under the Order of Augustinian Recollects – Province of San Ezekiel Moreno, was dedicated to Our Lady of the Mount Carmel since their arrival on the island in 1621.

Formerly known as Ermita de La Limpia Concepción (Hermitage of the Clean Conception) under the Augustinians, the stewardship of its church and community was entrusted to the Recollects and marked the 400 years of Recollect presence in the province (1621-2021).

Last Jan. 8, the image of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, La Limpia was also granted an episcopal coronation by Archbishop Palma.

Also, last April 24, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Charles John Brown visited during the closing rites of the 500 years of Christianity celebration in Cebu and offered an ex-voto on behalf of Pope Francis. **RD**



Cebu Archdiocese has the largest number of local shrines in any diocese in the country.

It has one minor basilica (Sto. Niño, Cebu City), and two national shrines (Virgen de la Regla, Lapu-Lapu City, and St. Joseph, Mandaue City).

Cebu also has 22 other archdiocesan shrines: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, San Nicolas de Tolentino, San Roque, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, St. Arnold Janssen, and San Pedro Calungsod in Cebu City; Our Lady of Fatima in Mandaue City; Jesús Nazareno, Our Lady of Schoenstatt, and St. Teresa of Avila in Talisay City; Theotokos and St. Catherine of Alexandria in Carcar City; St. Vincent Ferrer in Bogu City; St. Francis of Assisi in Naga City; St. John of Sahagun in Toledo City; Immaculate Heart of Mary in Minglanilla; St. Michael the Archangel in Argao; St. Anne in Barili; St. Anthony of Padua in Tuburan; and Santiago Mayor, Compostela. **RO**

Source: https://cbcpnews.net/cbcpnews/cebus-mount-carmel-parish-declared-archdiocesan-shrine/?fbclid=IwAR3ZTd0C_J4-w0JG6yWpLBnaJyN56pupQWQf-JXfbXqDTd05PZqrQDVnGmk





Rev. Fr. Reno C. Villalino, OAR and the new sacristans.

OLCP receives 12 new CARAS members

FRAY JAMES FRANCIS BAGO, OAR

Mira Nila Homes, QUEZON CITY – Our Lady of Consolation Parish commissioned twelve candidates to the Ministry of Altar Servers and the renewal of twenty-five members of the Confraternity of Augustinian Recollect Altar Servers last July 31, 2022. They were as follows:

1. Hans Jacob Aurel
2. Jake Badilla
3. Elizalde Bautista
4. Jefferson Jaliq
5. John Mark Molina
6. John Renz Nobleza
7. Russel Joseph Orbe
8. Dominic Santayo
9. Darwin Jay Santillon
10. John Rey Tondo
11. Lorenz Arnel Yayon
12. Mark Andrew Villaluz

The Eucharistic Celebration started at 9:00 in the morning and it was presided over by Rev. Fr. Reno

C. Villalino, OAR, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Consolation Parish. In his homily, he imparted to the young men the love and commitment that they should have as members of the Confraternity. He also reminded them that their duties are not only limited to serving the altar but also to doing manual work in maintaining the beautification and cleanliness of the parish.

After the homily, the Rite of Investiture and Renewal followed, and as the investees donned their sutanas they declared to the Lord and His people their intention and were

accepted by the Parish Priest himself.

These young men who have answered God's call to serve the Lord at his altar, underwent a series of formation sessions every Sunday afternoon as part of their preparation and training to know the essence of the liturgical celebrations and assisting the priest. As part of their formation were the fundamentals of the Catholic faith, and the History and Spirituality of the Augustinian Recollects. As they responded to this call, they faced a new phase of their life to live out the most essential lessons they learned as Altar Servers. **RD**



Two Hundred Eighty OLVP Youth Confirmed

FRAY JULIUS JAMES TINAPAO, OAR

The parish of Our Lady of Visitation, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, witnessed the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation of two hundred eighty of its young members last March 17, 2022.

The rite, which was held within the Mass at the parish church, commenced at three o'clock in the afternoon. Most Rev. Jesus A. Cabrera, D.D., Bishop-Emeritus of the diocese of Alaminos, presided over the rites. With him were all four members of the local Recollect community. Accompanying the confirmands from the various barangay chapels of the parish were their family members and sponsors. The parish catechists, some Religious Sisters, and parishioners also graced the solemn occasion.

During his homily, which he delivered in the Pangasinan dialect, Bishop Cabrera exhorted the confirmands, "You will receive the Holy Spirit... From now on, live according to the Spirit..." The confirmands, on their part, responded in unison, "Amen!"

Due to the candidates' number, the most reverend bishop delegated Fr. Samson Silloriquéz, OAR, Fr. Ramon Bitancor III, OAR, and Fr. Nestor Raras, OAR to help him in administering to them the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Before the final blessing, Miss Keizha Diaz delivered the message of gratitude on behalf of her fellow newly confirmed youth. After the rites, the parish community—thanks to the kindness and generosity of several sponsors—distributed to them packed snacks. The event lasted until quarter to five in the afternoon. **RO**





San Vicente Ferrer Quasi Parish celebrates fiesta

FRAY JHOBEN RODRIGUEZ, OAR

APO ISLAND, NEGROS ORIENTAL – “Praise God!” exclaimed Fray Jay M. Parilla, OAR, the Parish Priest, during the Concelebrated Fiesta Mass of San Vicente Ferrer Quasi Parish last April 5, 2022.

Fray Parilla, OAR, served the island for seven years. He recounted during his gratitude speech how generous the people are and praised God for all his miracles to build the church on the island. He reminded the parishioners to take care of the church as he also expressed his gratitude to all who helped in the construction of the church, especially the Radio Emergency Communication Operation Network Citizen Active Response Team of Valencia (RECON CART 7) who tirelessly rendered their service for the completion of the church.

Various activities cascaded. The



highlight activities are as follows: On March 28, the first day of Novena, there was an Opening Salvo wherein they danced Caracol in honor of their patron saint; April 3 was Family Day by the beach; April 4 Mass was held at the former location of the Quasi Parish and was followed by the Fluvial Procession around the island, ushered by the Philippine Coast Guard.

April 5 is the Concelebrated Mass led by Rev. Fr. Ben Eric Lozada of the Diocese of Dumaguete. Present during the celebration were various congregations of religious and priests. In the afternoon, there was a Mass, then a grand fiesta procession, and in the evening, there was the festival queen competition. **RD**





Southern Taiwan Filipino Missionaries gathering

FRAY JOEL DEQUILLA, OAR

KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN. Filipino Missionaries in Southern Taiwan gathered in Kaohsiung City for a two-days rest and recreation on January 10 and 11, 2022. In the past, the Filipino Missionaries in the North, South, and Central part of Taiwan took turns in hosting the annual Filipino Missionaries in Taiwan (FMT) gathering. For the past two years, however, the annual FMT get-together event had been scuttled due to the Government's strict regulations on group gatherings in response to the severity of Covid 19 pandemic.

At 2 p.m. on January 10, twenty-two Filipino Missionaries from Chiayi County, Tainan City, and Kaohsiung City gathered together at St. Dominic Parish (聖道明堂), Kaohsiung City for the opening event. Fr. Jarvis Sy, OP, the Pastor of the aforesaid Parish welcomed everyone and gave a short historical background on the Parish as well as the significant celebration of the 800 Foundation Anniversary of the Dominican Order. St. Dominic Parish in Kaohsiung is one of the Churches in Taiwan designated by the Vatican to dispense plenary indulgences to the coming pilgrims. Hence, the FMT

participants had a holy opportunity to obtain the graces of a plenary indulgence. Three priests heard the confessions of participants. After the Sacrament of Reconciliation, everyone enjoyed munching on Turon and other mouth-watering Filipino delicacies, courtesy of Fr. Jarvis and the Dominican Missionary Sisters. Everyone, then, proceeded to the Dominican International School (DIS), a short drive by car from St. Dominic Parish. Sisters Cathy and Jean toured the missionaries around the school campus and the chapel of the OP Sisters.

From the DIS, the FMT participants

headed towards Stella Maris Center. Fr. Lucio Bula, CS the Prior of Scalabrinian Fathers in Kaohsiung City was the gracious host. With the able help of Filipino migrant workers who prepared the food, the missionaries enjoyed a sumptuous dinner. Three priests who, due to some apostolate missed the afternoon event came during dinner. After dinner, the FMT participants sauntered along Kaohsiung harbor enjoying the beautiful multi-colored lights as well as the fantastic scenic attractions. Then, at 9 p.m., everyone headed home to rest. Some missionaries from Chiayi and Tainan were billeted



at Our Lady of Victory Parish (勝利之后堂) and St. Joseph Parish (聖若瑟堂), both in Xiaogang District while others stayed at the convent of OAR Fathers in Daliao District.

On January 11 at 7 a.m., the missionaries started the day with the Office of Readings, Lauds, and meditation at the Church of Our Lady of Victory Parish (OLVP). Breakfast was served at around 8 AM. The parishioners of OLVP prepared the meals shared by the missionaries. At 9:30 AM, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was held at the Church with Fr. Norbert Alvin Ma. Canada, MMHC as the main celebrant and Fr. Leonilo Mantilla, CS as the homilist. After the Mass, a mishmash of fun games, an informal program, and exchanging of gifts was held at the Parish's activity center. Everyone laughed, cheered, and shared the fun while the games were played. Missionaries were

seemingly transported to a place where pressures and struggles in the apostolate were temporarily forgotten. Even the Parishioners of OLVP were delighted watching the carefree Priests and the Sisters playing the fun-filled games. Later the parishioners also joined the games. Then, everyone shared a nourishing meal prepared by the OLVP parishioners as well as some Filipino food donors.

The Southern Taiwan FMT gathering participants were composed of 12 priests, 14 Sisters, and 2 Lay Missionaries. Among the 12 priests were 4 Recollects (OAR), 2 Dominicans (OP), 2 Scalabrinians (CS), 2 Marians (MMHC), and 2 Neo Catechumenate. Among the 14 Sisters, there were 10 Carmelite Missionaries (CM) and 4 Dominicans (OP). The 2 Lay Missionaries were members of the Teresian Association. **RD**



OLVP-Recoletos de Urbiztondo had its new chapel blessed

FRAY JULIUS JAMES TINAPAO, OAR

URBIZTONDO, Pangasinan—The Recollect parish community of Our Lady of the Visitation, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, together with several civil and ecclesiastical dignitaries, witnessed the blessing of its newly constructed chapel on the occasion of the 97th fiesta of the Sto. Cristo Divino Tesoro de Urbiztondo, the patron of the barangay where the parish is located.



In consonance with the festive spirit of the event, an array of activities highlighted the occasion. At seven o'clock in the morning, everything commenced with the blessing of the new chapel—the *Capilla de Sto. Cristo Divino Tesoro de Urbiztondo*—built at the left portion of the church façade. And then it was followed by the Eucharistic Celebration at the parish at seven-thirty. Both were presided over by His Excellency Socrates B. Villegas, D.D., Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan. With him were several concelebrating Recollects from the community itself, Manila, Baguio City, and Cavite City. Present also during the rites were government officials of

the municipality and the barangays within the jurisdiction of the parish, Religious Sisters, and some donors. In his homily, he reminded the faithful, “Christian life is a continued Passion [of the Lord]...It is not a contest of flawlessness...” and exhorted them, “As Christians, we should get wounded standing for the Lord...and we should not be afraid of it, for cowardice is never part of the Christian life.” Towards the end of the Holy Eucharist, Rev. Fr. Samson S. Sillorquez, OAR, the prior parish priest, expressed his gratitude to everyone present and to all who contributed to the success of the event, especially the donors of the new chapel.

Right after the Mass, a procession was conducted along the streets adjacent to the parish. The faithful, headed by the sacristans, streamed with the image of the Crucified Christ while praying the Holy Rosary together with the members of a musical band marching and softly playing religious songs at the forefront. After almost an hour, the procession halted at the new chapel where Fr. Samson, OAR, gave the final blessing. Then everybody received a share of packed food. The faithful gleamed with delight for having celebrated again this feast after two years since the pandemic. **RD**





Three Thomasian Batches Celebrate 75th Commencement Exercises

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Negros Occidental—In a historic upturn of events, the 75th Commencement Exercises will unite three batches of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos at the iconic Golden Eagles Football.

CST-R Batch 1972, led by Rev. Fr. Rene Paglinawan, OAR, and CST-R Batch 1997, led by Rev. Fr. Samuel Eyas, OAR, are back in the Alma Mater to celebrate the anniversary of their high school graduation. Together, the two elder batches will applaud CST-R Batch 2022 as the young generation commence their high school life.

CST-R Batch 1972 is the Golden Jubilarian while Batch 1997 is the Silver Jubilarian.

Earlier today, the Baccalaureate Mass was held. Fr. Paglinawan was the main celebrant and homilist.

“There is something temporary. There is something permanent.” The golden jubilarian reflected on the lyrics of this year’s graduation song “Ride to Life” as he also related with the Visitation of Mary.

Two years after COVID 19 pandemic locked down Philippine schools, CST-R is holding commencement exercises on campus. **RO**



The Golden Boys. CST-R Batch 1972 celebrates “Together” with the younger Thomasi-ans.



Back After 25 Years! The CST-R Silver Jubilarians are “Together” again.



Continued Partnership. Rev. Fr. Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, director of CST-R Community Extension & Development Office, accepts the Certificate of Appreciation from Ansulag ES.

Another promise gets delivered through USJRAA-SCC Chapter, CST-R Batch 2000

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Negros Occidental—Through the solidarity of Augustinian Recollect graduates, another promise was fulfilled for the pupils of Ansulag Elementary School, one of the three adopted schools of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos.

It can be recalled that last February 17, 2022, Rev. Fr. Joel Alve, OAR, CST-R president, and Rev. Fr. Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, director of the Community Extension and Development Office (CEDO), personally plastic armchairs to one of the remotest public elementary schools in Barangay Rizal. It was during this visit that the two Augustinian Recollects saw the need to properly furnish the kindergarten classroom.

Then, in just two weeks, members of the University of San Jose-Recoletos Alumni Association-San Carlos City Chapter responded to this call of solidarity for the kids of Ansulag. The Josenians donated 15 kindergarten tables and 30 armchairs.

To make the children's learning fun and engaging, a member of CST-R Batch 2000 also donated sensory toys and books.

Ansulag Elementary School Head Teacher Johnny Engada, together with kindergarten teacher Mariel Gomez-Abadies, Adopt-a-School Coordinator Madilyn Egloria, Teacher Frances Pearl Lawas, and PTA President Annabelle Lawas, received the resources during the turn-over ceremony last July 10, 2022, at the CST-R Golden Eagles Grandstand. **RD**



A promise delivered: Ansulag ES receives armchairs from CEDO, YACAP

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

San Carlos City, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—Forty brand-new armchairs are now in two classrooms of Ansulag Elementary School, Barangay Rizal, San Carlos City.

On February 17, 2022, Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos Community Extension and Development Office (CEDO) officially turned over the armchairs to Ansulag ES. Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, CEDO director, and Fray Joel Alve, OAR, CST-R Director, and Principal, personally turned over the items to the pupils of CST-R's adopted school.

Mr. Johnny Engada, Ph.D., Ansulag ES Head Teacher, together with eight faculty members welcomed CST-R's outreach team. They also expressed profound gratitude to the donor organization, the Young Against Corruption and Poverty (YACAP).

Fray Ramon explained that YACAP became CEDO's collaborator in providing armchairs for Ansulag ES pupils after YACAP representative Jose Mari Oquiñena learned of CST-R's mission to improve the classroom condition of the elementary school. Oquiñena is a former seminarian of the Augustinian Recollects (ForSOAR).

Surprised that CEDO delivered brand new armchairs instead recycled ones, Engada and the teachers were thankful and expressed optimism that their pupils will be truly excited and inspired to learn more once face-to-face classes resume.



One Thomasian Family. (L-R) Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, CEDO director, poses as Mr. Johnny Engada, Ansulag ES head teacher, receives the chairs from Fray Joel Alve, OAR, CST-R director-principal.

For Forty Learners. Ansulag learners come from different mountainous settlements. Pre-pandemic they would walk to school



Classroom Tour. Ma. Nita V. Bolo, CST-R HR Officer and guidance counselor scan one of the learning modules in a grade five classroom.

but their classrooms did not have enough seats for them.

CEDO first visited Ansulag ES in December 2020. It was then that the

team assessed the most immediate and crucial needs of the remote school's teachers and learners.

Ansulag ES, aside from being CST-R's adopted school, is a national qualifier for the Department of Education's Brigada Eskwela, a school preparedness, and cleanliness initiative. Its faculty members were also awarded for their effort to raise awareness and provide facilities for ensuring that pupils and other school stakeholders do proper handwashing to prevent the spread of diseases (SBM WINS).

The Next Step. The Augustinian Recollects inspect the dilapidated kindergarten classroom of Ansulag ES. There are only 12 kinder kids engaged in distance learning due to the pandemic. Teacher Marielle Gomez said that she expects the number to increase once the school opens to face-to-face learning. **RD**



CST-R opens College Department

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos finally declares its College Department open!

With its pioneering program on Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, CST-R is now a Higher Education Institution (HEI) duly permitted to operate based on Commission on Higher Education Regional Office 6 Government Permit No. 03, Series of 2022, signed by Regional Director Raul C. Alvarez, Jr., REE, Ed. D., CESO III.

CHED RO 6 granted CST-R the Initial Permit “to operate the First and Second Curriculum level of Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship” last February 8, 2022.

81 Years in the Making. Augustinian Recollect administrators finally declare the CST-R College Department open.

The opening of the College Department highlights CST-R’s commitment to the education and formation of Filipino youth as it looks forward to its centennial celebration.

Rev. Fr. Joel Alve, OAR is now the college president while Rev. Fr. Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR is the vice-president for finance and administration. Rev. Fr. Renier Alviola, OAR is the vice-president for religious affairs.

Office of the President. For 81 years, this room that hosted the signing of the Declaration has served as the Office of the Principal. Now, it is the Office of the College President.

Both Fr. Alve and Fr. Ramon dedicate CST-R’s historic achievement under their administration to the late Rev. Fr. Rafael Cabarles, OAR, who was the first to envision CST-R’s College Department when he was the director from 1988 to 1994.

Fr. Cabarles supported CST-R’s application for Initial Permit to Operate as HEI when the process began in 2020.

CST-R’s BS in Entrepreneurship program shall focus on producing graduates who are skilled and knowledgeable in starting up and operating their businesses. **RD**



DECLARATION



Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos hereby declares that its College Department is officially open to accept enrollees for School Year 2022-2023 under the Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship program.

The Commission on Higher Education Regional Office 6, through Regional Director Raul C. Alvarez, Jr., Ed.D., CESO III, granted GOVERNMENT PERMIT NO. 3, Series of 2022 to Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos, Inc. last February 8, 2022.

REV. FR. RENIER ALVIOLA, OAR

Vice-President, Religious Affairs

REV. FR. VICENTE RAMON, JR., OAR

Vice-President, Finance

REV. FR. JOEL A. ALVE, OAR

President, CST-R

03/29/2022



Declaration. On March 28, 2022, Rev. Fr. Joel Alve, OAR (L), Rev. Fr. Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR (C), and Rev. Fr. Renier Alviola, OAR (R) sign the “Declaration” of the opening of CST-R’s College Department.



Bishop Alminaza celebrates Mass of the Holy Spirit with Thomasians

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

“It is always a joy to be with Thomasians.”

SAN CARLOS CITY, Negros Occidental – Most Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos proclaimed during his homily for the entire Thomasian community. The bishop was the main celebrant of the Mass of the Holy Spirit at the quadrangle of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos, September 14, 2022.



The Teachers Pledge. “I pledge to be Accountable for the instruction, inspiration, and guidance of my students so that they fully realize their potentials and aspirations.”

As he is an Augustinian Recollect alumnus himself, Bishop Alminaza expressed his happiness that he had the opportunity to personally welcome the new members of the Order of Augustinian Recollects community in San Carlos City.

Rev. Fr. Cristopher Maspara, OAR, the prior of Recoletos de San Carlos and CST-R president, presented the OAR community beginning with Rev. Fr. Monday Benjamine Edobor, OAR, the Vice-president for Identity, Formation, and Mission; Rev. Fr. Enrico Peter Silab, OAR, resident priest, and former CST-R Director; Rev. Fr. Excel Saycon, OAR, resident priest.

Meanwhile, Rev. Fr. Marjun Almario, diocesan chancellor, joined the bishop.

Tips to Thrive during this School Year

Bishop Alminaza, while he recognized the challenges of another shift in the delivery of education from distance to blended learning, inspired the Thomasians with his tips and thoughts that can be remembered during the trials of student life.

Full Quadrangle. It is the Thomasian community’s first time to celebrate the Holy Mass at the quadrangle after the school lockdown was imposed in March 2020. With the combination of junior and senior high school and college students, the quadrangle is full. With their face masks on, Thomasians beam with joy to be in a physical gathering once again.

“The secret is to develop this personal rapport with the Holy Spirit,”

he clinched his sharing.

Thomasians from the seventh grade to the two college programs all learned a simple and short prayer to the Holy Spirit from Bishop Alminaza, who is widely known for his campaigns for the Care of the Common Home.

Teacher’s Pledge

Before the Mass of the Holy Spirit ended, Thomasian faculty members recited their Teachers’ Pledge in front of the bishop and the OAR community. Ms. Marinell Ocampo, the new principal of the Basic Education Department led the teachers.

History Makers. “All of us who are present here are making history because as we begin the school year and the college department we have in our presence the Bishop.” **RD**



FR. JOEL A. ALVE, OAR IS INSTALLED AS THE 18TH UNO-R PRESIDENT

CARLOS LEGASPI, JR., PHD

BACOLOD CITY, Negros Occidental-Rev. Fr. Joel Alve, OAR was installed as the 18th UNO-Recoletos President by Rev. Fr. Bernard C. Amparado, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno last August 31, 2022, at the university gymnasium. The Investiture and Installation ceremonies were held after the 8 am Mass of the Holy Spirit. It opened with the academic procession participated by the Program Heads and Chairs, the Lay Administrators, the Local School Board, and the Board of Trustees of UNO-R, Inc. Fr. Cristituto Palomar, OAR led the Invocation while Local Prior and Corporate Secretary Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR declared the opening of the Investiture rites. Welcome Remarks were given by Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr., OAR, VP-Academics and Research. Dr. Raul Alvarez, REE, CESO III, CHEDRO VI Director, gave the keynote speech which was followed by the Message of the Prior Provincial. Fr. Rafael Pecson, OAR, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and REAP President read the Confirmation of the Election and Appointment of the new UNO-R President. Fr. Palomar presented the Bible, and Fr. Alve did the Profession of Faith in the presence of Fr. Amparado and Fr. Lucero. 17th UNO-R President, Fr. Don H. Besana, OAR, turned over the Presidential Medallion to Fr. Alve while Fr. Potencio presented the academic cap. Fr. Jose Alden Alipin, VP-Identity, Formation, and Mission presented the Vision Mission of UNO-R, and Fr. Lucero entrusted the university Mace to the incoming President. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr., Director for External Affairs, read the Bionote of the President. Fr. President, after he was presented, gave his speech of acceptance.





FR. ALVE: THE PRESIDENCY IS A POSITION OF SERVICE, TRUST, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

(This is the acceptance speech delivered by Fray Joel Alve, OAR, during his Installation as the 18th President of the University)

With all humility, I accept the task and the challenge laid down before me today as the 18th President of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod City. I am grateful to my superiors in the Order of Augustinian Recollects and to the Board of Trustees for the trust and confidence given to me to serve this prestigious institution. I am doubly grateful to all my brothers who came before me and who have brought the University to where it is today as it beams with pride as the Cradle of Evangelization and Excellence, inspired by St. Augustine's charism of *Caritas et Scientia*.

Together with my acceptance of my election into this office, I thank the previous set of religious administrators led by Fr. Don Besana, OAR for ensuring that the transition from his administration to the present is in Order. Thus, I arrived at UNO-R with almost everything in place: the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives; the 4-Year Development Plan; the Institutional Thrust with the 7-Point Agenda; the curricular programs, the finances, the highly competent personnel from the administrators to the teaching and non-teaching staff; and a whooping 9,700 enrollment figure for the academic year 2022-2023. I am highly confident that the journey in the next three years will be very smooth with the help of my brothers in the community and our lay collaborators.

The presidency is a position of service, trust, and accountability. As a position of service, it must be founded upon the precept from our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I have come to serve and not to be served." This is the essence of genuine leadership – the service to humanity.

As a position of trust, it is mandatory for the President to uphold the highest standards of his office and to avoid any form of abuse that can endanger the stability and sustainability of the institutions. If there is anyone who should be ready to sacrifice, it has to be the President



as our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself for the salvation of mankind.

Lastly, as a position of accountability, the President should practice wisdom and prudence and most of all, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in making decisions. As your President, I am accountable to my superiors in the Order, to my brothers in the community, to the lay collaborators, to every parent who has entrusted the education of their children to this University, and all of you. Most of all, I am accountable to God; thus I must ensure that everything begins and ends with Him and by His Will so that every decision is derived under the cloak of charity and the protection of justice.

Another chapter of the history of this University is about to be unfolded, and you will all become witnesses of another era of Recollect Leadership. For better things to happen, we humbly ask for your cooperation and support. Entrusted to us are 9,700 students, seeking education the Augustinian Recollect way. Please let us not fail them. Let us take good care of them and give them the kind of experience that they all deserve and that will make them say, "I am happy to be here at UNO-R," or "May forever sa UNO-R."

Finally, as we face the triennium "Together," I ask everyone to turn our differences into powerful insights that could bring us closer to the achievement of our goals. Let us reap the benefits of diversity. Let us learn how to empower the people around us and not be imprisoned by micromanagement. Let us empathize with everyone to energize and inspire them to transcend to the next level to do better and bigger things. Let us communicate and never underestimate the power of communication.

All of these will be done according to the Will of God the Father, the Love of his Son our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Guidance of the Holy Spirit.

And now, in the presence of my superiors and all of you gathered here today, I hereby accept the authority and the responsibilities bestowed upon me as the 18th President of the University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos, Bacolod City.

I thank you all for coming, and may the blessings of God be with us all!

ONWARD UNO-R! *RO*



INSET 2022 begins; Service-Learning Program, the focus of week 1

DANTE PERALTA II

Faculty of the different departments of San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite and Sacred Heart School of Cavite-Recoletos de Alfonso converged at the Multipurpose Hall in the Main Campus for the first in-person in-service training since the pandemic began. The training event titled “Crafting of the Service-Learning Programs Across All Disciplines and Levels” was held on July 4 at 9:00 a.m., and is expected to bolster Recoletos Hybrid Flexible Learning.

Delivered by Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR, School President of SSC-R de Cavite and newly elected President of the Recoletos Educational Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP), the talk centered on how service learning could be implemented across various curricula to form students who are persons with others.

According to Fray Pecson, the Service-Learning Program would be anchored on Catholic social teachings, with the idea that students who are

moved by the suffering of others would likewise be moved to action, and in the process discover that learning is to serve and to serve is to learn.

Fray Pecson added that the Service-Learning Program takes into consideration the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and is intended to highlight Solidarity and Justice as Augustinian Values.

The program began with the invocation by Ana D. Manzano, Director of the Center for Recoletos Community

Outreach Program (ReCOP). This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem led by Rheyward G. Doneza, MBA, Director of the Center for Information and Communications Technology. The latter also provided the rationale for the day’s activity.

Fray Pecson discussed various aspects of service-learning, including its philosophy of making a difference through paying it forward, serving and defending the poor who are unable to defend themselves, producing



persons with others, a school with others, and a community with others.

Fray Pecson said that the aforementioned program is rooted in the Augustinian Pedagogy, which underscores the value of experiential learning where principles of reflection, reciprocity, and community voice can be applied.

The REAP President went on to expound on the concept of reflection, as well as defining service and service learning. He explained that service involves connecting passion to someone else's needs by carefully paying attention to the outside world and taking appropriate action. As for service learning, he said that it is the extension of engagement with classroom curriculum into real-life situations.

Moreover, Fray Pecson discussed the stages of service learning, which include investigation, preparation, action, and demonstration. He also elaborated on the benefits of service learning to faculty, students, and community agencies. In



addition to inspiring students to learn and increasing their resilience, he said that service-learning programs have been proven by research to boost academic performance. He also said that such programs can lead to improved self-worth.

Fray Pecson also enumerated the different approaches to service learning, namely the civic engagement approach, social justice approach, and critical service learning. He mentioned that of the three, the first two approaches would be utilized for SSC-R de Cavite's service-learning program.

After a brief Q & A session with the School President regarding the task at hand, participants proceeded in groups to either the St. Thomas of Villanova Learning Resource Center or Room 203 in the St. Augustine Building, or remained in the Multipurpose Hall, to work on their respective department's syllabus/lesson plan preparations as part of the training activity. **RD**





Thomasian Workers get gift on Labor Day; USJRAA Donates for Ansulag Elementary School

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS, Neg. Occidental—On Labor Day and the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Thomasian maintenance workers received tokens and cash gifts for their dedication to keeping the school campus a clean and safe space.

The school workshop, now dedicated to St. Joseph the Worker, is an extension of the St. Joseph College Building.

Josenians Support CEDO. Members of the University of San Jose-Recoletos Alumni Association-San Carlos City Chapter turn over their donation to Rev. Fr. Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, and Rev. Fr. Joel Alve, OAR on May 1, 2022, Labor Day. Labor Day and Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Thomasian community is joined

USJRAA, after meeting with the Community Extension and Development Office (CEDO) last February 22, 2022, pledged to help in developing Ansulag Elementary School, one of CST-R's three adopted schools in Barangay Rizal, San Carlos City.

The Criminalistics Laboratory. (L-R) Fr. Alve, Ms. Josie Marie Bolanio, Mr. Feliglando Bolanio, and Fr. Ramon at the CST-R Criminalistics Laboratory. The Bolanio father and daughter



Mr. Robert Sortigosa, head of the Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos Maintenance and Carpentry Department led his fellow workers in receiving their Labor Day gift after the blessing and dedication of the new workshop and the CST-R Criminalistics Laboratory.

by the USJRAA and Rover Scouts. Meanwhile, the members of the University of San Jose-Recoletos Alumni Association San Carlos City Chapter (USJRAA) turned over their donation of Php 25,000 for the tables and chairs of Ansulag Elementary School Kindergarten Room.

tandem helped design the interiors of the St. Joseph building. Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker. Fr. Alve and Fr. Ramon dedicate the workshop to St. Joseph. **RD**



OAR installs new USJ-R president

LORRAINE MITZI A. AMBRAD

The Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) named a new president for the University of San Jose – Recoletos today, September 8.

He is Fray Eduardo Celiz Jr., OAR. His Investiture Rites was held at the Recoletos Coliseum in Basak. The ceremony was done on the same day of the annual mass in honor of the Holy Spirit and the feast of the Nativity of Mary. It is also conducted during the Diamond Jubilee (75 years) of the University.

His term as University President starts from 2022 to 2025. His official appointment was read by Fray Rafael Pecson, OAR, the Recoletos Educational Apostolate (REAP) President.

During his acceptance speech, the new University President discussed his four-point agenda namely pursuing innovative and relevant program offerings, fostering international and local linkages, creating the integrated USJ-R automated services, and implementing an Augustinian Recollect developmental program.

He also emphasized the oneness of Josenians regardless of location and made a special tribute to the employees of USJ-R Balamban.

“We are one family, one community walking together in God,” he said.

This is not the first time that Celiz Jr. served as a religious administrator at USJ-R. He served from 1991 to 2000, holding various positions. In addition, he also served other Recollect schools. He was the president of the University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos and vice president for



finance at San Sebastian College – Recoletos in Manila.

Present during his investiture rites were his family, fellow friars from the OAR community together with the Prior Provincial, regional director of the Department of Education VII, representative of the Commission on Higher Education, students, employees, and lay administrators.

Celiz Jr. is the 8th president in the history of the school as a University but he is the 17th leader since its foundation in 1947. Before the term president, the leaders of the school were called rectors. **RO**





Thomasians win Third during UP OBEM Events

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Negros Occidental—Twelfth graders of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos placed third during the AMPLIFY Eco-No Mix 2022 Economics Quiz Bee and Essay Writing Contests of the University of the Philippines Organization of Business Economics Major (UP OBEM).

Alyana N. Yap (ABM Strand) won third place after a grueling final round last March 13, 2022, via Zoom. During the preliminary round (March 12), Yap, together with Clowie Marie Patrice A. Nieva (ABM Strand), competed individually against 53 other contestants from private and public high schools in the Philippines. Both advanced to the finals round of the top 12 participants. Nieva ranked second, while Yap ranked seventh.

Daniela Katrina Pauline D. Purisima (STEM Strand) also won

third place in the Essay Writing contest.

Truly Golden Eagles. Alyana Yap (left) and Clowie Marie Patrice Nieva (right) go through the finals round of the UP OBEM Economics Quiz.

The AMPLIFY Economics Quiz and Essay Writing were national virtual events organized by UP OBEM, an organization under the University of the Philippines Diliman School of Economics. This year's theme was "Challenging the Youth's Role in Shaping the Philippine Political Landscape."

Yap mentioned that she and Nieva joined the Economics Quiz to gain experience and exposure as both of them are planning to pursue careers in accountancy and business. They had limited time to prepare but immersed themselves in current reading materials that had touch points on economics in the Philippines and Asia.

Both Thomasians highlighted that what they learned during the review and contest proper was far more valuable than the triumph. Nieva pointed out that the computation of



the country's unemployment rate and its impact was a lesson she would always remember.

Thomasians Unite. Ms. Stephanie Ann Maridable-Remada (center) is the chief coach for the delegates of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos is a member of Batch 2010.

Ms. Stephanie Ann Maridable-Remada was the chief coach. Ms. Ma. Ena Alipes and Ms. Kathrina Socorro Marquez also served as coach-advisers of the Thomasian delegates.

Golden Eagles are Soaring High. The Thomasian Delegates to the AMPLIFY Eco-No Mix 2022 of the University of the Philippines School of Economics. **RO**



SPA launches its new corporate name: Colegio de San Pedro–Recoletos

KRISTINE ANGELIQUE CHAVEZ

VALENCIA, Negros Oriental—Valencia’s pioneering Catholic school, San Pedro Academy, launched its new corporate name: Colegio de San Pedro–Recoletos on June 24, 2022. The daylong celebration was filled with a series of activities, namely a booth fair, Eucharistic mass, parade, SPAsundayag, and raffle draw. These activities displayed various aspects of the Petrinian culture: for instance, the SPAsundayag showcased the talents of the Petrinians on both ends of the spectrum—from students to pioneering alumni. The parade was also participated by different class batches who willingly embraced the historic event.

The official launching event held in the evening was hosted by Ms. Kristine Angelique Chaves, and it was graced by distinguished individuals in Valencia—Mrs. Merlene, Cabatingan, Dr. Rolando Pacarro, Mrs. Rosa Leah Dagoy, Mr. Albert Tubal, and Mr. Rodolfo Gonzales—which contributed to the prestige of the celebration. Apart from the guests, Rev. Fr. Thadeu Enrique Balongag, the CEAP Vice President and Trustee of the Negros Island, and Rev. Fr. Bernard Amparado, OAR, the Prior Provincial of Saint Ezekiel Moreno, also shared their joy for the school’s success as guest speakers.

An emotional part of the launching event happened during the final singing of the SPA hymn and the introduction of the CSP–R hymn, both sung by Coro de San Pedro. The venue was packed with Petrinians who shared equal happiness for this new milestone. A firework display and a message from Rev. Fr. Monday Benjamine Edobor, the School Treasurer, ended the launching ceremony.

The fun continued with a live band, and everyone celebrated the night with joyful reminiscence and music. **RD**





UNO-R celebrates 60 years of Recoletos Education

CARLOS LEGASPI, JR., PHD

The University of Negros Occidental (UNO) was bought by the Order of Augustinian Recollects from the family of Dr. Antonio Lizares on May 25, 1962, and christened the University of Negros Occidental -Recoletos. This year, 2022, we celebrate the 60th year of UNO-R as a recoletos institution. UNO-R launched the celebration of its 60th year of UNO-R last May 25, 2022, with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass led by Fray



Amadeo Lucero, OAR. He was joined by Fr. President, Fray Don H. Besana, OAR; Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR; Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR and Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, OAR.

After the Thanksgiving Mass, a short launching program was held in the main lobby. Fr. President, who is also the executive chairperson of UNO-R@60, gave the opening remarks where he recalled the momentous events in the life of the university. He said that

there is a reason for rejoicing for this year we celebrate not only the UNO-R@60 but also celebrate ONI-Talisay at 81 and ONI Bacolod @76 and UNO@65. He added that SIXTY stands for S – Synodality (walking together), I – Interiority, X- Christ-centered, and TY – thank you. He also reminded us that we should always need to be SSS, which stands for Servant, steward, and shepherd in the community.

Dean Christopher Taclobos, co-chair of the logo-making Contest; Dr. Nena Samillano, co-chair of the Jingle-making contest; and Dr. Ma. Theresa Chavez, co-chair of the search for 60 UNO-R icons launched their respective programs. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, a member of the executive committee, gave the closing remarks. Fr. Palomar blessed the exhibits while Dean Annabee Claur, co-chair of the UNO-R@60 exhibits committee with the Fr. President, religious and lay administrators opened the exhibits in the main lobby.

Other milestones of the university that are celebrated this year are its 81st Occidental Negros Institute (ONI)-Talisay foundation anniversary; the 76th anniversary of ONI-Bacolod (ONI); and the 65th anniversary of UNO-R as a university. **RO**



Fr. Don Besana, OAR gives his opening message



53 professionals finish Diploma Program in Supply Management at USJ-R

LORRAINE MITZI A. AMBRAD

CEBU CITY-Fifty-three students of the University of San Jose – Recoletos (USJ-R) were conferred with their certificates after completing their Diploma Program in Supply Management (DPSM).

All of them are already working professionals whose jobs are related to supply management.

The commencement exercises for DPSM Batch 11, 12, 13, and 14 were held on November 5 at Maayo Hotel. Their diplomas were handed over by the University President and Vice President for Academics and Research.

DPSM studies the act of identifying, acquiring and managing the resources and suppliers that are essential to the operations of an organization. It runs for six months only. The program was first offered in 2010.

School of Business and Management Dean Edgar Detoya said that this program is offered through a collaboration with the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM). He added that USJ-R is the only school outside Metro Manila with this program.

“PISM markets the program and provides the pool of experts in the field of supply management who serve as speakers. USJ-R provides the faculty for general subjects,” he said.

Ryan Riaza, a DPSM graduate, expressed his gratitude to USJ-R and PISM for the collaboration which enabled him and his fellow graduates to finish. He added that he feels overwhelmed about being able to finish his college degree and postgraduate study at age 40 this 2022.

“Truly no one can stop us from learning if we truly push for it,” he said.

At present, he is the director for corporate services and project management of the Abaca Group. **RD**



USJ-R senior high department publishes its digital magazine for AY 2021-2022

USJ-R CORRESPONDENT

The Josenian Premier (TJP), the official student publication of the USJ-R Senior High School Department, released the digital copy of its issue for the first semester of the Academic Year 2021-2022 on March 13.

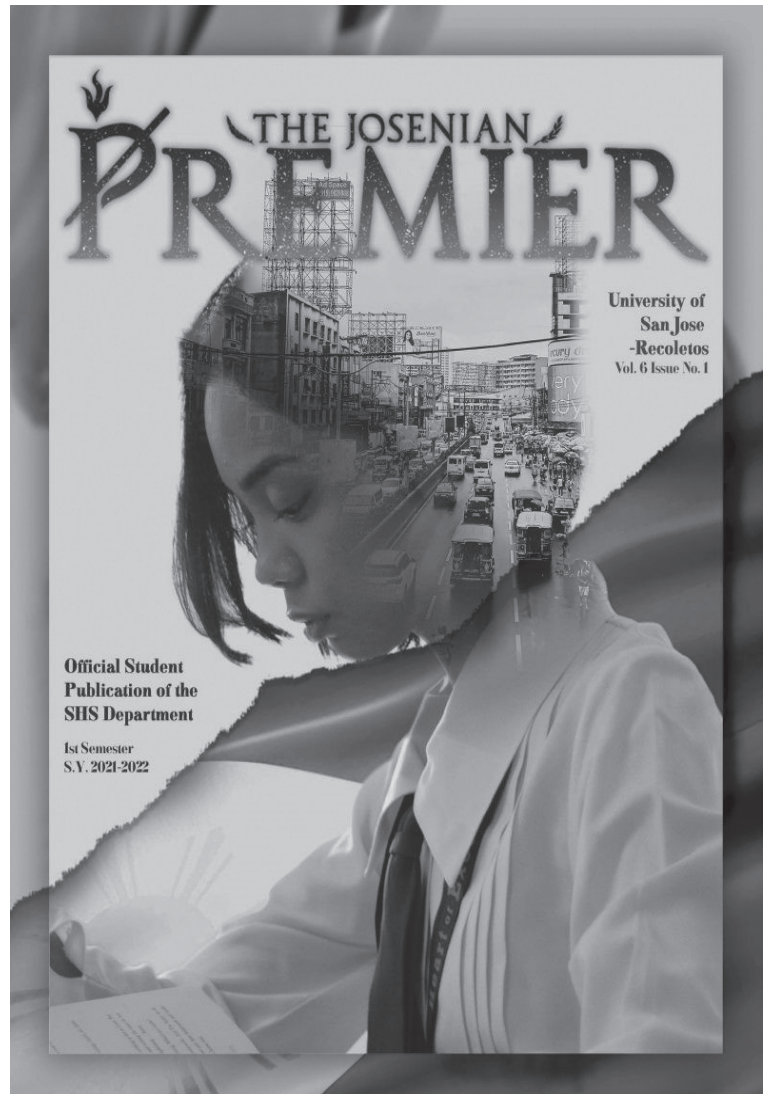
The theme for this issue is “Filipino First: Moving Forward with Nationalism and Rising for Heritage.”

Under the Editor’s note, TJP EIC Vanessa Mae Catubig explained the relevance of talking about nationalism today.

“There is a gray line between nationalism and blind obedience, may it be political or foreign validation. Hence, as you dive into each page, my team will proudly enlighten you about the glorious culture and heritage of the Philippines,” she wrote.

She highlighted the importance of staying well-informed as the foundation of one’s nationalism, not merely dictated by a set of ideas that fit their narratives.

“TJP continues to pursue the call for purveying the truth, especially for the young ones. With this timely approach of the magazine, we aim to remind young minds who truly they are and where they came from,” said TJP Adviser Jeo Rosel Cabilao.



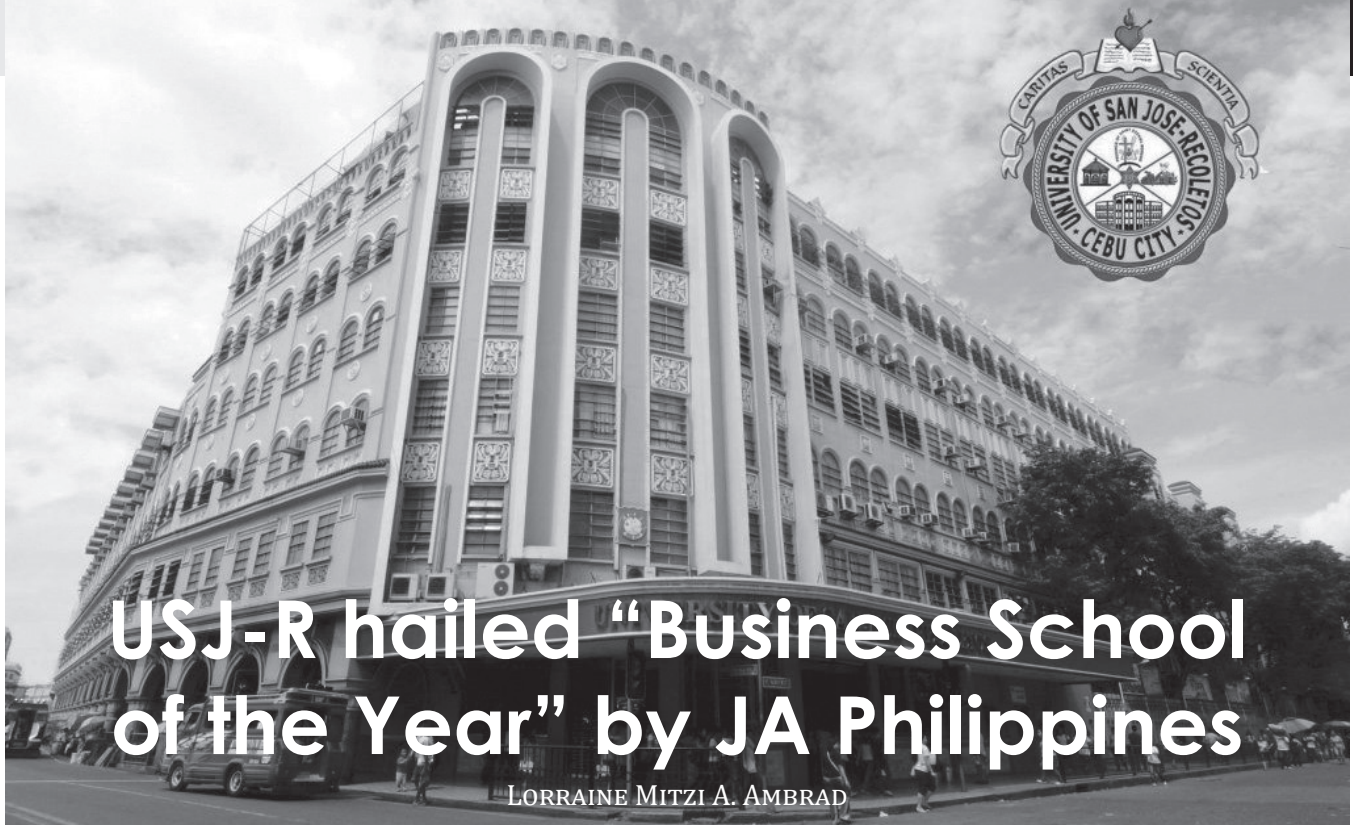
TJP is available on the university website through a partnership between the said organization and the Public Affairs and International Relations (PAIR) Office which started in 2021, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The University is proactive in utilizing our available platforms and resources to share the stories and quality outputs of our students,” said Communications Officer Lorraine Mitzi Ambrad on why the collaboration was forged.

PAIR manages the official online platforms of the University of San Jose – Recoletos.

For proposals, send a message to media@usjr.edu.ph

The student publication remains independent in crafting the content for its magazine. **RO**



USJ-R hailed “Business School of the Year” by JA Philippines

LORRAINE MITZI A. AMBRAD

The seal “Business School of the Year” was awarded to the University of San Jose-Recoletos this February 2022 by the Junior Achievement (JA) – Philippines.

JA is a youth-serving non-government organization that offers programs to equip the youth with knowledge and exposure to hone their entrepreneurial ideas and skills to secure better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. There are over 100 countries with a JA presence.

The recognition given by JA Philippines to USJ-R is viewed by the USJ-R School of Business and Management (SBM) as an affirmation of the kind of education that the University provides to its students.

“I congratulate all our toppers and passers. I thank our administration for their unwavering support of the School of Business and Management. I also commend our Business and Management teachers for this significant accomplishment; they’ve done a great job in molding and preparing our students,” said SBM Dean Edgar Detoya.

The seal “Business School of the Year” is given to a learning institution whose graduating students have taken the Registered Business Professionals (RBP) exam and provided that at least seventy percent of the total number of takers have passed.

USJ-R also produced seven toppers for RBP namely Nestle Cream Son (top 1), Myka Pangatuan (top 2), Kier Francis Daugdaug (top 3), Kerch Lawrence Pono (top 4), Lorraine Ross Unabia (top 6), Kiara Shaina De Guzman (top 7), Shine Jewel

Yu (top 9), and Jannah Montero (top 10).

Aside from the RBP examination, USJ-R also has toppers at the Registered Marketing Professionals (RMP) examinations. They are Marie Phillippe Perez (top 4), John Reil Serafin (top 7), and Myle Jalandoni (top 10). Moreover, 33 other Josenian students passed the said exam.

“The RBP and RMP Certification Programs serve to validate the competencies and work-readiness of our BSBA students. Thus, the title RBP or RMP that our successful passers can now place after their names is an additional credential that will certainly make them more employable and marketable in the industry,” Detoya added.

The examinations were held in December 2021 but the results were released in February 2022 according to the SBM secretary.

According to the official JA Philippines website, the RMP Certification Program is a certification examination developed by top industry practitioners that measures marketing students’ knowledge, analytical skills, creativity, and problem solving ability through a theoretical exam and case analysis. It covers six subject areas namely Marketing Management; Sales and Sales Management; Services Marketing; Advertising; Integrated Marketing Communication; Brand Management; and E-Marketing.

Meanwhile, the RBP Certification Exam is catered to business students, graduates, and professionals. This exam measures one’s competencies in the field of Financial and Managerial Accounting, Entrepreneurship and Business Management, Business Communication, Marketing Management, and Human Resource Management. **RD**



USJ-R produces 208 new lawyers, registers an 85.16% passing rate for first-time takers

LORRAINE MITZI A. AMBRAD

Two hundred and eight new Josenian lawyers were named on April 12 after the Supreme Court released the results of the first digital and regionalized bar examinations.

Six of the new lawyers passed with “exemplary performance”. They are Jean Timothy Maxine Chang, Jlayda Carmel Gabor, Mary Anne Jamisola, Rexis Jun Maamo, Lexxa Jane Molijon, and Janicka Paragados.

University of San Jose – Recoletos has an overall passing rate of 77.04% which is higher than the national passing rate of 72.28%. This means 208 of the 270 USJ-R law graduates who took the exam passed.

For first-time takers, the passing rate is even higher at 85.16%. This translates to 132 passers out of 155 first-time bar exam takers.

From a national perspective, 8,241 of 11,402 takers passed the 2020-2021 bar exams.

USJ-R is one of the Cebu-based schools with the most number of examinees at 270. The online examinations were held on February 4 and 6.

USJ-R Bar Passers (2020-2021)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Atty. Aban, Marjie L. | 27. Atty. Barrios, Carlos R. | 52. Atty. Commendador, Ann Q. |
| 2. Atty. Abragan, Mark L. | 28. Atty. Bas, Mavilene Simonette G. | 53. Atty. Corbeta, Isha B. |
| 3. Atty. Abraham, Maria Victoria C. | 29. Atty. Bejasa, Kirk Dean H. | 54. Atty. Cosicol, Edeline O. |
| 4. Atty. Abreu, Cheryl R. | 30. Atty. Bersabal, Elijah B. | 55. Atty. Cuadra, Arthcris T. |
| 5. Atty. Acaylar, Franz, Lawrence Q. | 31. Atty. Boiser, Manuelito L. | 56. Atty. Cualteros, Godofredo Jose IV D. |
| 6. Atty. Actub, Engrid R. | 32. Atty. Bojos, Rita Angelica U. | 57. Atty. Cuenca, Joben Vernan C. |
| 7. Atty. Adigue-Ursal, Christy E. | 33. Atty. Braga, Michael Vencynth H. | 58. Atty. Daclan, Christopher Chase P. |
| 8. Atty. Aguilando, Ma. Lourdes M. | 34. Atty. Briones, Steven G. | 59. Atty. Damos, Mariter P. |
| 9. Atty. Alarde, Asez C. | 35. Atty. Bulanon, Jannet A. | 60. Atty. Darnayla, Mary Fhien Mae G. |
| 10. Atty. Alcos, Carla Marie P. | 36. Atty. Bulotano, Jhan Ray R. | 61. Atty. De Asis, Quejarra R. |
| 11. Atty. Alesna, Cielomar L. | 37. Atty. Butao, Kimberly May | 62. Atty. De Gracia, Ma. Odessa P. |
| 12. Atty. Alforque, Joanna Rhea A. | 38. Atty. Cabrido, Leslie Mae O. | 63. Atty. De Guzman, Princess Kay D. |
| 13. Atty. Andales, Divino Czar A. | 39. Atty. Cabrillos, Louela T. | 64. Atty. Decena, Leona Mae G. |
| 14. Atty. Arapan, Jemar E. | 40. Atty. Cagaanan, Vic Raymond C. | 65. Atty. Degamo, Arthur L. |
| 15. Atty. Arellano, Mareja Aña G. | 41. Atty. Calagos, Cyrine L. | 66. Atty. Dela Cruz, Louella M. |
| 16. Atty. Arenajo, Christian N. | 42. Atty. Calibugan, Rudeza Sheena A. | 67. Atty. Dela Victoria, Keeu Emmanuell Q. |
| 17. Atty. Arizala, Kimberly Q. | 43. Atty. Cañete, Gladys S. | 68. Atty. Derecho, April C. |
| 18. Atty. Arnoza, Gesal Marie N. | 44. Atty. Canteveros, Noe B. | 69. Atty. Desuyo, Melvyn Z. |
| 19. Atty. Bagazin, Willem Jun L. | 45. Atty. Capao, Henna Auggie M. | 70. Atty. Diano, Marilyn B. |
| 20. Atty. Baguio, Mary Irma C. | 46. Atty. Caputolan, Franz D. | 71. Atty. Dico, Jeanilyn M. |
| 21. Atty. Baje, Beverly Keren Lou B. | 47. Atty. Castro, Edgar Jr. E. | 72. Atty. Dimol, Mae Theresa Clare M. |
| 22. Atty. Baldivia, Xyra Jane B. | 48. Atty. Chang, Jean Timothy Maxine Q. with Exemplary performance | 73. Atty. Doctolero, Razenne Kyra D. |
| 23. Atty. Balt, Al-Emir Yusoph J. | 49. Atty. Charcos, Christian G. | 74. Atty. Duallo-Larupay, Janeth B. |
| 24. Atty. Baltar, Marlon C. | 50. Atty. Choachuy, Anne Marie C. | 75. Atty. Dumadag, Erica M. |
| 25. Atty. Bantiling, Lloyd A. | 51. Atty. Chua, Christine Bernadette M. | 76. Atty. Dungog, Yasie T. |
| 26. Atty. Bariquit, Joymee L. | | 77. Atty. Duyongco, Ramon Mikhail L. |



78. Atty. Dy, Immanuel S.
 79. Atty. Ecarma, Kim D.
 80. Atty. Egos, Czareeve Y.
 81. Atty. Elesterio, Dessa Marie V.
 82. Atty. Elnar, Melinda C.
 83. Atty. Enerlan, Edwin A.
 84. Atty. Ermac, Neil Patrick P.
 85. Atty. Escalante, Lezlee Amor R.
 86. Atty. Esgana, Kristine Joy S.
 87. Atty. Esmeña, Kimberly Marie F.
 88. Atty. Esparagoza, Keneth Jorge A.
 89. Atty. Esparagoza, Stephen Jorge A.
 90. Atty. Eupeña, Ron Christian T.
 91. Atty. Evarado, Benny Boy P.
 92. Atty. Fabe, Janine S.
 93. Atty. Fat, Samantha G.
 94. Atty. Figue, Maria Helen P.
 95. Atty. Fontanosa, Alan Vincent II S.
 96. Atty. Gabor, Jlayda Carmel Y. with Exemplary performance
 97. Atty. Gala, Lylanie M.
 98. Atty. Gamao-Mendoza, Arthelly D.
 99. Atty. Gamil, Jesson G.
 100. Atty. Garbanzos, Yvonne Nicole C.
 101. Atty. Garciano, Gerald W.
 102. Atty. Garciano, Marichu D.
 103. Atty. Gaviola, Charlene B.
 104. Atty. Gime, Reynold John F.
 105. Atty. Gimena, Pretty Leighn Kate B.
 106. Atty. Gubalane, Rafael B.
 107. Atty. Icao, Gean Pearl P.
 108. Atty. Ipil, Careysa Mae I.
 109. Atty. Isidro, April Mae G.
 110. Atty. Jamisola, Mary Anne B. with Exemplary performance
 111. Atty. Jayme, Annaliza P.
 112. Atty. Jongoy, Kent Francesco C.
 113. Atty. Jupurie, Jurhaiza H.
 114. Atty. Jurolan, Marymar L.
 115. Atty. Kentilitisca, Ricky G.
 116. Atty. Kong, Primrose P.
 117. Atty. Laboga, Clarelle B.
 118. Atty. Lacamiento, Grace Melanie I.
 119. Atty. Lagcao, Kim S.
 120. Atty. Lasala, Eharra Christa B.
 121. Atty. Lavapiz, Arthur Kenneth M.
 122. Atty. Legaspo, Marje L.
 123. Atty. Lesaca, Bjorn Nicholi L.
 124. Atty. Librando, Ronald Anthony A.
 125. Atty. Licayan, Abigail R.
 126. Atty. Ligutan, Ruel Eduard P.
 127. Atty. Lim, Elerlenne P.
 128. Atty. Literato, Ronie B.
 129. Atty. Lopez, John Marco S.
 130. Atty. Loquias, Jean L.
 131. Atty. Luansing, Annielou L.
 132. Atty. Lubaton, Chamles A.
 133. Atty. Lucero, Marriel C.
 134. Atty. Lumbre, Jeany Lou P.
 135. Atty. Maamo, REXIS Jun M. with Exemplary performance
 136. Atty. Macalinao, Romielyn P.
 137. Atty. Magallon, Stephen A.
 138. Atty. Magandia, Abdul Jomar P.
 139. Atty. Malinao, Deborah D.
 140. Atty. Mapalad, Jayson John P.
 141. Atty. Mapalo, Adrian P.
 142. Atty. Maputi, Joey Ross V.
 143. Atty. Maruhom, Datu Esmá Mikee P.
 144. Atty. Menchavez, Ruben Y.
 145. Atty. Mendoza, Juris Renier C.
 146. Atty. Menil, Mario Josshua C.
 147. Atty. Mojica, Marianito III Q.
 148. Atty. Molijon, Lexxa Jane T. with Exemplary performance
 149. Atty. Montallana, Kessey N.
 150. Atty. Montecillo, Maria Mae Florence A.
 151. Atty. Montero, Maryjoy P.
 152. Atty. Morado, Princess Angelica P.
 153. Atty. Moslares, Cherie Lyn D.
 154. Atty. Nery, Kara Evangelee G.
 155. Atty. Ngujo, Monica Pearl D.
 156. Atty. Noval, Efren June L.
 157. Atty. Ocampo, Glendoris R.
 158. Atty. Ocmeja, John Niño Rey G.
 159. Atty. Onod, Arcelli B.
 160. Atty. Ordesta, Maryris G.
 161. Atty. Oropel, Oliver John R.
 162. Atty. Ouano, Jansen Ynrik V.
 163. Atty. Pabilona, Byrone L.
 164. Atty. Palutke, Lyerra P.
 165. Atty. Pañares, Ma. Baby P.
 166. Atty. Papas, Keziah Cyra B.
 167. Atty. Paquera-Cuartero, Elvira V.
 168. Atty. Paragados, Janicka P. with Exemplary performance
 169. Atty. Paragamac, Christopher S.
 170. Atty. Parcon, Junfe S.
 171. Atty. Pepito, Iren G.
 172. Atty. Perez, Shana Alexandra P.
 173. Atty. Perral, Dahlia Claudine May B.
 174. Atty. Pozon-Gamil, Riz A.
 175. Atty. Ramas, John Lawrence P.
 176. Atty. Ranalan, Amiel M.
 177. Atty. Realino, Frances May C.
 178. Atty. Regala, Mary Licel I.
 179. Atty. Resit, Yves M.
 180. Atty. Rodriguez, Anna Katrina M.
 181. Atty. Rodriguez, Marmae S.
 182. Atty. Rodriguez, Nelanie Rose T.
 183. Atty. Romano, Josemar
 184. Atty. Romano, Romielyn H.
 185. Atty. Rosaroso, Sheila Mae A.
 186. Atty. Rufin, Desiree Mae O.
 187. Atty. Sala, Ivanhoe Belle C.
 188. Atty. Salta, Christian Q.
 189. Atty. Samad, Azisa A.
 190. Atty. Samson, Frances C.
 191. Atty. Sangco-Galavia, Klaire Ciarra G.
 192. Atty. Santiago, Vincent Francis Bien G.
 193. Atty. Sarmiento, Aljun T.
 194. Atty. Sayson, Karl Benedict N.
 195. Atty. Sesante, Monyeen Marie T.
 196. Atty. Silawan, Dionisio Jr. I.
 197. Atty. Solas, Ferdinand D.
 198. Atty. Taghoy, Goldie Ann M.
 199. Atty. Tañeda, Carlo S.
 200. Atty. Tiu, Jomarie C.
 201. Atty. Tomarong, Jessel O.
 202. Atty. Torres, Ronalyn M.
 203. Atty. Undag-Solis, Maria Fe Luna D.
 204. Atty. Veloso, Marvin Joshua M.
 205. Atty. Vidad, Darryl M.
 206. Atty. Villena, Nelia Mae S.
 207. Atty. Viranda, Gladys
 208. Atty. Zanganeh, Shireen M. **RD**



Francisco Javier Acero, OAR, new auxiliary bishop of Mexico

The Augustinian Recollect, of Spanish origin and nationalized Mexican, has been elected by Pope Francis as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Mexico.

Pope Francis has appointed the Spanish Augustinian Recollect Francisco Javier Acero Perez as the new auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Mexico. He has also been assigned the titular see of Sufasar. The Holy See made the appointment public this Thursday, September 15, in its daily press bulletin.

Francisco Javier Acero thus becomes the twenty-third Augustinian Recollect bishop in the world. The religious,

of Spanish origin, was Vicar Provincial in Mexico, where he has spent most of his pastoral life.

An Augustinian Recollect priest and nationalized Mexican, he was born in Valladolid (Spain) in 1973. Since childhood, he studied with the Augustinian Recollects, with whom he completed his primary and high school studies. In 1993, he was consecrated as an Augustinian Recollect religious and studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained a priest on July 31, 1999.

For 13 years he served as parochial vicar and pastor, chaplain, and chaplain in the parish of N. Sra. de Guadalupe de los Hospitales (col. Doctores, Mexico City); he was dean of the former Vth Episcopal Vicarage of San Pedro Apóstol in the same archdiocese. He was the promoter



and first president of the social work CARDI (2006), an institution of the Augustinian Recollects in Mexico City, which provides help to the sick and their families in the hospitals of the colonia Doctores. He was a member of the Medical Ethics and Bioethics Committee of the Hospital de Especialidades CMN siglo XXI, as well as an animator and coordinator of the permanent mission and the evangelizing missionary process in the same neighborhood (1999-2012).

In 2012 he was transferred to Querétaro as director of the Fray Luis de León School. In addition to this educational function, he coordinates and promotes the activities of CEAR (Center of Augustinian Recollect Spirituality). During this time he founded Recoletos TV, an audiovisual production company that evangelizes through Radio and Television, and accompanied the youth of the JAR movement. For the last seven years, he has served as major superior of the Augustinian Recollects in Mexico and Costa Rica and has led the implementation of the Augustinian Recollect International Solidarity Network ARCORES in these same countries.

In addition to his ecclesiastical studies (Licentiate in Theology from the University of Navarra), he has a degree in Psychology (UIC, Universidad Intercontinental), studies in Gestalt Psychotherapy (INTEGRO), and a diploma in Participative Pastoral Planning (Pontifical University of Mexico). He is also a specialist in Institutional Communication and digital evangelization. He has been a professor at the Pontifical University of Mexico (2020-2021), in the degree of Pastoral Theology and the Master in Theology and Psychodynamics of the family. He is a specialist in the prevention of abuse in the Church and the protection of vulnerable people. As a member of the CEPROME Latin America Council, he has given conferences, courses, and workshops at the international level, to various dioceses and religious congregations, on risk factors and prevention of sexual abuse, child sexual abuse in pastoral environments, protocols for action in the face of child abuse and the role of the social communication spokesperson in an ecclesial institution. **RD**

Source: Francisco Javier Acero, new auxiliary bishop of Mexico (agustinosrecoletos.com)

The Gift that Endures: Gasa ni Tomas 2022

RACHEL MAE DE GRACIA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Neg. Occidental-Gasa ni Tomas (Gift of St. Thomas) through the Community Extension & Development Office (CEDO) gathered 120 pedicabs (foot-pedaled cab) drivers at Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos last December 22, 2022, despite the rain and cold northwesterly winds.

The beneficiaries joined CST-R religious administrators in prayer outside the St. Thomas of Villanova Chapel before they received their food packs.

Private benefactors, Thomasian alumni, parents, and students all contributed rice, noodles, canned goods, and hygiene products to complete one 'Gasa' pack.

Thomasian volunteers included the staff from CEDO, the Campus Ministry Office (CMO), the Student Development & Placement Center (SDPC), the President's Office, the External Communications Office, and the scholars of Recollect Educational Assistance for Deserving Students (READS). **RD**





Diocese of San Carlos Eco Team CST-R CEDO, Lunhaw-Diocese of San Carlos Collab for Eco-Team Building 2022

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Neg. Occ.—To build the camaraderie and team spirit of Lunhaw, the Environmental Conservation Organization of the Diocese of San Carlos, and the Community Extension and Development Office (CEDO) of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos facilitated the Eco-Team Building 2022 at Sipaway Island.

Ms. Ma. Nita V. Bolo, who heads the Thomasian team, created ecologically inspired challenges for Lunhaw's Ecology Ministry core volunteer group. Activities included Learning Gratefulness, Simple Acts of Kindness for the Earth (SAKE), 7 Laudato Si' Sustainable Goals Puzzle,

Drawing Laudato Si' using the Earth as Canvass, and Fill-Me-Up Water Conservation Teamwork.

Eco-Habits at Home. The challenges tickle the mind and heart. This one involves correctly identifying eco-signs and practices that are often used at home. Drawing Laudato Si'. An

artistic expression of the volunteers using the Earth as a canvas.

Most. Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos, joined the group at Sipaway Island and led the offering of the Holy Mass which he also dedicated to a clean and peaceful Philippine Elections.



With St. Francis of Assisi. Most. Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., Bishop of San Carlos leads the offering of the Holy Mass that started the day's eco-activities. St. Francis of Assisi was transported from the Bishop's Home to Sipaway Island to grace the mobile altar. Dynamic Coordinator. Fr. Jolo Tormis reads the Gospel. Fr. Jolo, as he is fondly called by youth volunteers, is the Lunhaw coordinator.

During his homily, Bishop Alminaza challenged the young volunteers of Lunhaw "to be the animating force in our whole diocese" in addressing climate change and socio-political issues.

At least 15 Lunhaw youth volunteers whose catechetical background is rooted in parish youth ministry, joined the Eco-Team Building activities. The event is part of CST-R's extension services to the diocese and community of San Carlos.



Let the Eco-Challenges Begin! Ma. Nita V. Bolo discusses the importance and value of teamwork and commitment before the Lunhaw core group is divided into the Red and Yellow Teams. Sharing. Ms. Bolo shares her defunct ministry as a young catechesis class volunteer when she was in high school. The youth volunteers share a light and fun moment while listening. **RD**

Sacred Protest – Esitis 2022

BRO. TAGOY JAKOALEM, OAR

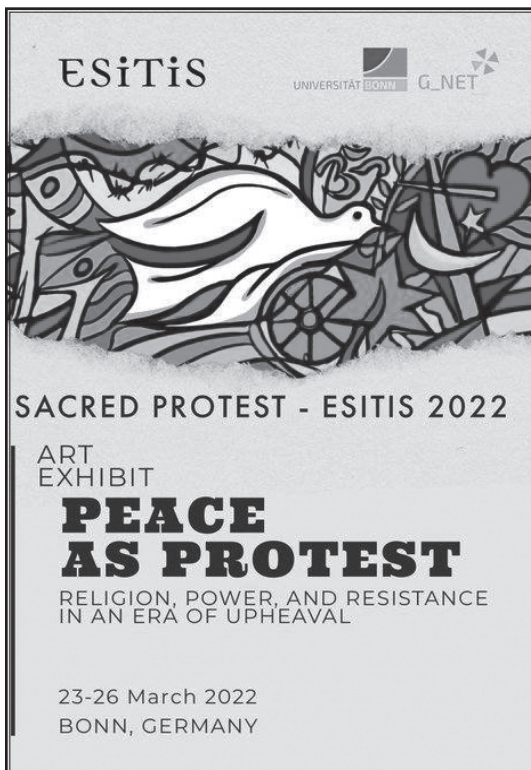
Pace as Protest is a visual articulation of the universal language of peace—as embraced by different religions, institutions, and individuals.

The exhibit will feature the recent artworks of Jaazeal Jakosalem, OAR, a Filipino social justice activist and a MEST student of the University of Bonn (Faculty of Protestant Theology). The artist uses various symbols related to peace, providing concrete visualization of the impacts of armed conflicts enabling dehumanization and suffering.

This art exhibit brings relevance to the current protest mobilizations against the Russian aggression in Ukraine—people protesting for peace and the end of suffering in Ukraine.

Peace as Protest reflects the role of many faiths in seeking relevance amid armed conflicts—where every religion should demand a just and lasting peace across cultures, religions, and societal situations.

This art exhibition is part of the Bi-annual International Congress of the European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies – Sacred Protest: Religion, Power, and Resistance in an Era of Upheaval; hosted by the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn. **RD**





ARCORES International and Filipinas partner with USJ-R INFECOP for the outreach program

JOANNA Z. DE CATALINA

CEBU CITY- On September 23, 2022, USJ-R through INFECOP and in partnership with ARCORES International and Filipinas conducted Project Tabang Sugbu: Phase 2 for the typhoon Odette victims of Olango Island, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. The project was composed of the following activities: distribution of ARCORES Bags of Hope (Educational Assistance), Value Formation on Stewardship of Creation, and Session on Safety Tips against Calamities and/or Disasters. The beneficiaries of the program were more than 200 children and parents coming from barangays Caw-oy, Bonbon, Banago, and Ibabao of Olango Island.

Warmest gratitude to the following sponsors of the project: ARCORES International for the 200 pieces of Bag of Hope with school supplies; and USJ-R Faculty Association, Inc., USJ-R Multipurpose Cooperative, and Office Professionals of Accounting Office for the snacks of the children.

Special thanks to the facilitators of the project: INFECOP, Campus Ministry Office Main Campus, Security and Safety Department, Adelante Life Emergency Response Team (ALERT), and Ms. Analeh Patindol. **RD**





USJ-R launches a book documenting 400 years of Recollect missionary presence in Cebu

LORRAINE MITZI A. AMBRAD

In line with the *Recoletos de Cebu at 400* celebrations, a 366-page book documenting the Recollect missionary presence in Cebu was launched on February 16.

The book is entitled *History of Augustinian Recollects in Cebu Since 1621: Studies and Sources*. It is compiled and edited by Professor Emmanuel Luis Romanillos who has a Licentiate in Church History and finished magna cum laude from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Moreover, he has written over twenty books.

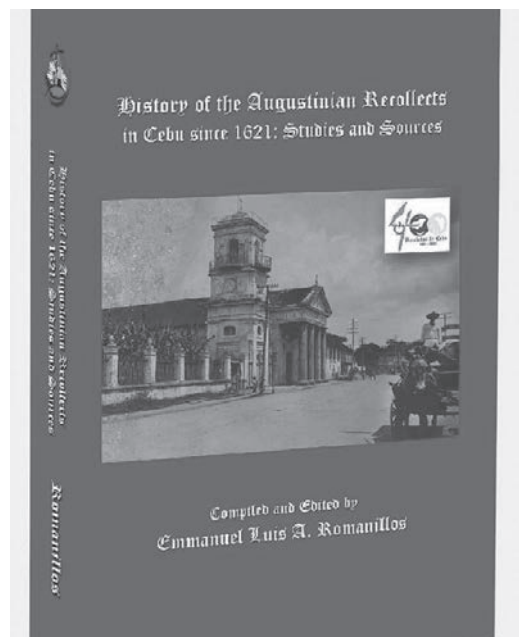
Included in the newly-launched book are accounts detailing the history of the Augustinian Recollects in Cebu City, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Talisay City, University of San Jose-Recoletos, Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity, and former Augustinian Recollect parishes and curates of northeastern Cebu, Maripipi, and Camotes Islands.



Romanillos expressed that it is the “hardest book” that he has written this far. He cited that it was challenging to finish it because he can no longer see with his left eye. Moreover, it was harder to coordinate in time of the pandemic.

“At last, after five years of painstaking research, collecting photos/archival sources, translation, writing, editing, and proofreading, including two years amid the Covid-19 pandemic, here’s the 336-page book in full color you’ve been waiting for,” he wrote in a public social media post.

Recoletos de Cebu at 400 Historical Committee Chair Le Roy Sanchez



shared that one of the reasons for having this book is to establish how the love of *Caritas* of the Recollects with Cebu started.

“The undying love of the Recollects with Cebu can also be best immortalized through their history of missionary works in the ecclesiastical territories in the then Diocese of Cebu beginning in 1621,” he said.

Sanchez and Romanillos have been working closely to produce and print the book in time for the year-long celebration of 400 years of Recollect missionary presence in Cebu.

In his speech, overall event chair and University President Rev. Fr. Christopher Maspara, OAR pointed out that the launching of the book is an opportunity to examine history and values as a community.

“This book must be treated like a treasure. This book, like a museum, is a repository of



valuable stories and memories,” he said.

He also congratulated Romanillos because his book will be his legacy and contribution to Philippine history and propagating faith in the world.

Aside from the University’s official Facebook and Youtube channel, the book launching event was also streamed live on the pages of the Cultural and Historical Affairs Office of Cebu City Government, Our Lady of Consolation Parish-Recoletos de Laray, University of San Jose-Recoletos Balamban Campus, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish-Recoletos, and Province of St. Ezekiel.

The said book is the inaugural product available on USJ-R’s first online store through Lazada. For February 2022 only, the promo price is P450 for the softbound and P600 for the hardbound. the regular prices will be announced at a later date. **RO**



Obituary: +Fray Manuel Macarat Lipardo, OAR (December 6, 1961-April 10, 2022)

Prot. SEM 079/22
April 13, 2022

TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FAMILY

“Across the barrier of death, and in configuration with Christ who died and rose again, the communion of love, begun by the brothers on earth, will reach its fullness in heaven, where all will be one in Christ.” (OAR Const. 93a)

Dear brothers and sisters:

It is my sad duty to formally notify you of the passing of our brother, FRAY MANUEL MACARAT LIPARDO, OAR at 1:37 in the afternoon of April 10, 2022, Passion Sunday. He died of sepsis and multiple organ failure after almost three weeks of confinement at the Perpetual Succour Hospital in Cebu City. He was 60 years old.

“Father Maning” (or Manjie to his contemporaries) was born on December 6, 1961, in Cebu City. He finished his basic education at Tisa Elementary School, in Labangon, in 1975, and at Colegio de Santo Tomas-





Recoletos in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental where he completed, as a seminarian, his high school in 1979. In the latter, he was a fourth-year transferee from what was then Colegio de San Jose-Recoletos (now USJ-R) where he first entertained the dream of becoming one of those “black beltters” he had frequently met on the San Jose campus. He proceeded to enter Seminario Mayor-Recoletos (now: Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary) in Baguio City for his aspirancy and postulancy and, in 1983, he earned here his A.B. Philosophy. On June 15 of that year, along with 10 companions, he was formally accepted to the novitiate stage which was then housed in the same seminary in Baguio. Almost a year after, on June 10, 1984, he pronounced his simple profession of vows at the seminary’s Our Lady of the Pillar chapel and in the presence of Fr. German Chicote, OAR, vicar provincial. A few weeks later, he was among the nine Filipino newly-professed Recollects who flew to Spain for their theological formation.

On October 24, 1987, Father Maning made his solemn profession of vows at the Augustinian Recollect Theological Seminary in Marcilla, Navarra (Spain). The following month, on November 13, in this same historic place, he was among the 10 friars who were ordained deacons by the Recollect bishop, Most. Rev. Justo Goizueta, OAR, D.D. His group is dubbed “Los ultimos de Filipinas” because they were the last batch to be ordained in this Iberian nation. His presbyteral ordination together with his five classmates on October 6, 1988, with Most Rev. Manuel Salvador, then coadjutor archbishop of Cebu, as the ordaining prelate, was already here in Cebu City, exactly in the very church where he now lies in state.

As a religious for more than 37 years and as a priest for more than 33 years, Father Maning is among the few who have seen for themselves the highs and lows of the four major areas of our apostolate: school, seminary, mission, and parish.

Right after ordination in 1988 up to 1994, he lived and worked in the Recollect community of San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila, holding various capacities: Athletic Moderator, Property Custodian, and School Treasurer. Then, for two years, from 1994 to 1996, he was at Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary, Baguio City, as a member of the Chapter of Formation and as the local procurator.

The next 16 years of his life (1996-2012) would be dedicated to foreign missions. In 1996, he was among the missionaries sent to Kamabai, Sierra Leone (West Africa) to compose the pioneering Recollect community. But their stay was only interrupted and cut short in 1998 by the unremitting civil war. Fortunately, Father Maning, along with his confreres, was able to safely get out of that chaos, and for his part, he was able to fly back to the Philippines, arriving on January 14, 1999. After some months of break, he volunteered to work in our mission station in Labrea, Amazonia, Brazil where he worked from November 1999 up to 2006. Then, from 2006 to 2012, he returned to our Sierra Leone mission where he was the local before the Recoletos de Kamabai community the whole time, and the appointed parish priest of Our Lady of Sierra Leone Catholic Mission since 2009.

The ensuing two triennia (2012-2018) saw him working at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos in Antipolo City where he was the local procurator, spiritual director, and ordinary confessor. At the provincial level, but only from 2012-2015, he was the Chairman of the Commission on Mission and a member of the Commission of Finance and Resource Mobilization-Recoletos.

From 2018 until his death, Father Maning was assigned at the Our Lady Mt. Carmel Parish in Inagawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. He was the local prior to the community and, for a time, the parochial vicar of San Rafael Parish in the nearby Plaridel, in Aborlan town. Father Maning is among those friars with unassuming and simple personality. He may not be on the frontlines but he surely works silently and productively, unperturbed by whether his accomplishments would be acknowledged or not. Anyone who would listen to him as he articulates his thoughts, especially on matters concerning religion and spirituality, would be awed by the depth of his points of view. He could be passionately engaging as well when it comes to sports and politics, for instance. And in practically all things, he does not lose his patience easily.

His respect towards the proper authority regardless of the latter’s age or precedence by profession is admirable. A local prior of the community where he stayed and who was much younger than him recalled how Father Maning would humbly accept fraternal corrections.

Father Maning must have set on a lampstand the lamp of his consecrated life wherever he was assigned. As one of his formands who later became his confrere and companion in Sierra Leone would put it, in a heartfelt eulogy posted on his Facebook page: “I would look up to him as my father. [...] I was glad that I knew somebody ... is taking this religious so seriously.”

May Jesus, our Savior, who triumphantly entered Jerusalem welcome our brother, Father Maning, into the heavenly Jerusalem where he will receive the eternal reward promised to those who remain faithful to Him until the end. May the soul of our brother rest in peace. Amen. **RD**

In St. Ezekiel Moreno,

Fray Dionisio Q. Selma, OAR

Prior Provincial

Fray Jose Ernil F. Almayo, OAR

Provincial Secretary



The Newly-accepted members of SARF Luzon Chapter.

SARF Luzon Chapter holds Regional Gathering

BRO. JESSE MEER E. ALIPES

URBIZTONDO — Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) Luzon Chapter holds a 2-day Regional Gathering last October 22-23, 2022 at Our Lady of the Visitation Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, with the theme, “Journeying Together: One Mind, One Heart, One Family.”

The said event is the first face-to-face gathering of the chapter after two years of holding the previous assemblies virtually. The two-day gathering is attended by the different SARF chapters from the island of Luzon.

Rev. Fr. Nestor Raras, OAR formally welcomed the delegates in the Our Lady of the Visitation Urbiztondo, Pangasinan.

“May this gathering inspire more young people and old lay people to help us spread the Gospel for the salvation of all souls,” said Rev. Fr.

Nestor Raras, OAR, assistant parish priest of the host parish, as he welcomed the 172 delegates in his opening message.

“As we journey together, we may have the courage to embrace the cross of Christ, and always remain faithful to our vows and our vocation, so that we may serve God faithfully,” he added.

The 172 delegates are from the different local chapters of Luzon which are as follows:

1. St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate Recoletos Chapter from Antipolo City, Rizal

- 2. St. Nicholas de Tolentino Parish Chapter from Quezon City
- 3. Our Lady of Consolation Parish Chapter from Quezon City
- 4. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Chapter from Manila City
- 5. San Sebastian de Cavite Chapter from Cavite City
- 6. Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish Chapter from Tondo, Manila
- 7. Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary Chapter from Baguio City
- 9. Our Lady of the Visitation Parish from Urbiztondo Pangasinan.



Rev. Fr. Samson Silloriquiez, OAR during the homily.

First Day-October 22, 2022

After the registration, the delegates gathered at the Our Lady of the Visitation Parish for the opening program followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the integrated Vespers.

Rev. Fr. Samson Silloriquiez, OAR, parish priest of the host parish is the main celebrant of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, concelebrated by the Recollect priest spiritual directors of the different chapters.

“Bloody martyrdom is not already common,” said Fr. Silloriquiez relating to the passion of St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, who died as a martyr.

Fr. Silloriquiez said that imitating St. Magdalene does not mean to die like her, but rather to take into heart the invitation of Jesus Christ “take up your cross, and follow me.”

“Imitating St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, we need to bear the realities of our daily life, by understanding, forgiving, and loving the people around us,” he added. **RO**

The delegates went to the nearby Urbiztondo National Highschool for dinner where they were entertained by the member of the Recollect Augustinian Youth (RAY) Urbiztondo chapter with the different cultural presentations.

Second Day- October 23, 2022

The second day started with a procession in honor of St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, which started from the St. Ezekiel Moreno Chapel towards the parish for the praying of the Lauds.

This year, the SARF Luzon Chapter witnessed the promise of 39 new full-fledged members of the tertiary, who for a year, attended modular classes on the different topics of the spirituality of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Recollects saints, Recollect History, etc. On the same day, 28 new members are received for the pre-trial period, who would undergo the same formation classes in preparation for next year.

Rev. Fr. Bernard C. Amparado, OAR, the prior provincial of the Order of the Augustinian Recollects, celebrated the Holy Eucharist, in his homily, and challenged the new members of the tertiary to continue their struggle while being in the world.

“In whatever context you may find yourselves in exercise charity, render service to the people in the style of St. Augustine,” said Fr. Amparado.

After the sermon, the Provincial blessed the pins and cincture of the newly-promised member of the SARF, Bro. Edwin Ruiz, SAR, the Brother Provincial of the SARF Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, accepted the new members.

The celebration continued to the nearby National High school for the lunch and closing program.



Edwin Ruiz, SAR congratulated the members on their entrance to the Trial Period



SARF Luzon Chapter celebrates Reunion

FRAY SAMSON S. SILLORIQUEZ OAR

URBIZTONDO, Pangasinan-After years of lockdowns and virtual gatherings, this year’s Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) 25th Luzon Annual Reunion finally happened face to face last October 22-23, 2022 at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Pasibe East, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan. What was so exciting about this event was that it set a very first in SARF’s history. It set to have the greatest number of participants 170, the greatest number of those who made their “promise” 38, it produced the very first batch of SARF of the Recoletos de Pangasinan community 13 and there was the complete attendance of all the Spiritual Directors from Luzon Chapters.

In the afternoon of the first day, Fray Samson Silloriquez, OAR, gave a conference to the participants on “The Role of the SARF in the Society” and Fr. Dennis Castillo the Provincial President of SARF gave a message on the Synod. The Holy Mass in honor of St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, the patron saint of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity followed after the conference. The afternoon’s affair went on with a cultural show presented by the Recollect

Augustinian Youth (RAY) while a sumptuous dinner was being served at the covered court of Urbiztondo National High School. After the dinner and the cultural show, the participants went to their respective hotels where they spent the night.

On the morning of the second day, the participants gathered at St. Ezekiel Moreno Chapel in Bayoyong, Basista, for the procession with the image of St. Magdalene



of Nagasaki to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish church which is more or less a kilometer away. Then, followed the common recitation of the Lauds before the Concelebrated Mass. Fray Bernard Amparado, OAR, the Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno was the main celebrant and homilist. Within the mass were the Rites of Promise of 38 candidates and the Acceptance of 23 Aspirants from the different chapters.

After the mass, a delectable lunch was served once

again at the covered court of Urbiztondo National High School. There was a musical and variety show which showcased the talents of the different SARF chapters. Some danced, some sang, and some showed their acting prowess. After all, have been said and done, the closing remarks were delivered by Bro Edwin Ruiz, SARF Provincial President, and the closing prayer by Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR. Everybody enjoyed the reunion and is hoping to have it again next year. **RD**



Fray Renacia successfully defends thesis

BRO. TAGOY JAKOSALEM, OAR

On April 1, 2022, Fray Mark Rochelle Renacia, OAR successfully defended his Doctoral Thesis, entitled “An Ecological Approach to Augustine’s Teachings on Creation in the Light of Laudato Si” presented at the Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid. He was awarded with an Outstanding (Sobresaliente) grade by the panel of examiners of the university.

Religious from the different Recollect houses in Madrid attended the thesis presentation to give support to Fray Renacia. **RD**





Celebrating the religious ‘Birthright’: Fray Alcedo’s 25 Years as OAR

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Negros Occidental – Fray Raymund G. Alcedo, OAR has faithfully served as a religious

brother for 25 years and has proven that the path he has chosen may be “difficult to accept” but it is a gift that he received from God.

This was the Thanksgiving Mass introduction of Rev. Fr. Jay Parilla, OAR, the main celebrant and classmate of Fray Alcedo.

Nineteen brother priests.

Two brother religious.

One silver jubilarian.

One Augustinian Recollect community in thanksgiving for the gift of religious vocation.

One Offering of Thanksgiving. Rev. Fr. Jay Parilla, OAR is the main celebrant.

Fray Alcedo, who is currently the Vice-President for Finance of San Sebastian College Recoletos de Cavite, is



Twenty-five years of religious life and commitment.

a member of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos Batch 1992. He entered the minor formation house, which was then located at CST-R’s third building (now St. Ezekiel Moreno Building), during his second year in high school.

He pointed out that as the only religious brother in a batch of five priests who professed the religious vows on April 26, 1997, he was hesitant to celebrate in his hometown, San Carlos City. Yet, he expressed immense joy and gratitude for the Augustinian Recollect brothers who came from different communities in the country to join in the “thanksgiving of my lifelong commitment of living the charisma of the OAR, [which is] a unique way of following Jesus.” **RO**





OAR Fathers and FORSOAR gathering: Reliving the spirit of fraternity and communion!

ABRAHAM LATOZA

MANILA, Philippines—It was a fresh start as a post-pandemic meeting of the ForSOAR Luzon versus OAR Fathers in a friendly-brotherly basketball match, held at the home of the Golden Stags in San Sebastian College-Recoletos Manila Gymnasium. The event was held last August 13.

The ForSOAR won by points. The Fathers won by feeding and welcoming the ForSOARs. It was never a clash between mythic versus legends but simply mirrors the second joyful mystery—the visitation. The excitement was high like in Mary and Elizabeth's moment.

FORSOAR stands for Former Seminarians of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. Such is the working definition thus far since time immemorial. The group consists of mixed categories as professed, ordained, theologians, and

philosophers who now have different types of calling and missions. In religious parlance, priesthood is irreplaceable—forever a commitment. “You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.” However, it is also understood from the words of the Gospel that indeed “Many are called but few are chosen.” In catechetical hermeneutics, it is not a comparison between priesthood and married life. Simply put, both require Christian witnessing. And St. Augustine's frequently sought eternal

emblem says “My heart is restless until it rests in thee.”

There is perhaps a deeper and yet better purpose of the gathering as what Fr. Arnel Diaz, OAR the Canon Lawyer of the Province told the ForSOAR, “This is to encourage the ForSOARs to meet and relive the Augustinian Recollect spirit of fraternity and communion, but first organize ForSOARs of Luzon. Should it lead to bigger and much more relevant community activities the OAR Father



giveth their support?" (I'm paraphrasing Neil Medina is temporarily named by the group as In-Charge of ForSOARs' NCR, Southern Tagalog, and Bicol Region.

The event was made possible due to the initiatives of Fr. Edgar Tubio, OAR, Fr. Manny Bolilia, OAR, and Mr. Jaydel Lique (the man with many adjectives). Fr. Egay, the good and accommodating parish priest of San Sebastian Basilica opened the St. Ezekiel Moreno Center for the visiting brothers with sumptuous lunch.

A brief note about the basilica, it was built in 1881 and deemed to be the only all-steel church in Asia.

Before the group went their separate ways, they agreed to meet again on September 17, 2022, in San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Canlubang, Calamba City Laguna. **RD**



CONGRATULATIONS

FRAY JAAZEAL JAKOSALEM, OAR
 (OAR 4TH GENERAL COUNCILOR AND RST BATCH 1999)

ON THE APPROVAL OF YOUR THESIS AND FOR FINISHING YOUR MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY MAJOR IN ECUMENISM, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BONN, GERMANY

THESIS: "The Concept of Anthropocene in *Laudato Si'*: Implications to the Ecological reception in Christian Communities."
(EXCELLENT 1.3)



Homily: “Our anniversary mass invites us to look backward, to look inward, and to look forward.”

FRAY RENÉ PAGLINAWAN, OAR

“ Fr. Provincial Bernard Amparado, your predecessor in the post Fr. Dionisio Selma, fellow Recollects and members of the Recollect family (Augustinian Recollect Sisters, Secular Augustinian Recollects, Former Seminarians of the OAR, and Recollect Augustinian Youth), family, friends, and the Christian faithful gathered here ...

Thank you for being with us as we celebrate this ruby milestone of our ordination day. The best way to give thanks is through the act of thanksgiving par excellence, the Eucharist. Which is an essential food for the journey, without which we would not have reached this milestone.

Ever since my classmate here, Fr. Leo, newly reappointed prior of Recoletos de Talisay in Negros and taking advantage of his superiority, among others, in age, informed me several days ago about today's division of labor that he will be the

main celebrant, Fr. Joefel will give the thanks at the end and I will deliver the homily, I had been thinking about what to say that would be at par with this important occasion.

Then, some days ago, I received an FB message from someone who was a classmate during our theological studies in Spain, that he had completed walking the Camino de Santiago on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the sanctuary in northwestern Spain where tradition says the Apostle St. James or Santiago's tomb is kept. This pilgrimage site has attracted millions

of pilgrims through the centuries.

Our classmate had earlier asked for prayers for good health to be able to do the pilgrimage. Being a mid-sexagenarian like us, with not too good eyesight, and walking alone – though of course, along the way, he met new friends and fellow travelers – it was not going to be a walk in the park. So, starting at Roncesvalles, he walked the 755 kilometers to Compostela, from May 24 to June 24. That is an average of 25 kilometers a day for 30 days. The pilgrimage was completed and has received the





official certificate, he is now back to his everyday life, but with a renewed vision, greater appreciation for life, and a grateful heart to God for having conferred on him such a gift.

I thought it is a good symbol for our celebration today.

At the bottom of our celebration is: we thank God for allowing us to reach this milestone, we thank him for the fellow pilgrims we have met along the way, and we invite you, fellow pilgrims, to pray to God for us and with us that after this celebration, we may take the road again, wherever it leads us, in fulfillment of what God has in store for us further down the road. Only in him will this journey end, only in him will our restless hearts find rest.

God has called us all to one common destination, himself. He has given each one his or her particular path to reach him. Most are called to live as lay people, getting married, or living blessed singleness, practicing their professions. A few are called to radical discipleship through religious life – we acknowledge present here our religious sisters and brothers: Augustinian Recollects, and Siervas de Maria. Fewer still are called to the ordained ministerial priesthood.

To reach this divine Fatherland, everyone has to keep God's commandments and statutes. As Moses tells us through today's first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (30:10-14), this command is not mysterious nor remote, but already in our mouths and our hearts, and we only have to carry it out.

Our anniversary mass invites us to look backward, to look inward, and to look forward.

We look backward with gratitude for having met fellow pilgrims, and shared time and the journey with them: fellow friars, family, friends, parishioners, school constituents,

and people in the missions. Frs. Leo, Joefel, and myself look back with gratitude for our enriching experiences in the assignments we have had so far: formation houses in San Carlos, Puerto Princesa, Baguio, Antipolo, Mira-nila; in parishes in Narra, Tondo, Talisay, Laray, here in San Nicolas; in mission ad gentes (Sierra Leone), in school settings in Cebu and Bacolod, in religious governance in the curias of Quezon City, Madrid and Rome. We are grateful for the opportunity to have served you and perhaps touched your lives, but equally, we are thankful for your edifying examples and encouraging words that have spurred us on, or even re-directed our steps when in danger of straying. We are sorry for the times that, like the priest and Levite in today's Gospel (Lk 10:25-37), we paid more attention to our comfort and security than to exercising compassion and charity on the needy.

We look inward and we see the obvious: our diminishing physical faculties. Instead of engaging in our favorite sports, we now talk about our doctor-prescribed medicines. (Although Fr. Joefel still battles with college seminarians more than half his age in the basketball and football courts). Getting to the morning prayers on time is no longer an effort as it was when we were younger because waking up early for senior citizens is not a virtue but a function of the body clock. Hopefully, in exchange, we have a greater intellectual synthesis and a more comprehensive vision of life and the Church's mission. With our contemporaries in the world already retired from their jobs, we are also tempted to seek rest, be comfortable in our conventual nests, and purchase more items from the "home improvement" section of the department store.

But Christ continues to call us, through our superiors, in places and

assignments that personally might not be appealing to us. Despite ourselves, we have to obey, in the assurance that the Christ we serve through the Recollect Order, is, as St. Paul tells us through today's second reading from Colossians (1:15-20), the Head of the Body, the Church; in Christ has created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible.

Christ, in Saint Augustine's commentary of today's Gospel, is the Good Samaritan who carries the victim, almost dead through Satan's attacks, on his (Christ's) human body (represented by the animal) after anointing him with oil, which are the sacraments, brings him to the inn, which is the Church, and leaves him in the care of the innkeeper (who are the apostles). We are members of that Church, and so our job continues, we go where the Church needs us.

So, we look forward to continuing on the journey, and that resumes tomorrow, Monday. We ask you to pray that our strength and our vision may not fail. That we may have the creative courage of Saint Joseph so that our fidelity may also be creative, like Mary's and the saints'. That in the end, Fr. Leo and Fr. Joefel and Fr. Rene may hear the words of the Good Shepherd: Well done, good and faithful servant, now enter into your Master's rest.

Well, if by his grace, we are still alive for our Golden Anniversary ten years from now, we certainly would like to invite you to be there too!" **RD**

Homily delivered during their 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination (July 10, 2022)



Fr. Lauro Larlar celebrates 50 Years as religious at STV-R

GEORGENE QUILATON-TAMBIGA

SAN CARLOS CITY, Negros Occ. – “The Holy Father asked us [Augustinian Recollects] to place our charism and spirituality in the hands of the laity.”

Golden Augustinian Recollect. “The beginning of the Rule of St. Augustine is the love of God.”

Rev. Fr. Lauro V. Larlar, OAR, opened his homily thus during Thanksgiving offered for his 50th Anniversary Celebration as an Augustinian Recollect at Sto. Tomas de Villanueva-Recoletos Chapel, San Carlos City, July 10, 2022.

Fr. Larlar went on to reflect on the Gospel by highlighting the Church’s call to synodality, which he said «is very Recollect» because it comes from community and communion.

The former prior provincial (2003 to 2009) of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno also shared that his 50 years as a religious missionary were rigged with challenges that his brothers in the Order also

experienced. He mentioned that putting the OAR spirituality and charism in the hands of the laypersons is primary among the challenges.

In return, he challenged the laity to answer the call to synodality by living God’s love in the family, the smallest yet the most important form of community.

A Family Celebration. *Fr. Larlar is joined by his Augustinian Recollect brothers at Sto. Tomas de Villanueva Chapel. L-R Rev. Fr. Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, Rev. Fr. Renier Alviola, OAR, Rev. Fr. Excel Saycon, OAR, Rev. Fr. Christopher Maspara, OAR and Rev. Fr. Joel Alve, OAR.*

Blessed and Challenged. *Fr. Larlar blesses the laity who attended the Holy Mass as he challenges them*

to answer the call to synodality, echoing Pope Francis.

Among Fr. Larlar’s guests were his musically-inclined siblings and family, the Augustinian Recollect sisters of Colegio de Sta. Rita, the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity San Carlos City Chapter, and his classmates from Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos Batch 1967.

The Augustinian Recollect Family. The AR Sisters of Colegio de Sta. Rita sends their warm greetings to Fr. Larlar. 50 Years. Fr. Larlar is widely known as a theologian and for his service as vicar of the Vicariate of the Philippines and China, which was then under the Province of St. Nicholas of Tolentine. From 2003 up to 2009, he served as a prior provincial. **RD**



“Spiritual Landmarks in my personal journey” – Fr. Tol in his Silver Anniversary of Presbyteral Ordination

FRAY JAMES FRANCIS BAGO, OAR

QUEZON CITY – Fray Jose Ernil F. Almayo, OAR celebrates his 25th year of Sacerdotal Anniversary last September 13, 2022 at San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish.

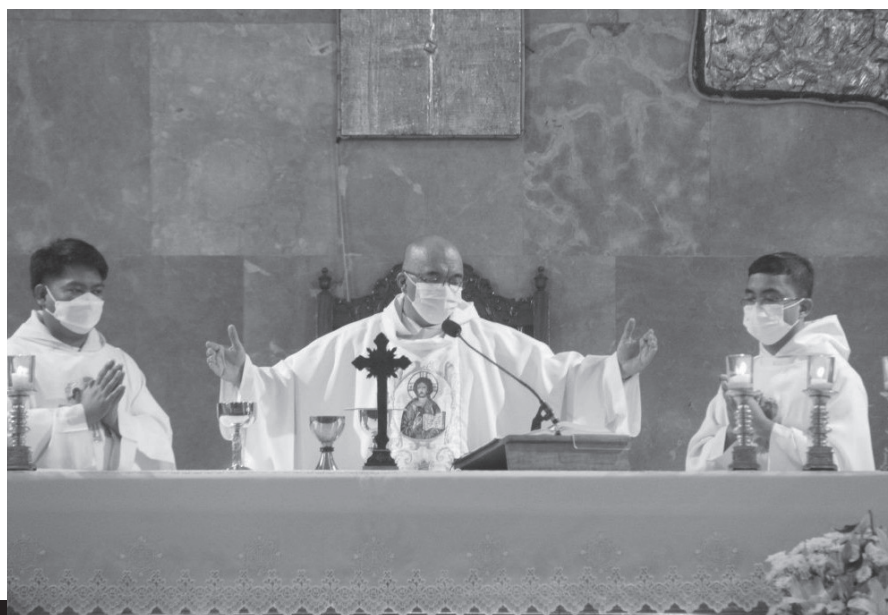
Fr. Tol (as he is fondly called), offered his definitive “Yes” to the Lord twenty-five years ago through the Ordination to the Sacred Order of Presbyters. He was ordained to the Priesthood last September 13, 1997, in the hands of Most Rev. Jesse Mercado, DD, Ordaining Prelate, at Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City.

The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Fr. Tol himself and concelebrated by a good number of Augustinian Recollect Priests from communities in Luzon and attended by OAR Seminarians in Mira Nila and Antipolo, SARF, and sisters from different religious congregations.

In the homily, Fr. Tol shared his spiritual landmarks for the 25 years of his priesthood. He said, “Today as I celebrate the 25th anniversary of my Presbyteral ordination I can feel the intensity of the need to gratefully acknowledge the spiritual landmarks in my personal journey. There are



a lot of these spiritual landmarks if I were to enumerate them, and they all comprise, to paraphrase one Catholic theologian, spiritual memories of events, persons, and places, that remind me of God’s presence, power, promises, message, and grace. My post-ordination assignments including the brothers who were my companions in the community and those tasks given to me since I was in Baguio, in Rome, in Laray, Cebu, in Talisay, Negros Occidental, and now here in the Provincialate are just some of these landmarks. Little wonder, this grateful acknowledgment is done within the celebration of the Holy Eucharist to remind me that God, the author of my vocation and the source of my perseverance is the spiritual landmark par excellence to remind me of my unworthiness my priesthood, and this anniversary has true meaning only about Jesus the beginning and the end of all things. This Eucharist itself is a spiritual landmark to which I was called to celebrate every day and to imitate the mystery I celebrate as part of my identity and mission as an ordained minister.” Fr. Tol said.





Fr. Tol expressed how he was nurtured by the faith of his parents, and the influence of the AR Sisters, who introduced to him the Recoletos way of life. He also shared that as he looks back to the past, it's not just the 25 years that he saw but *"there are still defining moments and phases in my life that have brought great impact to my person."*

He also added that *"Truly, these landmarks inspired me and deepen my conviction and resolve to take up the cross designated for me to carry and to follow the Lord in total and joyful surrender to his plan. But do you think spiritual landmarks are all happy moments that we experience? Not at all. Reality tells us that life is full of colors. Life is not just a bed of roses, it is also a garden of thorns. And priestly life and ministry are never insulated from trials and challenges."*

Before the final blessing, Fr. Tol expressed his gratitude to the Order for the prayerful support and esprit de court, to his parents who at first were hesitant in allowing him to enter the seminary but later God's wonders move, relatives, classmates benefactors, the AR Sisters, and friends. After the Mass, a sumptuous dinner was prepared at the Provincial Curia. **RD**



OAR Contemplative Nuns elect new Prioress

SR SHIRLEY NONATO OAR

The mass of the Holy Spirit was presided by Bp. Patrick Buzon, SDB, DD. In his homily, he invited us to fill the world of His love! Reiterating the call of Pope Francis to wake up the world! He also challenged us to discover what matter most in life... that heart is filled with love!

After the mass, the nuns proceeded to the Chapter room for the election of the Prioress.

Mo. Maria del Carmen Orduña, OAR was elected as the new Prioress. She is one of the foundresses of the Monastery and the last foreigner in the community. **RD**



Chapter Chronicle

May 16, 2022

Vol. 8, No. 1

ELECTED PRIORS PROVINCIAL THROUGH THE YEARS



1999

Fray Emeterio Buñao, OAR



2003

Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR



2006

Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR



2009

Fray Regino Bangcaya, OAR



2012

Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR



2015

Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR



2018

Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR



2022

To be elected at the beginning of the Provincial Chapter.

Fray Victor Jose Lluch, OAR was the vicar provincial of the then Vicariate of the Philippines and China. When this vicariate was elevated into the Province of Saint Ezekiel Moreno in 1998, he was appointed as prior provincial by the 52nd General Chapter.

Blazing the trail for 8th Provincial Chapter

CEBU CITY - As the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno of the Order of Augustinian Recollects get set for its quadrennial fraternal gathering namely, the 8th Provincial Chapter, beginning May 16, 2022, the Provincial Council mustered individuals to comprise a seven-member secretarial team.

In view of accomplishing their tasks and paving the way for the Chapter proper, the Secretariat convened at the Chapter's venue, the Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos in Cebu City, on May 11, 2022. They are to conduct prior preparations related to their primary Chapter-related responsibilities, which include doing technical works, editing, communications, transcriptions, translations, layout designs, photography, videography, and publications, before, during, and after the Chapter. Fray Jose Ernill Almayo, the incumbent provincial secretary, serves as the chairman.

The appointed committee members are Frays Leander Barrot, Reynaldo Jaranilla, Robin Ross Plata, Julius James Tinapao, and Jhyryx Vincent Gamulo, and Ma'am Brenda Saliendra, a Sister-General of the Order.

More than their duties, unique experiences await the group as many firsts festoon this Chapter.

The Provincial Council has decided that this Chapter go paperless. Thus, the team has to go through the nitty-gritty of technology to accomplish it. It includes composing a manual to guide the capitulars in utilizing the media platform that the team has employed and designed for them.

Another first is that the Province is holding this Chapter in the month of May. The very first Provincial Chapter was in November of 1999. From 2003 up to 2018, the Chapters had always been in February. Moreover, this eighth chapter is the first one right after the Order's 56th General Chapter, and the *cont. p. 90.*



(left) Members of the Secretariat pose as they prepare for the upcoming 8th Provincial Chapter. (top) A "paperless" provincial chapter by using tablets and virtual cloud. (bottom) The Chapter Hall is ready for the commencement of the 8th Provincial Chapter.

Seven first-timers among 28 Capitulars

CEBU CITY - For the first time in their religious life as Augustinian Recollects, seven delegates are among the 28 capitulars or participants to the 8th Provincial Chapter of the St. Ezekiel Moreno Province which will open today, May 16, at the Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos in Cebu City.

These seven delegates, or elected capitulars, represent the five of the 11 key areas (or sectors) previously determined by the 7th Provincial Chapter in 2018: James Castelo (Formation), Roderick Deguit and Jay Parilla (Ministerial Apostolate), Romeo Ben Potencio and Rafael Pecson (Educational Apostolate), Prudencio Castillo (Sierra Leone mission), and Allan Jacinto (Vocations and Youth Ministry).

The other key sectors represented by at least one delegate are: Religious Brothers; local priors of Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Cavite and the Provincial Curia; local priors of seminaries; mission of Taiwan and Rota; mission of

Indonesia; and the ministries of Palawan, Tambo, Surigao, and Pangasinan.

The OAR Constitutions 384 states: "Of those attending the chapter, some do so *a iure*, others by election. The latter are referred to as delegates."

According to the same constitutional provision, the "a iure" capitulars, or those who participate the chapter by virtue of their offices, are "the president of the chapter, the prior provincial, the provincial councilors, the ex-prior provincial who served the previous ... term of office, the provincial secretary, the vicars provincial, and the provincial-elect, should there be one."

A Iure Participants



FRAY MIGUEL ANGEL HERNÁNDEZ
Prior General / Chapter President



FRAY DIONISIO SELMA
Prior Provincial (outgoing)



(yet to be elected)
Prior Provincial-elect



FRAY IAN ANTHONY ESPARTERO
Vicar of the Province



FRAY WILLIAM EMILITO VILLAFLOR
2nd Councilor



FRAY AMADO EMMANUEL BOLILIA
3rd Councilor



FRAY EDGAR TUBIO
4th Councilor



FRAY JOSE ERNILL ALMAYO
Provincial Secretary

Delegates

Local Priors



FRAY LEOPOLDO V. ESTIOKO
*Local Priors of Manila, Cebu,
Bacolod, Cavite, Provincialate*



**FRAY PAULINO H.
DACANAY**
Local Priors of Seminaries



**FRAY FELICIANO C.
CAMPOMANES JR.**

Religious Brothers

Formation Apostolate



FRAY JAMES C. CASTELO



**FRAY JOSEPH PHILIP
I. TRAYVILLA**



**FRAY KENNETH JOSEPH
L. ONDA**

Ministerial Apostolate



**FRAY RENÉ F.
PAGLINAWAN**



**FRAY NIÑO
CESAR R. RUIZ**



**FRAY RODERICK
T. DEGUIT**



**FRAY JAY M.
PARILLA**

Blazing the trail... (from page 88)

and the first one that the newly-elected Prior General, Fr. Miguel Ángel Hernández, is presiding over.

The special roles of the Secretariat are grounded on the belief that setting things on their right track beforehand brings about a sense of breakthrough in accomplishing the planned activities of this Province's highest governing body — the Provincial Chapter.

But like St. John the Baptist, the Secretariat simply does its mission as trailblazers, and fade in the background.

Educational Apostolate



FRAY HENRY H. SANTIAGO



FRAY CRISTOPHER C. MASPARA



FRAY ROMEO BEN A. POTENCIO JR.



FRAY ANTHONY A. MORILLO



FRAY RAFAEL B. PECSON

Vocation and Youth Ministry



FRAY ALLAN M. JACINTO

Ministries of Palawan, Tambo, Surigao and Pangasinan



FRAY REGINO Z. BANGCAYA

Official Logo and Motto of the 8th Provincial Chapter



Walking Together
8th Provincial Chapter
Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno
Order of Augustinian Recollects

The **motto and logo** for the 8th Provincial Chapter of the OAR Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno were approved during the Provincial Council meeting on October 14, 2021.

“**Walking together**” as motto follows that of the Order’s 56th General Chapter. It is essentially aligned with Pope Francis’ emphasis on synodality, a specific *modus vivendi et operandi* of the Church as communion, whose members journey together and take an active part in her evangelizing mission.

In the logomark, **the Cross** in rough strokes takes the central icon symbolizing the transversal message of the Gospel and of the synodal path. It also depicts the only source of power through which Christ’s disciples would be able “to cross the sea of this world” (St. Augustine, *Io. Ev. tr. 2,2*). Although the ugliness of the cross reveals the monstrosity of evil in its various forms that currently beset the world, we see in that same cross the immensity of God’s mercy.

The heart reminds us of our restless heart that finds its rest only in God. It symbolizes the three-fold expression of perfect charity (contemplative, communitarian, apostolic) that marks our Augustinian Recollect charismatic identity.

The **tri-colored persons walking together** signify the core triadic actors of reflection process (community, church-people, and responsible leaders). They also represent oneness amidst diversity, forging a style of communion and participation directed to mission.

Mission Apostolate



FRAY CORVIN R. MATURAN

Mission of Taiwan and Rota



FRAY JOSE PRUDENCIO G. CASTILLO

Mission of Sierra Leone



FRAY RUSSELL C. LAPIDEZ

Mission of Indonesia

For Your Info

Provincial Chapter	Inclusive Dates	Total No. of Days	Number of Capitulars	Chapter President
I	November 8-21, 1999	14	25	Javier Desiderio Guerra
II	February 10-21, 2003	12	22	Javier Desiderio Guerra
III	February 13-25, 2006	13	22	Javier Desiderio Guerra
IV	February 9-21, 2009	13	25	Javier Desiderio Guerra
V	February 13-27, 2012	15	26	Miguel Miró
VI	February 17-26, 2015	9	26	Miguel Miró
VII	February 12-24, 2018	13	27	Miguel Miró
VIII	May 16-?, 2022	?	28	Miguel Angel Hernández

Term of Office	Elected Prior Provincial	Provincial Councillors	Provincial Secretary
1999-2003	Emeterio Buñao	Lauro Larlar, Samson Sillorriquez, Bernard Amparado, Leopoldo Estioko	Joel Naranja
2003-2006	Lauro Larlar	Regino Bangcaya, Constantino Real, Bernard Amparado, Paulino Dacanay	Jose Fortunato Garces
2006-2009	Lauro Larlar	Constantino Real, Regino Bangcaya, Paulino Dacanay, Leander Barrot	Jose Fortunato Garces
2009-2012	Regino Bangcaya	Bernard Amparado, Emeterio Buñao, Raul Buhay, Leopoldo Estioko	René Paglinawan
2012-2015	Lauro Larlar	Dionisio Selma, Bernard Amparado, Leopoldo Estioko, Julius Marcos	Arnel Diaz
2015-2018	Dionisio Selma	Julius Marcos, Ian Anthony Espartero, Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, Edgar Tubio	Jose Ernil Almayo
2018-2022	Dionisio Selma	Ian Anthony Espartero, William Emilito Villafior, Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, Edgar Tubio	Jose Ernil Almayo
2022-? ^a	_ ^b	_ ^c	_ ^d

Notes:

^aThe term of office will depend on the Provincial Chapter's decision which will then be reflected in the Provincial Directory (cf. Const. 382).

^bOne of those in the ternary (composed of Leander Barrot, Bernard Amparado, and Ian Anthony Espartero) will be elected "at the start of [the 8th Provincial Chapter]."

^cThe four Councillors will be elected towards the last day of the Provincial Chapter. (cf. Ordo Capituli).

^dHe will be appointed by the Full Council (cf. Add. Code 399).

THE CAPITULARS

Total: 28 (8 *a iure*; 20 delegates)

ACCORDING TO PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS ATTENDED	
Prov. Chapters attended	Capitulars*
7	Bangcaya
6	Selma, Trayvilla
5	Estioko, Paglinawan, Santiago
4	Almayo, Bolilia, Dacanay, Maspara, Morillo, Tubio
3	Campomanes, Villaflor
2	Espartero, Lapidez, Maturan, Onda, Ruiz
1	Castelo, Castillo, Deguit, Jacinto, Parilla, Pecson, Potencio

ACCORDING TO AGE BRACKET (as of May 16, 2022)	
	No. of Capitulars*
70 years old & above	2 (7.41%)
60 – 69 years old	4 (14.81%)
50 – 59 years old	9 (33.33%)
40 – 49 years old	10 (37.04%)
30 – 39 years old	2 (7.41%)
	27 (100%)**

*The 28th participant (i.e., Prior Provincial-elect) is not yet determined
 **Mean Age: 51.85 years old. The oldest capitular is Fray Bangcaya (73) and the youngest is Fray Castillo (37).

*The 28th participant (i.e., Prior Provincial-elect) is yet to be determined on May 17.

*The Chapter President (Hernández) is excluded here.



The Chapter Hall is ready.

WHAT IS A PROVINCIAL CHAPTER?

The provincial chapter—convened every three or four years—is the highest authority of the province (cf. *OAD Constitutions*, no. 380). It is responsible to examine the state of the province; to evaluate the actions and performance of the previous administration; to study the ordinances of the previous general chapter and its implementation at the provincial level; to draw up the programme (Life and Mission Project) for the next period of office; to elect a new prior provincial, provincial councilors, and delegate to the next general chapter; and revise the Provincial Directory. (cf. *OAD Const.*, no. 381)

WHO ARE THE A IURE CAPITULARS?

The *A iure* capitulars are members of the provincial chapter who are designated by the Constitutions to participate in such a chapter. They are the chapter president (prior general), the prior provincial, the provincial councilors, the ex-prior provincial who served during the previous term of office, the provincial secretary, and the provincial-elect, should there be one. (*OAD Const.* no. 384)

WHO ARE THE ELECTED CAPITULARS?

Another group of capitulars is the elected representatives from different communities, ministries, and apostolates of the province. They are referred to as delegates.



Archbishop Palma celebrates the Mass of the Holy Spirit



COME HOLY SPIRIT. The Archbishop of Cebu, Most Rev. Jose Palma, DD, presided the Mass of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the 8th Provincial Chapter.

May 16, 2022 Cebu City. Most Rev. José S. Palma, D.D., Archbishop of Cebu celebrates Mass of the Holy Spirit on the first day of the 8th Provincial chapter together with concelebrating capitulars.

In his homily, the good bishop begins with the words, "I would like to manifest my desire to be united with you in prayer as you come to this propitious and significant event—the 8th provincial chapter." These are words of fraternal assurance to all delegates to have a sense of peace, confidence, courage, and to move forward as they are entrusted with a not-so-easy task to pave new paths for the Province of St. Ezekiel for the next years ahead.

As a form of thanksgiving, he revisited recent and forthcoming milestone celebrations of the Recoletos in Cebu which are fruits of missionary efforts: 400th Year of Presence in Cebu, golden anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, diamond jubilee of the University of San Jose-Recoletos. These, the bishop insists, are grace-filled events and moments of how God lavishes and continuously showers blessings to the Order through the years.

He likewise acknowledged the recoletos's ministerial efforts in the fields of evangelization, education, formation,

and mission which undeniably, the good bishop, positively believes to have borne positive and laudable results.

The bishop also issues challenges to the capitulars to embrace the spirit of synodality that Pope Francis constantly exhorts for everyone. And he poses a challenge that "The spirit of community, participation, and mission to be maintained. What better way to proclaim as a church and as a religious than to be examples of communion first to God and then to one another?"

Recognizing the missionary zeal of St. Ezekiel Moreno, he says, "this missionary spirit of St. Ezekiel should always be present today. We hope and pray that what we do now will bring conversion, hope, and growth in the far-flung barangays."

His Most Reverend Archbishop José concludes his homily reiterating his oneness with the chapter delegates with the words, "I may be out of sight after the coffee break, but my heart remains with you in prayer for a fruitful Provincial Chapter."

SET OF TWENTY-SEVEN TRICKLES IN

CEBU CITY - On May 15, 2022, Sunday, the halls of Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos echoed with cheers, greetings, and wheel-rumbblings of luggage bags as the participants of the 8th Provincial Chapter started trickling in, completing the presence of twenty-seven delegates.

Although a number of the capitulars started arriving on Friday evening, this day is their final schedule of reporting to the Chapter's venue. Their presence is so crucial since this gathering of the highest governing body of the Province would revisit, determine, and set in place vital matters and concerns affecting the life, mission, and direction of the Province and its members for the next three to four years.

Comprising this year's set of delegates are Fr. Miguel Ángel Hernandez—the newly elected Prior General of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR—the outgoing Prior Provincial, the members of the Provincial Council, and the other twenty delegates representing the various area of apostolates of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. Added to them is Fr. Lauro Larlar, OAR, who will serve as the official translator (English-Spanish) of the Prior General throughout the Chapter.

With all the capitulars present, the 8th Provincial Chapter is set to open formally the next day.



SIGNED IN. Fray Rafael Pecson penned his informations as he and other capitulars arrive in Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos, Cebu City.



TELLERS DON'T TELL. Appointed Tellers of the Chapter swore an oath of secrecy in front of the President of the Chapter after the opening of the 8th Provincial Chapter.

8th Provincial Chapter opens with election of tellers and council members

May 16, 2022. Fray Miguel Angel Hernández, the newly elected prior general of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, officially opens the 8th Provincial Chapter of the youngest province of the Order—St. Ezekiel Moreno province.

Fr. General's Opening Message

Fray Miguel reads his message in Spanish as its English translation is provided to the capitulars.

Following the thoughts of Eduardo Card. Pironio, the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated and Apostolic Life, Fr. Miguel states that, "a chapter is always a paschal celebration." The chapter becomes a paschal celebration only to those who manifest the attitudes and mindset of "dream[ing] it, imagin[ing] it, desire[ring] it." He also said that the "future belongs to the great dreamers, to those who have nothing to lose, to defend or to keep."

To be able to celebrate the chapter correctly, the president shares three basic attitudes: the attitude of poverty, prayer, and fraternal charity.

Treading the synodal path of the Church, Fray Miguel cited some aspects for the province to walk in communion with the whole Order. He stresses the importance of accompaniment in the different stages of formation, especially for the professed religious in the permanent formation. Although academic degrees are important to support the formation of the religious, Fray Miguel reiterates that

accompaniment is not just "filling our heads with ideas and information, but in making our hearts attuned to the feelings of Christ...."

He likewise gives accent to the need to share the charism with the laity. Citing the message of Pope Francis during the special audience of the capitulars of the 56th General Chapter, he reiterates the need to form the laity, especially those who share the charism "not because we are fewer ... but because what we love cannot be kept under locks and keys...." Thus, there is the need to accompany them in their faith process.

He also desires that, in the provincial level, the social actions and the ARCORES be strengthened. Likewise, the care for minors and vulnerable adults be realized in the communities and in centers of pastoral works. He also emphasizes the necessity to live and share the Recollect identity to the recollect administered parishes.

As a final statement, Fr. Miguel wishes that the motto of the 56th General Chapter which is echoed by the 8th Provincial Chapter—"Walking Together"—be an invitation for all Augustinian Recollects to learn from the recollection in the Philippines. Likewise,

THE CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Fray Miguel Angel Hernández

MODERATORS

1st - Fray René Paglinawan
2nd - Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr.

SECRETARY

Fray Jose Emil Almayo

COUNCILOR

Fray Dionisio Selma

TELLERS OF THE CHAPTER

Fray Regino Bangcaya
Fray Rafael Pecson
Fray Feliciano Campomanes, Jr.

IN-CHARGE OF PREPARING THE CHAPTER MESSAGE

Fray Ian Anthony Espartero
Fray Rafael Pecson
Fray Regino

Bangcaya

IN-CHARGE OF PREPARING THE LITURGY

Fray Anthony Morillo
Fray Russell Lapidez
Fray Henry Santiago
Fray Corvin Maturan

COMMUNICATION TEAM

Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr.
Members of the Chapter Secretariat

IN-CHARGE OF SENDING AND REPLYING MESSAGES FOR THE CHAPTER

Fray Joseph Philip Trayvilla
Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda

BELL RINGER

Fray Allan Jacinto

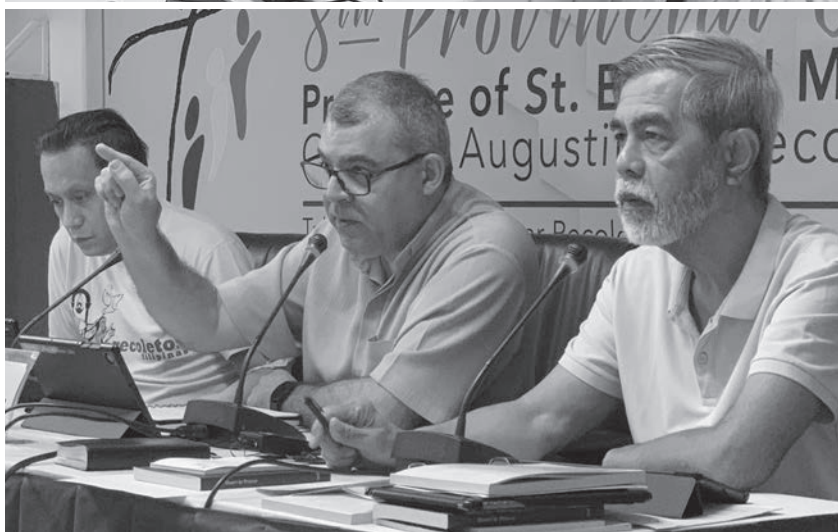
he encourages the members of St. Ezekiel Moreno Province to share the gift of the Filipino recollection with the whole Order. This is possible through close collaboration between the provinces and the general curia and among all the religious of the Order.

Appointment of Chapter Tellers and Election of Chapter Council

After the opening message, the president of the provincial chapter, appoints tellers of the chapter. Following the tradition of the previous chapters, the oldest and the youngest capitulars and a religious brother are named—Frays Regino Bangcaya, Rafael Pecson, and Feliciano Campomes, Jr. respectively.

The election of chapter moderators, secretary, and councilor is done through a secret ballot. After receiving the absolute majority of votes, i.e. 14 votes and above, the elected moderators are Frays Rene Paglinawan and Romeo Ben Potencio, the chapter secretary is Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, and the councilor is Fray Dionisio Selma. These elected members are to help the president in steering the wheel of the 8th Provincial Chapter.

At end of the first session, the prior general prays: “May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother of Consolation, and St. Ezekiel Moreno help us to arrive together at the most adequate decisions and proposals needed by the Province to continue advancing in evangelization, communion, revitalization, and authentic living of our Augustinian Recollect charism!”



THE CHAPTER BEGINS. (Top) Fray Campomanes, one of the three Tellers, collects the votes to be counted for the election of the Chapter Officers. (Below) Fray Hernandez instructs the capitulars, in Spanish and translated to English by Fray Paglinawan, during the afternoon session.



THE COUNCIL. (Top) Members of the Council of the Chapter pose after their election. (From L-R) Frays Selma (councilor), Potencio (2nd moderator), Hernández (president), Paglinawan (1st moderator), and Almayo (secretary).

Fr. Elias Ayuban, CMF shares thoughts on Jesus as Model of religious leadership

The second half of the afternoon was dedicated to a recollection with Fr. Elias Ayuban sharing thoughts on Jesus as model of religious leadership.

Fr. Ayuban, who formerly worked in the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in Rome under Cardinal Joao Braz de Avizz as Prefect, reflects on four verbs to define leadership of Jesus—LIVES, SERVES, INVOLVES and ACCOMPANIES. To live refers to Jesus's preaching and teaching as coming from his very own wealth of life experience. Jesus taught his very life, not something he simply learned from manuscripts and others. To serve is to give one's life as Jesus did for his sheep in contrast to the use of power to dominate, control or monopolize. To involve refers to shared leadership, to inspire others to cooperate, and participate in the mission of the community. To accompany is to lead people to self-transformation through the sharing of personal experiences, instructions and verifications. This also means to build up others in moments of weaknesses and support them in times of weariness.

From his experience as provincial superior of the Father Rhoel Gallardo Province (formerly the Philippine Province) of the Claretian missionaries, Fr. Ayuban, juxtaposing Matthew's "Temptation of Jesus" and John's "confession of Peter" narratives, provides the capitulars hints and notes on temptations and challenges to leadership. The three temptations he calls, Efficiency, Fame, and Power.

He connected efficiency to the temptation of the devil, "if you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread" (Mat 4:4). To the temptation of broadcasting success and competence is Jesus query to Peter which involved personal relationship and contemplative prayer, "Peter do you love me ...?" (Jn 21: 15, 16, & 17).

The antidote of producing fruit, which involves much effort and hardwork, is to bear fruit which means naturalness as an outflow from ones true nature. This is a product of love.

Fame is another temptation to leadership. Fr. Ayuban associated this to the temptation for Jesus to throw himself down. This is a temptation to be popular, to assert competencies and to prove ones qualities. The antidote to such temptation is Jesus's call to service "Feed my flock" (Jn 21: 15, 17). True service leads to forgiveness, and forgiveness leads to healing.

Third in the list is the temptation



RECOLLECTION DAY. Fr. Elias Ayuban, CMF (center) sets the tone of the provincial chapter with a recollection. Frays Potencio (left) and Hernandez (right) listen, together with other capitulars, to the reflection of Fr. Ayuban with the theme: "How was Jesus as a Superior?"

for power. This is to act like a messiah, to dominate, and to command. In contrast, Jesus reminded Peter after his three pronouncements of commitment to love, "... someone will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." It is a commitment to shared leadership and to be disposed to listen so as to be led by others.

The first talk was a fitting in-put since the capitulars first activity after the recollection is to choose who will shepherd the province for the next quadrennium.



IN JUST ONE TOUCH. Fray Boyax demonstrated the steps on how to use the tablet provided for the capitulars.

8th Provincial Chapter goes paperless

With new technology, the 8th Provincial Chapter goes paperless via virtual cloud, online conference and voting apps.

These innovations were through the technical expertise in computer engineering and programming of Fr. Boyax. He programmed the v-vcloud for the documentation services of the 8th provincial chapter and thanks to Rhodel who programmed the voting app.

Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla, current president of Recoletos Communications, Inc., gives the technical orientation to the capitulars who are "generally" considered technology migrants.



FAST LEARNERS. The capitulars getting acquainted with the tablets and its apps to be used throughout the chapter.



Magic 3: Some curious possibilities

Very soon, the next Prior Provincial of this youngest province of the Recoletos will be chosen by the 27 capitulars. Does that mean that the Prior Provincial-elect will be the 28th member of the Chapter?

Not necessarily.

Remember, the election for Prior Provincial will home in on the magic three only: Frays Leander Barrot, Bernard Amparado, and Ian Anthony Espartero. All of them have been a member of the Provincial Council. Barrot, 56, was a Provincial Councilor once. Amparado, 60, had been a Provincial Councilor four times. Espartero, 42, is finishing his second term as Provincial Councilor. Moreover, like Espartero, Amparado has also served as Vicar of the Province.

All three have already participated in the Order's General Chapter. Amparado in the 54th Chapter held in Granada (Spain) while Espartero and Barrot in the recent 56th Chapter, in Rome.

The youngest of the three is a iure participant of this Provincial Chapter. If he is elected to the said office, the total number of capitulars will remain 27. The possibility of having 28 will only be realized if either of the two older ones gets elected.

Academically, these three friars have obtained an ecclesiastical degree in Rome: Barrot is a scripturist, from *Biblicum*; Amparado is a philosopher, from *Pontificia Gregoriana*; and Espartero

is a moral theologian, from *Alfonsianum*.

Little wonder they are all professors and formators of our seminaries. Amparado is prior/rector of Casiciaco Recoletos Seminary in Baguio. Barrot is rector of the Recoletos School of Theology in Miranila, Quezon City, where Espartero holds office as Dean. Concurrently, Espartero is president of the Secretariat of Spirituality and Formation while Barrot is chairman of the Commission on History, Culture and Heritage-Recoletos.

Continuity and novelty are surefire possibilities. In terms of age, Barrot may follow Dionisio Selma who was 56 when he was first elected Prior Provincial. Amparado may follow Emeterio Buñao, Regino Bangcaya, and "the third" Lauro Larlar who were elected to the same office at age 60. (Larlar was elected Prior Provincial thrice, at ages 51, 54, and 60.)

The past seven "elected" Priors Provincial – or eight, to include Victor Lluch (from Mindanao) who was the very first, albeit appointed Prior Provincial – were all products of Marcilla. Will Amparado join the queue? If either Barrot or Espartero emerges, then it will be a first time

that a product of Miranila will man the steering wheel of the province. If Espartero gets elected, he will also become the youngest – replacing Larlar – to become the father of this 24-year-old province.

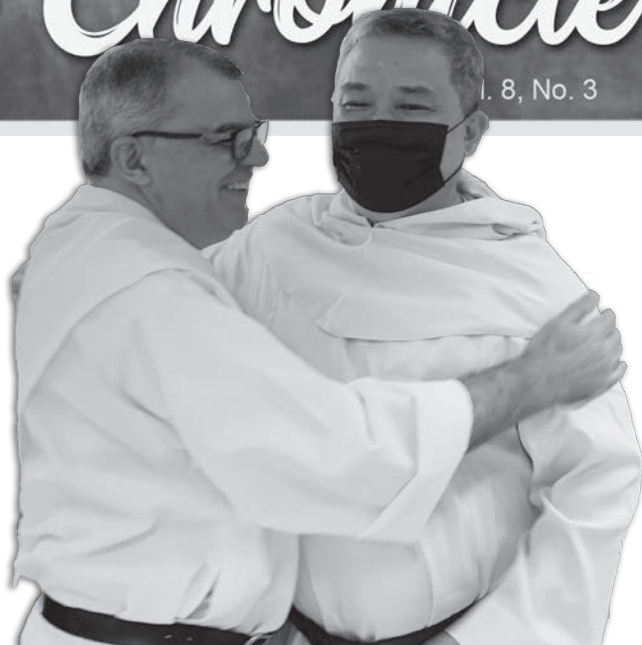
In addition, the previous elected priors provincial were from Bohol (Buñao), Negros Island (Larlar), Panay Island (Bangcaya), and Cebu (Selma). If Amparado gets elected, he will succeed not just a fellow Cebuano, but also a townmate. If Barrot takes the absolute majority, he will be the first Waray, from Leyte. If Espartero makes the cut, then he will be the second Negrense to take the post.

Quite interesting, so far. But, in the end, we must factor in the non-negotiable intervention of the Holy Spirit whose standards always go beyond all human categories.

So we fervently pray: "Lord, you commanded Peter and the other disciples to put out into the deep, make the hearts of the capitulars receptive to your call so that they may elect a Prior Provincial who will lead us towards renewal, unity, and charity." (Prayer for the Provincial Chapter)



We have a new Prior Provincial-elect



Minutes before the plenary assembly of the capitulars, they prayed the Holy Rosary and asked for divine guidance as they will exercise one of responsibilities in the chapter—to elect a new prior provincial.

As the capitulars were gathered at the chapter hall wearing white habit, the president of the chapter, Fray Miguel Ángel Hernández read the provisions of the ordo capituli on the procedures of the election of the prior provincial. After giving an admonition, Fray Miguel invited the participants to seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by singing the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

The outgoing prior provincial, Fray Dionisio Selma, handed over the seal of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno to the prior general. This act expressed that the authority of the province, symbolized by the seal of the province, is now given to the provincial chapter headed by the president.

Fray Selma thanked the brothers for the support and cooperation that they shared with him during his 7 year term as prior provincial. He also asked forgiveness for his shortcomings. At the end of his message,

he prayed that the next prior provincial would guide the province and “embrace the cross” as he leads the province for the next term of office.

After the message of the outgoing prior provincial, the president asked the chapter secretary, Fray Jose Emil Almayo, to read the shortlist of the ternary for the election of prior provincial—Frays Leander Barrot, Bernard Amparado, and Ian Anthony Espartero. They are the religious who received the three highest votes during the election of prior provincial before the provincial chapter.

In a secret ballot, the capitulars wrote the name whom they would elect as prior provincial. The tellers collected the ballots. Together with the president, the tellers counted the votes. After three rounds of voting, the name of Fray Amparado emerged as the new prior provincial.

Since Fray Bernard is not a capitular, he was summoned to enter the chapter hall. Then he was asked by the president if he accepts his election as prior provincial. “Lo acepto (I accept it),” Fray Bernard responded.

As the chapter hall burst in applause, Fray Miguel and all the capitulars embraced the new prior provincial-elect. Then Fray Amparado sat beside his “paesano” Fray Selma as the capitulars were arranged according to profession.

His confirmation will be done after all the reporting, meetings, brainstorming, and approval of the Life and Mission Project and the Directory of the Province..

Congratulations to the new prior provincial-elect!



THE COUNCIL. (Top) Members of the Council of the Chapter pose after their election. (From L-R) Frays Selma (councilor), Potencio (2nd moderator), Hernández (president), Paglinawan (1st moderator), and Almayo (secretary).



The capitulars with the Recollection speaker.

Fr. Elias Ayuban, CMF delivers the homily on the 2nd day

Many years ago I happened to read this book by Joyce Rupp entitled “Praying Our Goodbyes,” which became one of my favorites. In that book, she said, “Life is but an alteration of saying hello and goodbye.”

Obviously, from the time of our birth, we say goodbye to the most comfortable place and we say hello to an unfamiliar world. This pained us and made us cry a lot. Maybe today, the newly born would cry a little more with the over twelve trillion debt our country incurs and with the kind of senators we have placed in office. We said goodbye to our homes when we began our elementary years and we said hello to new friends. When we joined the seminary, we said goodbye to our old friends and embrace the new seminary environment. When we were ordained to priesthood, we said goodbye to lots of opportunities and possibilities of enriching ourselves, of having a family of our own and we said hello to a celibate life—a life of poverty. The same is true when we were assigned to new assignments. We said goodbye to our familiar home, silence, environments, and friends and we said hello time and again.

In this year’s chapter, we said goodbye to a lot of things and we are going to say hello to new dreams and aspirations as a province.

My friends, I’m saying this hello and goodbye because in today’s Gospel the Lord also says goodbye. Indeed, love involves proximity and distance. True love involves being so near and also being far, of saying goodbye and moving forward.

When I reflect on the theme “Walking Together,” I know that we neither mean walking together literally nor physically. Walking together is having a line of dreams and aspirations even if we are far from one another. There’s a beautiful African saying that goes, “If we want to go fast, we walk alone. If we want to go far, we walk together.” This is very much applicable to our provincial chapter. We walk together, although separately but definitely towards the same direction.

In the second conference, I would

reflect with you on the theme where is God calling us? Walking together is not the entire story but walking towards which direction is the more crucial question. Where are we heading?

We pray to the Lord to enlighten us all the more these days so that He will lead us and bring us to where he wants us to go.

We offer this Mass for this particular intention.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Archbishop Socrates Villegas, DD - Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan
- Diocese of Baguio
- Fray Raul Buhay
- OAR Nuns
- SARF de Cebu
- Bro. Edwin T. Ruiz, SAR - SARF National President



THE COUNCIL. (Top) Members of the Council of the Chapter pose after their election. (From L-R) Frays Selma (councillor), Potencio (2nd moderator), Hernández (president), Paglinawan (1st moderator), and Almayo (secretary).

Departures, stops, audacity, and hope of a missionary church

Fr. Elias Ayuban, in the second part of his recollection-talk to the capitulars, dwells on themes of departures, stops, audacity and mission hopes. These themes, he connects with the image of a church constantly in mission or a church that goes forth.

He likens the church to an airport. As it is not ideal for an airport to have many parked planes, so, likewise, a true church is one that is constantly going forth to various and new destinations. Pope Francis, echoing the many synodal documents, has identified these new destinations—the church in the peripheries both geographical and existential. For the church to be relevant it has to be a missionary one and its pastoral orientations has to be inclusive and open. This mission mindset has to always be inspired by the gospel—the very life of Jesus Christ, who became flesh to live and have missions with humanity.

Fr. Elias expounds important concepts related to a church constantly in mission. He speaks of stops, audacity, and hope.

The stops refer to instances where a church cuts itself off from being a missionary one. This happens when first, the institution or its members no longer desire to leave the comfort zones and when poverty and other vows and promises are lax; second, when its members focus on immediate results, developments, and improvement

(acedia); third, when worldliness creeps in and the motives become human glory, personal well-being, and own or self-interest. In such cases, the church loses its being a light to the world.

For the church to veer away from these stops and remain faithful to her Lord and Master, she has to be audacious, daring, courageous and non-conformists. She is to believe that in serving the divine master, nothing is impossible; she needs to be in constant state of mysterious expectation. In all her endeavors, she has to share the same audacity with the

common people.

In a time when commitment to priestly and religious life is no longer an alternative and when even among the professed—solemn, perpetual, and simple—there are more exits than entrances, the church is called to live a mission of hope. This mission of hope takes various forms. One of which is articulated as partnership with the laity. The emergence of lay partners in the church is a challenge to change paradigm and to share to share the church's gift or charisms with the lay.



SHARING OF THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS. The capitulars were divided into groups for the small group sharing answering the guide questions given by the speaker.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION. The prior provincial and the provincial councilors begin reporting the State of the Province. Fray Ian Espartero (right) presents the implementation of the ordinances for the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality.

Information-Discussion Phase begins

Day 3 begins the information and discussion phase. Fr. Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr., was the moderator of the morning sessions. He read the *ordo capituli* to guide the capitulars as to the conduct of this phase.

Fray Dionisio Selma, the out-going prior provincial, needed the whole morning sessions to report to the body the implementation of programs and activities of the 2018-2022 Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the province.

Representing the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality, Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, Head of the Section

for Spirituality, and Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, President of the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality, supported the prior provincial's report by presenting the secretariat's implementation of the ordinances proper to their section and secretariat. Frays Kenneth Joseph Onda and James Castelo added information relative to

the Order's program on the formation of formators—*In Imum Cordis*, and the province's program for ongoing formation. Discussion, question and clarification ensued after the information stage. The capitulars were guided by the *ordo capituli's* injunction to "ask each presenter for clarifications that he deems convenient, complete



REPORTERS' TASK. (left) Fray Vincent Cadeliña, representative of the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos and ARCORES-Filipinas reports the commission's accomplishments during the previous quadrennium. (right) Fray Dionisio Selma presented the province's status.

the information given, express his agreement or disagreement, and offer new ideas.”

In the afternoon session, the floor was given to the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos and ARCORES-Filipinas. Fray Vincent Cadeliña presented the activities, fundings, and other implementing programs of the province in collaboration with the Order on social action and care for the environment. He was accompanied by Fray Rouel Sia. After some discussions and clarifications, the session ended with a prayer at 5:00 PM. Fray René Paglinawan was the moderator of the afternoon session.



QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION. (clockwise from top left) Frays Edgar Tubio, René Paglinawan, Leopoldo Estioko, and William Emilito Villaflor expressed their queries related to the informations presented by the reporters.



Contemplation and Passion: “To remain “ and “To bear fruit” in John 15:1-18

Fr. Regino Bangcaya, parish priest of San Rafael Arkanghel Parish in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan and prior of the same religious community is the main celebrant of the 3rd day of the provincial chapter. In his homily, he makes a spiritual commentary on the gospel reading from John 15:1-8.

Being one of the tellers of the 8th Provincial Chapter and assigned to read orally voting results, he starts his homily with a numerical observation of two dominant words in the gospel reading. He observes that the words “remain” and “fruit” appear

eight (8) and five (5) times respectively.

To remain in the Lord can be accomplished, he said, simply and mainly through prayer. Fr. Rex, as he is fondly called and being a spiritual theologian, zeroed in on the theme of prayer

as a form of remaining constantly in the Lord. The fullness of prayer is no other than contemplation. A contemplative is one who is neither contented with common acts and oral prayers nor with the formulaic ones only (although these are equally important). Rather, a contemplative in prayer is one who is constantly connected with the Lord and is in union with Him in all his thoughts, actions, and judgements.

Asperfection of such contemplation is almost next to impossible or simply difficult to achieve especially by those in active life, the very act of struggling and striving to be constantly in union

with the Lord is also a sign of remaining in the Lord. It is, by itself, an act to be in a state of prayer. This too, is a step toward contemplation.

The second word closely connected is "fruit." Fr. Rex, observes that when we talk of fruits we easily refer to outcomes, results, and often with success. Fr. Rex, a former seminary formator (spiritual director and rector), gently makes a reminder, in his homily, that a common effort, the best communitarian endeavor to work for the province, particularly this moment of the provincial chapter, is by itself a sign of being a "fruit." Results come as

outflow from such a fruitful common act and encounter

Fr. Rex's reflection moves beyond the chapter days. He commented that the dynamism of remaining and bearing fruit must continue beyond the days of the provincial chapter. In daily life, the strivings to remain and bear fruit can be articulated in an attitude called "passion"—passion for the service of the Lord, passion to live the religious life in all circumstances, and passion to persevere amidst trials and difficulties.

Fr. Lauro Larlar keeps the Chapter President Informed

The official language of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno is English. Often though, the Recollects' rich ethnic diversity becomes manifest in the use of other dialects and languages in formal and informal communications and discussions.

Conscious to make the Prior General never off the communication grid, the Prior Provincial and his council



sought for the communication expertise of Fr. Lauro V. Larlar to keep the chapter president, Fr. Miguel Ángel Hernández well informed of the developments and discussion within the chapter hall.

Fray Lauro is stationed in another room distant from the chapter hall. This is to minimize disruptions and distractions for both the participants and the translator. Fray Lauro though, sees and hears everything in the chapter hall to keep the Prior General in the loop.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- General Curia
- Recoletos de Provincialate
- Augustinian Recollect Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation
- Bishop Ryan Jimenez, DD - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa
- Province of San Nicolas de Tolentino
- Province of Sto. Tomás de Villanueva
- Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
- Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters
- Bishop Julito Cortez, DD - Bishop of Dumaguete



A MISSIONARY'S PERSPECTIVE. Fray Russell Lapidez (right) shares his experience and views about the Order's missionary presence in Indonesia.

Information and discussion phase continues

The morning session started with the reading of messages and greetings to Prior General and the capitulars. After the greetings, Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr., moderator of the morning sessions, gave the floor to Fray Dionisio Selma who introduced the next reporters.

Recalling the projects and activities of the Secretariat of Vocations and Youth, Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia shed light on the current situation of the Recollect Augustinian Youth in the Philippines.

The National Vocation Director (NVD) and Head of the Section for Vocation Ministry, Fray Allan Jacinto, graphically presented how the NVD and the local vocation promoters work hand in hand to plan and implement the modality of vocation campaign for Recollect religious and priestly life.

After the morning break, the

Section for Ministerial and Mission Apostolates presented their accomplishment reports. Fray Edgar Tubio, Head of the said section, gave an update on the possible mission and mission-like territories offered to the Recoletos by local ordinaries. The missionaries, present in the chapter, also shared their experiences in the mission. Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo talked about their life in Sierra Leone, Africa; Fray Corvin Maturan discussed the situations of the missionaries in Taiwan; Fray Russell Lapidez spoke on

cont. p.106.



VOCATION AND EDUCATION. Fray Allan Jacinto (top) and Fray William Emilito Villaflor (bottom) report the state of vocation recruitment and educational apostolate of the province, respectively.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Recoletos de Pangasinan
- Religious of the Good Shepherd
- OAR Vicariate of Mexico
- Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity-Cebu Chapter
- Recollect Augustinian Youth-National
- Bro. Jayzl Nebre, SAR

Kumusta ka

Kumusta ka? Fr. Joephil or Fr. Tray, few of the names he is fondly called, greets the capitulars at the start of his homily. Such greeting, he continues, has been too familiar yet often superficial and cosmetic especially during the campaign rallies in the recent national elections. However, *kumusta ka* - when uttered by a friend or a former formand about one's life situation, conditions of health and vocation, whether one is bored or burnt-out - can be intriguing yet introspective, probing but discerning, astute and insightful. *Kamusta ka* becomes a question about life and



love.

The preacher connects this evening-experience dialogue with the gospel reading. Echoing the verses of the Gospel, he says, our joy can only be complete and true if we have immersed ourselves in the very joy that Jesus has shared with us. Interpreting the same text, Fr. Tray, identifies the key to unlock this true joy—it is no other than to remain in Jesus's love as He has kept the commandment of God. The commandment of God is Jesus's life, Jesus's love, and Jesus's joy. What Jesus therefore, teaches, preaches, and shares is no other than his very own life, love and joy—His experience of love with the Father.

Fr. Joefil, a formator for the greater part of his religious life, sees the same model in our formation life cycle. He shares a mirror-image-identity model in which one develops according to the significant other who accompanies, believes, and convinces who really one is. We, in the context of on-going formation,

need to recognize the words of the Father to Jesus as equally addressed to us, "you are my son, my beloved." Jesus heard this affirmation in his baptism and transfiguration—two important beginnings in his life—at the inception of his public ministry and at the early stage of his passion death and resurrection. Likewise, we need to hear the assurances of the Father's love continually and perpetually to remain constantly in God's love through thick and thin, in good and in bad, for better or for worse—always in God and Jesus' love and joy.

Fr. Tray, ends his homily with the response to that evening *kumusta-ka* question. Because of this love, life in the seminary has never been boring, there are no dull moments, everyday is a new day. In fact, he concludes, it is psychologically and spiritually rewarding for formators like him, to see his once-upon-a-time formands now forming part of the administration of the province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

Information and discussion...(from page 105)

behalf of the brothers in Indonesia. Fray Selma explained the conditions of the Recollect missionaries assigned in Rota, located in the western Pacific Ocean.

In the afternoon, Fray René Paglinawan navigated the day's third session.

Fray William Emilito Villaflor, President of the Recollect Educational Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP),

enlighten the capitulars on the Section for Educational Apostolate. The school president-capitulars—Fray Henry Santiago of San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila; Fray Rafael Pecson of San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite; Fray Cristopher Maspara of University of San Jose-Recoletos; and Fray Anthony Morillo Director of Colegio San Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos—shared the

situations of the OAR schools in the Philippines as rejoinders to the report of the REAP President. Interventions and clarifications were raised after the reports. Others gave additional information.

The afternoon session ends with a prayer elevating to God their works of the day and asking Him help to persevere in the mission entrusted to them.

Chapter Chronicle

May 21, 2022

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QUESTION AND ANSWER CONTINUE. Fray René Paglinawan (right) inquires about the commissions reporting today. Fray Miguel Angel Hernández (center) listens to Fray Paglinawan's questions. Fray Romeo Ben Potencio (left) is the moderator of the morning sessions.

Three more Commission Reports

On the fifth day of the Chapter, the chairmen of the Province's Commission on Communications and Publications-Recoletos (CCP-R), Commission on History, Culture, and Heritage-Recoletos (CoHCH-R), and Commission for the Protection of Minors presented their reports to the capitulars.

At the start of the first session in the morning, the moderator of the day—Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, read new messages for the Chapter. After the attendees expressed their appreciation for the greetings and prayer messages, they reviewed the minutes of the previous days. When no further corrections were made, the capitulars unanimously voted for their approval.

The moderator then signaled for the presentation of a video recap of the first three days of the 8th provincial chapter prepared by the secretarial team.

The reports of the commissions followed. Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, chairman of the Commission on Communication and Publication-Recoletos (CCP-R) took the first part of the session. He presented an overview of the organization, its functions, activities, recent developments, accomplishments, and proposals. After shedding light on the indispensable role of the commission in the life of the Province and the Order, he concluded his report quoting Pope Francis, "It is not enough to be passersby on the digital highway, simply 'connected'; connections need to grow into true encounters. We cannot live apart, closed in on ourselves. We need

to love and to be loved." Fray Reynaldo Jarnilla took the floor to speak about the Recoletos Communications, Inc. (RCI) the corporation partner of CCP-R.

Fray Leander Barrot, chairman of the Commission on History, Culture and Heritage-Recoletos (CoHCH-R) gave his report. He presented the different accomplishments during the quadrennium—the writing of manuals, processes and procedures relative to the commission's tasks and responsibilities, the establishment of its central office at the Bulwagang Recoletos, setting up of the organization and by-laws of the commission, the organizational structure of the commission based on the existing offices and operations of the Bulwagang Recoletos, and the significant milestone events organized by the commission. He also identified ongoing ventures.

At the end of Fray Leander's presentation, Fray Edgar Tubio reported on the developments of the BasteCon which oversees the restoration works of the Basilica of San Sebastian, Manila. Fray Dionisio Selma also said some words about the Handumanan foundation. Both foundations are under the office of the Prior Provincial.

In the afternoon, Fray Arnel Diaz gave a report on the Commission for the Protection of Minors. He highlighted the directives, steps, and direction that the Province has taken as a manifestation of its unwavering commitment to the Church and Order's efforts to promote and uphold the protection of minors and vulnerable adults connected to the Province's institutions and ministries.



COMMUNICATION AND HISTORY. Fray Jose Ernil Almayo (top) presents the Commission on Communications and Publications-Recoletos' updates. Fray Leander Barrot (below) chairs the Commission on History, Culture, and Heritage-Recoletos.

Love and Friendship antidote to burdens

Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma presided the Eucharistic celebration and delivered the homily on the fifth day of the provincial chapter. His reflection centered on two correlative terms — love and friendship. These correlates, he says, are best solutions to problems, conflicts, and burdens.

Diony or Fr. Diony, the name he is called by those close to his age, underscores that these virtues of love and friendship are never on the level of feelings. It is not skin deep, superficial or ephemeral. In the words of Jesus in the gospel according to John, love and friendship are founded on the fulfillment of the commandments, “Do what I command.” It is an obligation, a responsibility, and a commitment.

In the socio-cultural context of the gospel, Fr. Diony clarifies that friendship among kings and nobles carries the sense of

intimacy, trust, and confidence. A true friend of the king or noble can enter the privacy of the king’s bedroom, he can talk directly to the king without the needed intermediary, and sometimes he is consulted before the king makes major decisions.

This level of friendship demands likewise a reciprocal attitude of intimacy, trust, and confidence on the part of the friend. In this way, friendship and love become commitment, obligation, and responsibility.

It is in this level of meaning that we

are to understand the words of Jesus when he said, “I call you friends and not servants.” We are called to intimacy, confidence, and trust—a stark contrast to a relationship with servants and slaves.

Fr. Diony connected his reflection to the obligations the capitulars have to the province. He says, we are to craft the direction of the province reflective of love and friendship among brother, “love one another.” In this way, the plans and programs do not become burdensome, neither sources of conflicts nor problems.



PRAYER OPENS THE DAY. (clockwise from top left) Fray Dionisio Selma presides over the Mass of the day. Fray Julius James Tinapao read the Word of the Lord. Fray Russell Lapidez (left) and Fray Roderick Deguit (right) concelebrates with the main presider of the day. The capitulars use both the physical and digital versions of the Liturgy of the Hours.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Federación de Agustinas Recoletas de España
- Prof. Emmanuel Luis Romanillos
- Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres
- University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos
- Recoletos de Antipolo
- Recoletos de Mira-nila
- Recoletos de Talisay



TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU... The capitulars join the Mass presider and homilist of the day, Fray Leopoldo Estioko (not in photo), in celebrating the Eucharistic celebration for the sixth day of the 8th Provincial Chapter.

Chapter's information phase concludes



LAST TWO REPORTERS. Fray Bernabe Dosdos (above) reports the financial status of the province. Fray Robin Plata (below) presents the template of the Last Will, Medical Power of Attorney, and Medical Record.

On the sixth day of the Chapter, reports from the Province's secretariats, commissions, and foundations concluded.

At 8:30, after the opening prayer, the morning session commenced with the reading of new messages and the review of the minutes of previous sessions. Two other decisions were done by the capitulars, endorsement of the first interview of the 8th Prior Provincial of St. Ezekiel Moreno and the itinerary of the following Sunday activity.

The last two presentations of the morning sessions were by Fray Robin Ross Plata who presented the proposed templates regarding the Last Will, Medical Power of Attorney, and Medical Records of the religious—a directive from the previous Prior General of the Order; and by Fray Bernabe Dosdos who showed the overall economic status of the Province.

These reports closed the Information Phase of the 8th Provincial Chapter.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Recoletos de Casian
- Recoletos de Kamalo
- SARF de UNO-R Bacolod
- Siervas de Maria

Prayer, Sacraments and Imitation of Christ

Jesus said, "If they persecute me, they will also persecute you. If they keep my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me."

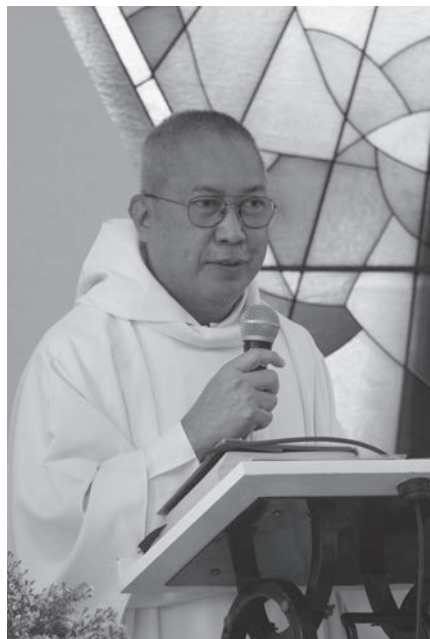
Allow me to use a prayer as my jumping board in my short homily. Please pray with me: "Lord Jesus, you always know that we will face sufferings and persecutions as we proclaim Your Good News to all the nations. We pray that you offer us a yoke that is good to bear and a burden that is light. May we feel as if the worst suffering we encounter is a light burden. May we have the courage and strength to proclaim your Holy Word to all. Amen.

In today's gospel Jesus gives us a reminder when He said: "If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first, "If they had persecuted me, they would also persecute you." When Jesus talks of persecutions, He was also referring to the sufferings and persecutions His disciples would undergo at the hands of the Jews and the Romans in proclaiming His teachings.

The "world" that rejected Jesus and His disciples then is the same "world" that will reject and persecute his disciples today. Jesus leaves no middle ground for his followers. We are either for Him or against Him, for His kingdom of light or for the kingdom of darkness. Suffering is part of human existence especially for Christians. It is because, a life with Jesus is not a bed of roses but a thorny one. Thus, we should not pray for an easy life. Instead, we pray to become stronger persons to be able to face life's challenges.

As an Augustinian Recollect, let us in time of rejections and persecutions, give to Jesus the assurance that we will be faithful witnesses no matter what may happen. Pope Francis, in one of the Chrism masses he officiated, reminded priests that the proclamation of the Gospel will always be intrinsically linked to persecution.

He added further that the weight of the cross had been present throughout Our Lord's life from beginning to end; and Jesus embraced his sufferings at every moment of his earthly life. So, priests needed to do the same, "... for on the cross there can be no ambiguity! The cross is non-negotiable." This



THE MASS PRESIDER AND HOMILIST. Fray Leopoldo Estioko delivers his homily.

message of Pope Francis was not only meant for priests, it was also addressed to religious. men and women.

We cannot bear witness to Jesus if we do not know Him personally. We cannot be his witnesses unless we experience him in prayer and the sacraments. Pope Francis said, "Knowing Jesus is our life's most important work", because in coming to know him we come to know the Father also. The Pope pointed out three doors we need to open and pass through, if we want to know Jesus. The three doors are prayer, sacraments, and imitation of Jesus.

The Pope said, "study alone without **prayer** is useless. Great theologians do theology on their knees." He continued saying that in research we will advance a little but with prayer we will know and experience Jesus. Yes, Prayer opens our eyes of faith. It enables us to see what God is doing and makes us see things we are blinded to when we are without prayer. Let us not, then, miss our Liturgy of the Hours and be religiously in love with prayers.

The Bishop of Rome also said, that prayer alone "is also not enough." "Celebrating Jesus joyfully in the **Sacraments** is needed as well, for it is there that He gives us life, nourishes us, comforts us, makes a covenant with us, and gives us a mission. Indeed, In prayer, we give to God that which we owe to Him. In the sacraments, He gives to us the graces necessary to live truly our religious life.

Finally, the Pope advised that we take up the scriptures in order to discover in the Gospel what Jesus did, what kind of life he lived, and what he told and taught his disciples. Let us, then, "seek and imitate him" in the bible: The gospel will tell us to be merciful; to be prayerful; to feed others; to Die for others, to teach others and to be joyful as we carry our crosses.

My brother capitulars, as we journey together during the next quadrennium, let us **pray, celebrate the Sacraments, and imitate Jesus** in order to know him more, love him more and serve him more in our neighbors. May His words, "I am the way, the truth and the life," lead us to a synodal Church where there is accompaniment and communion among OAR religious in the whole province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.



Capitulars on a day-off



TABLE OF PLENTY. Participants of the 8th Provincial Chapter celebrate Mass with the faithful of Our Lady of Consolation Parish-Recoletos, Laray, Inayawan, Talisay City. Fray Raul Buhay presides and gives the homily in Cebuano.

After an exhausting first week of reporting and discussion, the capitulars had a day off. They visited pilgrim places and had a relaxing afternoon in Moalboal, a coastal municipality in the southern part of the province of Cebu.

The day of the Lord, for the capitulars, started with a 6 o'clock morning concelebrated mass at a recollect owned and administered parish, Our Lady of Consolacion, Inayawan. Since the faithful filled the church to the brim, Fray Raul Buhay, the main celebrant, told the Prior General that it was a regular Sunday church attendance as is usual in many churches in Cebu. Fray Constantino Real, the prior of the said community, welcomed the Prior General and capitular delegates. They also had their breakfast in the same parish.

The capitulars proceeded to visit pilgrim sites. First was the shrine of Venerable Bishop Teofilo Camomot. It was a blessed moment since the day prior to their visit, Pope Francis, through the Prefect of the Congregation of the Causes for the Saints, promulgated a degree on the heroic virtues of the late Archbishop Teofilo Bastide Camomot conferring on him the title of "Venerable." The visit became doubly significant since Fray Samson



INTROIBO AD ALTARE DEI. (above) The priests-participants enter the parish church of the Recoletos community of Laray. (below) Fray Raul Buhay distributes Holy Communion to the faithful of Laray.



A DAY OF REST. (clockwise from top left) Fray Miguel Hernández kneels with the Mass goers at the Venerable Teofilo Camomot Shrine. Many devotees fall in line just to enter the Monastery of the Holy Eucharist and statue Birhen sa Simala (Lindogon). Some capitulars listen to the instructions given by the diving coach prior to their dive. Afterwards, the capitulars-turn-divers enjoyed the sea.

Silloriques, a recollect canon lawyer, worked as one of his postulators. The Capitulars spent time praying before his tomb and viewing the relics of the Venerable.

Second, they proceeded to visit the Monastery of the Holy Eucharist and the renowned *Birhen sa Simala* (Lindogon). Due to the almost one-kilometer line of pilgrims queuing to visit the shrine and the ongoing maintenance inside the church resulting in temporary closure of the other entrances, the Capitulars decided to peek from a view deck to view the sacred place and then, proceeded to the next itinerary.

Traversing the rolling mountainous southern part of Cebu, the capitulars reach Moalboal, a coastline municipality to take an afternoon dip in the placid waters of the place. Lunch, prepared by the Recollect Sisters of the Talavera community, was served. The afternoon fun (also in the Philippines) culminated with their long journey back to Talavera. They needed to be ready for a grueling week ahead.



VITAMIN SEA. Capitulars enjoy their day of rest in the beautiful white sand beach of HK Resort, Basdako, Moalboal, Cebu.



COMMITTEES AT WORK. Fray Miguel Angel Hernandez (far right) speaks to the members of the Committee on Governance and Economy as the second phase of the chapter begins.

Chapter's Commission Phase begins

The Provincial Chapter moves on to the commission phase—the time when capitulars are organized into smaller commissions to design determinations aligned with the vision, mission, and objectives of the 56th General Chapter of the Order and of the 8th Provincial Chapter of St. Ezekiel Moreno. The proposals, when approved, become ordinances of the chapter for the years ahead.

In the morning session, when the capitulars gathered, the opening prayer lead by the moderator, Fray Rene Paglinawan, was said, and the messages to the chapter were read, the President of the Chapter, Fray Miguel Ángel Hernández, asked the body if there were other themes, topics, and concerns needing further deliberations. Fray Bernard Amparado, expressing his appreciation of the development of the chapter, made

some clarifications on lay collaboration as response to the call to synodality. Fray Ian Anthony Espartero updated the body on developments of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF). After a series of inquiries and discussions, they proceeded to the presentation of the Province's Priority Objective.

Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, presenting the proposal of the previous administration, pointed to the key

themes: walking together, synodality, accompaniment, commitment, hope, and OAR identity. After some considerations, the President of the Chapter signaled the body to proceed to their assigned commission groups to study, deliberate, and craft alternative proposals of the priority objective of the province.

Fray Ernil Almayo, the chapter secretary, announced the assigned venues of the different commissions.



PLANNING FOR THE PROVINCE'S FUTURE. (L-R) The Commission on Educational and Social Apostolate and the Commission on Vocation and Youth meet to craft the determinations appropriate for their committee.

Tatak Rekoleta: Our Response

The Eucharistic celebration commences with the entrance song, “Wake up my People” an upbeat tune that awakens everyone to face the second phase of the provincial chapter--the crafting of determinations and ordinances to set the direction, goals and objectives of the province for the up-coming triennium or quadrennium. The same song also invites singers to respond to those who suffer, to participate and initiate changes where needed, and to open every door, or have welcoming disposition, for others. In the end, to be awakened, as the song goes, means to reply to the Lord’s invitation, “to love my people evermore.”

The main celebrant of the Monday morning Eucharist deepened and gave a *recoleta* flavor to the song’s perspective. Fray René Paglinawan reflecting on the word “hour”, an important vocabulary in the gospel of John, observes that such word carries a sense of temptation, opportunity, and time for making crucial decisions; and the word “day” has the nuance of rejoicing, delight, and celebration. In the concrete living experience, the movement from minutes to hours and to days is perfected in a progressive fidelity to every opportunity, event, and moment in the daily life of a religious.

Crucial before this hour or day, is an attitude, behavior, or conduct one assumes in responding to these moments and opportunities. As Augustinian

Recollects, we need to respond to these moments in the spirit of *tatak recoleta*. For Fray René, *tatak recoleta* is manifest in working *in solidum*, as a team, and as a community—characters manifest in our history, charism, and tradition. This *tatak recoleta* is counter culture to projects lacking of the community involvement or endeavors pursued personally even against the direction of the community. It is also corrective of the “*kamo-na-bahalana*” attitude, a mindset that avoids to go into details or to examine extensively project proposals for possible long-term negative consequences. For the homilist, *Tatak recoleta* needs to penetrate and flow into our community activities like planning, evaluation, and decision making. It is not enough that this become a slogan or be

seen printed in t-shirts or tarpaulins. *Tatak recoleta* is to permeate the very life, mind and heart of every recollect religious.

An additional aspect of *tatak recoleta* for this triennium or quadrennium is accompaniment, the preacher adds. This could take the forms of fraternal correction, timely reminders or stops and pauses so we may be able to review midway what has been done. It also implies that we be the third advocate—to Jesus and the Holy Spirit—to testify to our *tatak recoleta*, to our community life, and to each other.

At the end of his homily Fr. Rene, congratulated the new Prior Provincial, Fray Bernard Amparado, both as man of the hour and one to man the hour of the recoletos life in the next triennium or quadrennium.



TATAK REKOLETO. (clockwise from top right) Fray Rene Paglinawan presides the day’s Holy Mass and delivers the homily. Participants sing while instrumentalist do their thing.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Province of Our Lady of Candelaria
- Recoletos de Cavite
- Recoletos de Talisay
- Recoletos de Laray
- Recoletos de Bacolod
- Team CEAR Querétaro, Mexico
- Fray Jose Julio Charon, OAR



HAPPY TO SERVE. The Commission on Mission, Ministerial, and Social Apostolates joyfully craft determinations to guide the next administration on how to administer the parishes and missions of the province.

Capitulars finalize the Priority Objective of the Province

The Chapter, entering the second day of the commission phase, finalized the priority objective of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno for the next triennium or quadrennium.

At 8:30 in the morning, when all were gathered at the plenary hall, Fray René Paglinawan, the assigned moderator, led the opening prayer. He read the messages recently received to which the capitulars applauded as a sign of appreciation. They reviewed the minutes (*actas*) of May 20, 2022 proceeding which then were approved by the capitulars.

The 8th Provincial Chapter official hymn “Our Greatest Dream” was first presented to the capitular assembly. The hymn is penned by Fray Dominador Mercado, OAR; the music composed by Fray Samuel Eyas, OAR; the instrumental arrangement by Noel Espenida; and the Music Video production is engineered by Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla. The song interpreters are Fray Raymund Alcedo, OAR, Sr. Leonian Lacbayo, AR, and Sr. Valerie Ann Coz, AR. The capitulars appreciated the video and moved for its public dissemination.

Pivotal to the morning session was the presentation of the alternative versions of the priority objective of the province for the upcoming triennium or quadrennium. At the end of a long deliberation, the version prepared by the Commission on Spirituality

and Charism, being all-inclusive, concise, and dynamic, captured the hearts and minds of the capitulars. This priority objective guides the capitulars as they craft the determinations of the province and likewise the province as it faces the challenges of the years to come.

The afternoon session was dedicated to finalizing the proposed determinations of the different commissions to be readied for presentation, debated, and God willing—approved.



SPIRITUAL AND CHARISMATIC. Members of the Commission on Spirituality and Charism meet for their proposals.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Fray Giovanni Gil Magbojos, OAR
- Sis. Evelyn Balingit, SAR
- Sis. Rosario Galang, SAR
- SARF Antipolo Chapter
- SSC-R de Cavite
- 羅曉琪 Monica

Letting go: choosing life

Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, the main celebrant and homilist for the day, reflected with the capitulars the gospel reading from Jn 16:5-11. The gospel reading talks of Jesus leaving His disciples to go back to the Father. In His place, Jesus promised to send the Advocate.

Fray Ian, a moral theologian, Dean of the Recoletos School of Theology, and President of the Secretariat of Spirituality and Formation, points to three significant moments of letting go—as person, in belief or faith, and having authority or influence. In all these instances, the preacher asserts, letting go is choosing the better life.

On a personal level, he recalls a major decision he made. He was to decide, together with members of his own family, whether to resuscitate or simply let go of their father who was seriously sick in bed. His faith and his theology got the better part of the decision. The preacher, after handing over his point of view, intimates, “I was consoled by the fact that he [the father] needed to go so that he would reach the place which he could rightly call his ‘true home.’” Letting go is choosing the

better life for the father in the heavenly abode.

In the gospel, the disciples had to reckon with the fact that Jesus Christ had completed the mission given to him by the Father. Thus, the disciples needed to let go of their teacher, lord and master. While, on the one hand, letting go and moving on would be difficult, painful, and agonizing on the part of the disciples; on the other hand, letting go allows the promise of Jesus to send an Advocate from the Father to be realized. Through the Advocate, the disciples would receive strength, grace from God, security, comfort and ease. This advocate, received from the Father and the Son, would lead them to appreciate the movements of God leading them to where God wants them to go and do. In the end, letting go of the resurrected Jesus is

acceptance of a mission, commitment to faith, and choosing life for God and for others.

One of the greatest temptations of humanity is the temptation to cling to power, fame, and prestige. Self-conceit often takes the better part of us believing that we are indispensable, the only qualified person, the right and the best choice for the job. To the words of the preacher, “we believe ... that nobody can equal our presence, surpass our performance, or take over our place.” Sometimes, it takes tragedy to knock us out of our self-conceit. To such self-belief, there is only one antidote. Unless, the self recognizes God to be the number one in one’s life, letting go is next to impossible. But, with God at the center of one’s life, letting go is choosing the better life.

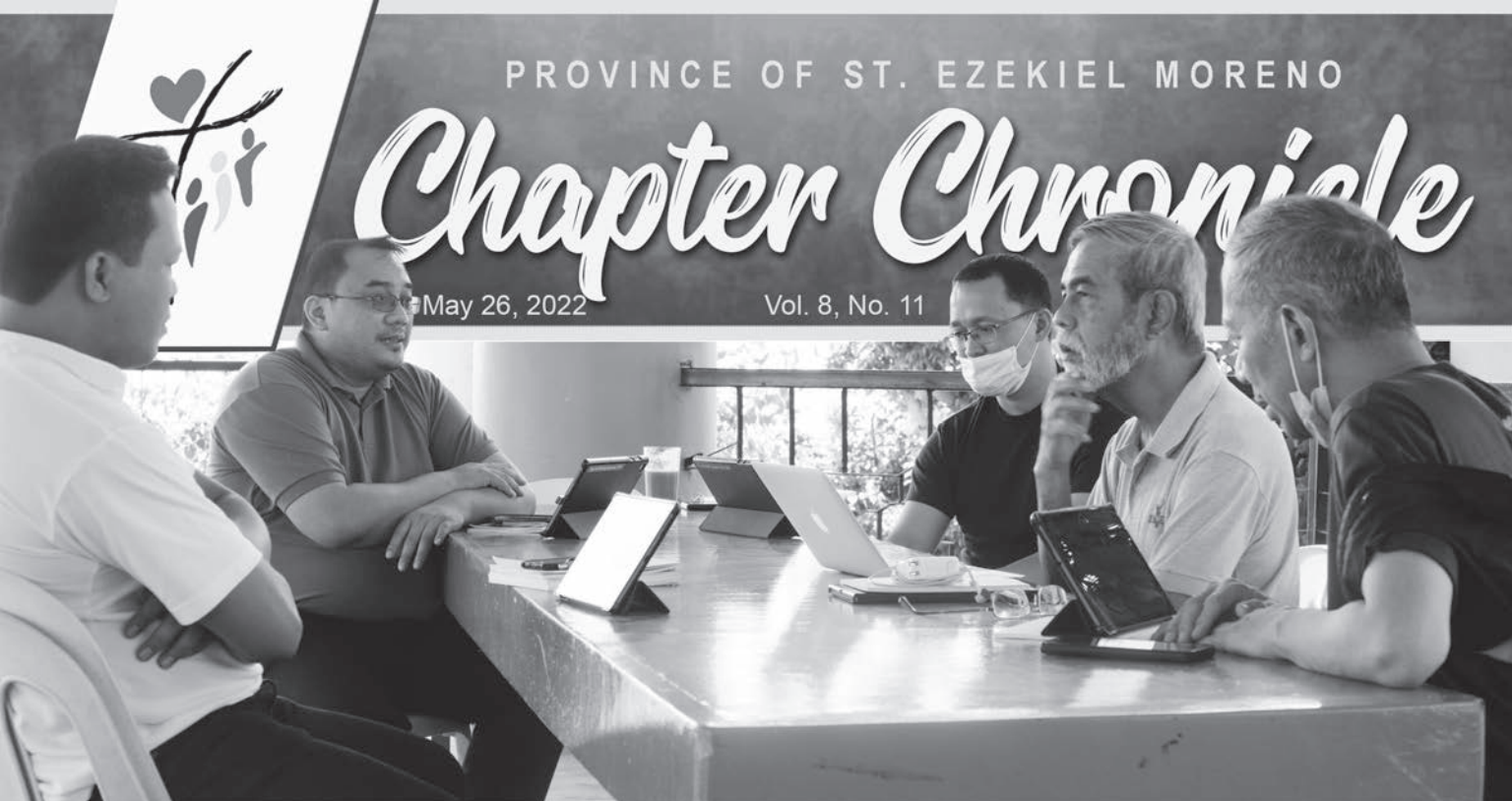


LET GO AND LET GOD. The capitulars celebrate the Holy Mass elevate to God their intentions and prayers as they prepare for another day of commission meetings and crafting of the Life and Mission Project of the province.

Chapter Chronicle

May 26, 2022

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IN THE SERVICE OF FORMATION. Members of the Commission on Initial and Permanent Formation discuss the proposals covering the programs to be implemented for the formation of present and future Augustinian Recollects.

On the dot!

Deliberation on some proposed determinations commenced in the afternoon session of the 10th day of the Provincial Chapter. The capitulars are on the dot!

At 8:30, the morning rituals proceeded as expected: the session began with a prayer, Fray René Paglinawan, the assigned moderator, read the messages from well-wishers for the Chapter, the capitulars responded with an applause.

The technical team, headed by Fray Reynaldo E. Jaranilla, prepared a video summary of the fourth to seventh day of the chapter. This was played and given a go signal for broadcasting.

The review of the *actas* (minutes) of the Chapter dated May 22 and 23

followed with some slight corrections. Father General moved for their approval to which the Capitulars gave a unanimous vote.

The moderator asked for an update on the status of the Commissions' determination proposals to which the majority sought for some time to go over their works and review the proposals of the other Commissions.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the presentation and deliberation of the proposals commenced. It was the first

presentation. Two commissions made their presentations in this afternoon's session: The Commission on Governance and Economy having twenty-nine proposals and the Commission on Initial and Permanent Formation with eleven proposals. The proposals were presented by their respective secretaries, Fray Romeo Ben Potencio and Fray René Paglinawan, respectively.

In the following days ahead, we look forward to reading the determinations of the 8th Provincial Chapter.



SHOW OF HANDS. The capitulars raise their hand as they unanimously approve the minutes of the previous chapter sessions.



LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD. The participants stand as they listen to the proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

Listening ...

"I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you to bear now." (Jn 16:12)

These words, forming part of the final discourse of Jesus addressed to his disciples in the gospel of John, was the focus of the reflection of Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia. Fray Manny, the main celebrant and homilist on the 10th day of the provincial chapter, hovered over the Jesus's thought on the "many things to say" He wanted tell

his disciples. Only that, his disciples were not ready, were not disposed, or simply could not bear them. Surely, the teachings of Jesus during his earthly life on mercy, goodness, kindness, charity and still others were more than enough for the disciples to live the very life of Jesus. But there were still more that the disciples would have to discover as they moved on to a life of commitment, sacrifice, and service.

For the preacher, listening is the key attitude. The disciples needed to be creative listeners in order to be able to understand, bear, and become obedient to everything the Lord wanted them to know. There are three attitudes of listening, the preacher points out. First, attentive listening. This kind of listening happens when one is in communion with God, when one listens in silence, in solitude, and in

contemplation. This kind of listening is achieved if one puts on humility. Attentive listening is hearing God's words and ways with a humble heart. Second, is listening to God through the present circumstances, realities, and experiences. Even in the moments of brokenness in our consecrated and religious life, God speaks out loud and clear. The third, is an outflow the latter—listening as obedience. As Augustinian Recollects, we need to listen to God speaking to us through our vows. Obedient listening leads to the fulfillment of God's plans in our life.

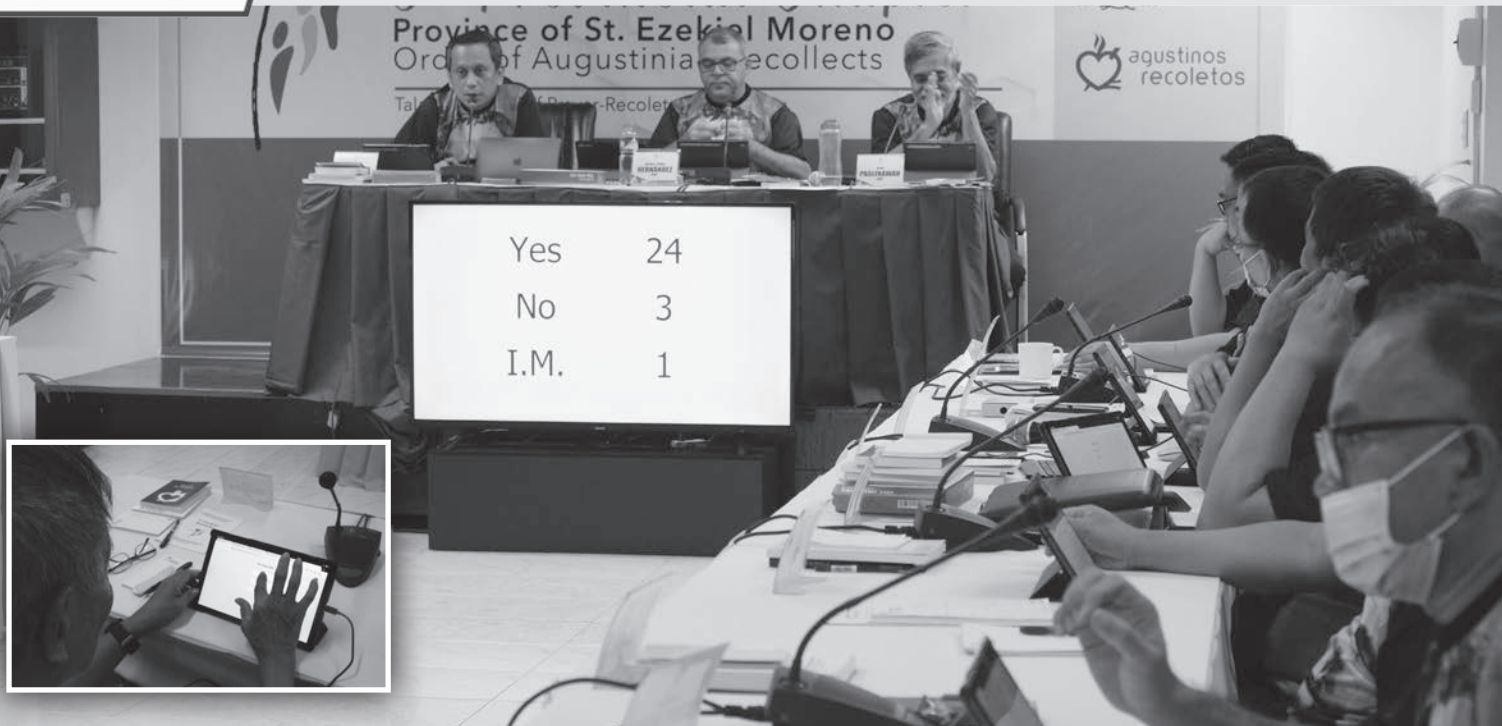
At the end of his reflection, Fray Manny prayerfully exhorts the capitulars: "Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth and to help us to trust that what Jesus wants will always be life-giving to us." AMEN.



THE HOMILIST. Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia preaches in front of the capitulars.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Colegio de Santo Tomas-Recoletos
- Comunidad San José
- SARF de CST-R
- ARCORES Internacional
- OAR Vicariate of USA
- SARF de Provincialate



VERDICT IN A CLICK. Capitulars cast votes through a modified voting app to approve determinations for the LAMP of the 2022-2025 triennium.

Determinations *almost* completed

On the eleventh day of the Chapter, the capitulars needed to extend late in the evening—all for the love of the Province.

At 8:30 in the morning, the capitulars convened at the plenary hall. Fray René Paglinawan, the moderator, led the prayer and read the new messages for the Chapter.

During the first and second sessions of the morning, all commissions completed the first reading of their proposed determinations. Fray Rafael Pecson, the secretary for the Commission on Education and Social Apostolate presented six prepared proposals of their commission; Fray Jay Parilla, on behalf of the Commission on Mission, Ministerial, and Social Apostolate, shared their eleven proposals; Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo introduced the eighteen proposals of the Commission on Vocation and Youth

Ministry; the last group, represented by Fray Jose Ernil Almayo read the nine proposed points of the Commission on Spirituality and Charism. At noon time, the capitulars needed a good meal and favorable rest to be up and about for the afternoon workload.

The afternoon session began at 3:00 moderated by Fray Romeo Ben Potencio. Two important readings were lined up. Fray Ian Anthony Espartero read to the capitulars the proposed message of the Chapter and the Commission on Governance and Economy presented for examination a draft of the Province's organizational chart. Clarifications and suggestions for improvements followed.

The second half of the afternoon session was devoted to new proposals

for first reading. Three commissions still needed to present additional determination: The Commissions on Governance and Economy, on Educational and Social Apostolate, and on Vocation and Youth Ministry.

At 4:50 the second presentation and voting of determinations commenced. The momentum was put to halt, due to the pre-scheduled photo-ops of the capitulars at 5:00 in the afternoon. Determined to deliver the needed service to the province the capitulars decided to continue the process at 8:30 in the evening.

At 10:15, Jesus's words to Peter became true to the capitular, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

A joyful walk

Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices you will grieve, but your grief will become Joy.” (Jn 16: 20)

The mass celebrant and homilist not only re-echoed the scriptural promise of transition from pain to joy and from suffering to bliss but also looked beyond to the time when capitulars would come down from the mountains of Talavera and get to brass tacks to help carry the cross for the province and the new prior provincial.

Following the thought patterns of the Lord in the gospel of John, Fray Edgar Tubio, underscores a very significant promise of the Lord to his disciples—pain and suffering will cease;

sadness will be turned to gladness, and heartbreaks to joy. For Fray Egay, as his confreres call him, suffering has an expiration date. In the same manner that the mother’s pain in child bearing is forgotten when the beautiful child is already in her arms, so too, pain and suffering, due to being in this earthly valley of tears, fizzle out at the encounter of the glorious resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of believers in Christ.

As the decision phase of the chapter closes in, the roadmap for the province comes to light, tasks and responsibilities

become clear cut, programs and plans turn into obligations, life projects and institutional goals develop into commitments. Turning the capitulars, Fray Egay encouraged them not only to walk together but also to work together. In this way, the burdens ahead become a joyful walk with the Lord. He ends his sharing prayerfully,

“Almighty and eternal God, make us rejoice with the inner joy of your word, so that purified by it we may joyfully contemplate the glory of your works.”
AMEN.



SACRED ASSEMBLY. (Top left) Fray Edgar Tubio delivers homily. (Top right) Capitulars sing the Lord’s Prayer. (Bottom) Concelebrants queue for Holy Communion.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Recoletos de Manila
- SARF de Provincialate
- RAY de Talisay
- St. Ezekiel Moreno Spirituality and Development Center-Palawan
- Prof. Emmanuel Luis A. Romanillos, HEL
- Sis. Yeng Galang, SAR



Chapter Chronicle

May 28, 2022

Vol. 8, No. 13



THE NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND THE PRIOR GENERAL. The newly elected Provincial Councilors with the Prior General and Prior Provincial. (from L-R) Fray Rafael Pecson, Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda, Fray Miguel Ángel Hernández (prior general), Fray Bernard Amparado (prior provincial), Fray Anthony Morillo, and Fray Leander Barrot. The images of Nuestra Señora de la Salud and St. Ezekiel Moreno graces the first photo opp of the provincial council.

Fray Bernard Amparado and his Council brace for Triennium 2022-2025

The morning session began with prayer, reading of messages and correction and approval of the *actas*. With the approval of the *actas*, the second reading and voting for chapter determinations followed. Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo, secretary of the Commission on Vocation and Youth presented nine (9) proposals which were approved by the capitulars. Fray Ernil Almayo presented for the second reading the proposed determination of the Commission on Spirituality and Charism. The eight (8) proposals of the commission breezed through to their approval from the capitulars.

Congratulations capitulars! The Life and Mission Project of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno for the 2022-2025 *triennium* is ready for promulgation and dissemination.

With the direction of the province for the next triennium in place, the sala moved for the approval and signing of some documents: (a) endorsement of the dedication of the Atrium in Bulwagang Recoletos to Fray German F. Chicote, OAR as recognition for his invaluable contributions to the formation of the Filipino Recollect identity, (b) Petition to Vatican for the endorsement of the Canonical Coronation of the almost 400 years old image of *Nuestra Señora de la Salud*

(This petition is the same one signed by the capitulars of the 56th General Chapter held in Rome, Italy), and (c) approval of the *actas* of the 8th Provincial Chapter of the St. Ezekiel Moreno Province.

The afternoon session begins with the solemn confirmation of the new prior provincial. In his message, Fray Bernard mentions that at 60 many of his classmates are already living a stress-free life. He, however, in obedience has to continue to live the vowed life. As prior provincial his is to listen to the mandate coming the province itself and the Order. His greatest consolation comes from his deep faith that God never offers a test without giving a sustaining support and that God never

initiates projects without bringing them to successful conclusion.

The final session in the afternoon was the election of the councilors of Fray Bernard Amparado. These would act as his trustees, advisers, and companions in the implementation of the LAMP of the province. Chosen and approved by the capitular father are: Fray Kenneth Joseph L. Onda, OAR (Vicar of the Province), Fray Leander V. Barrot, OAR (2nd Councilor), Fray Anthony A. Morillo, OAR (3rd Councilor), and Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR (4th Councilor).

Congratulations and God bless to the Prior Provincial and Council for the *Triennium 2022-2025!*

Homilía del Prior General

Tres breves reflexiones de la primera lectura que nos pueden ayudar en nuestra vida:

1.- “No temas que yo estoy contigo”. Estas palabras el Señor se las dirige a Pablo a través de una visión nocturna. Palabras que muchos personajes del Antiguo y Nuevo testamento también las han escuchado. Pensemos por ejemplo en Moisés, Jeremías o la Virgen María, y ahora Pablo. Palabras que Dios siempre dirige a sus elegidos para confortarlos al percibir que la misión que se les confía supera en mucho sus capacidades. No temas, que yo estoy contigo. No temas que yo te envío. No temas...

Estas palabras tienen que **resonar** también en nuestro capítulo provincial, tanto en el corazón de los que Dios ha elegido para guiarnos, como en cada religioso de la Provincia. **¿Por qué no tenemos motivos para temer?** Porque somos seguidores de un Dios que hace brotar fuentes en el desierto, el Dios que abre el mar para que atravesemos, el Dios que transforma el agua en vino, multiplica el pan, calma las tempestades, hace correr a los paralíticos, ver a los ciegos y hablar a los mudos... Dios nos dice en esta mañana a los recoletos de la Provincia de San Ezequiel: “No

temas”, estoy con vosotros, camino a vuestro lado, acompaño vuestro peregrinar, soy consciente de vuestras dificultades, conozco vuestras carencias y fragilidades, no temáis, confiad porque lo que lleváis en vuestras manos es obra mía, me pertenece. Hagan su parte y confíen en mí. Hagan su parte que del resto me encargo yo.

Por lo tanto, la Palabra de Dios nos invita hoy a la confianza. ¿Eso significa que no habrá

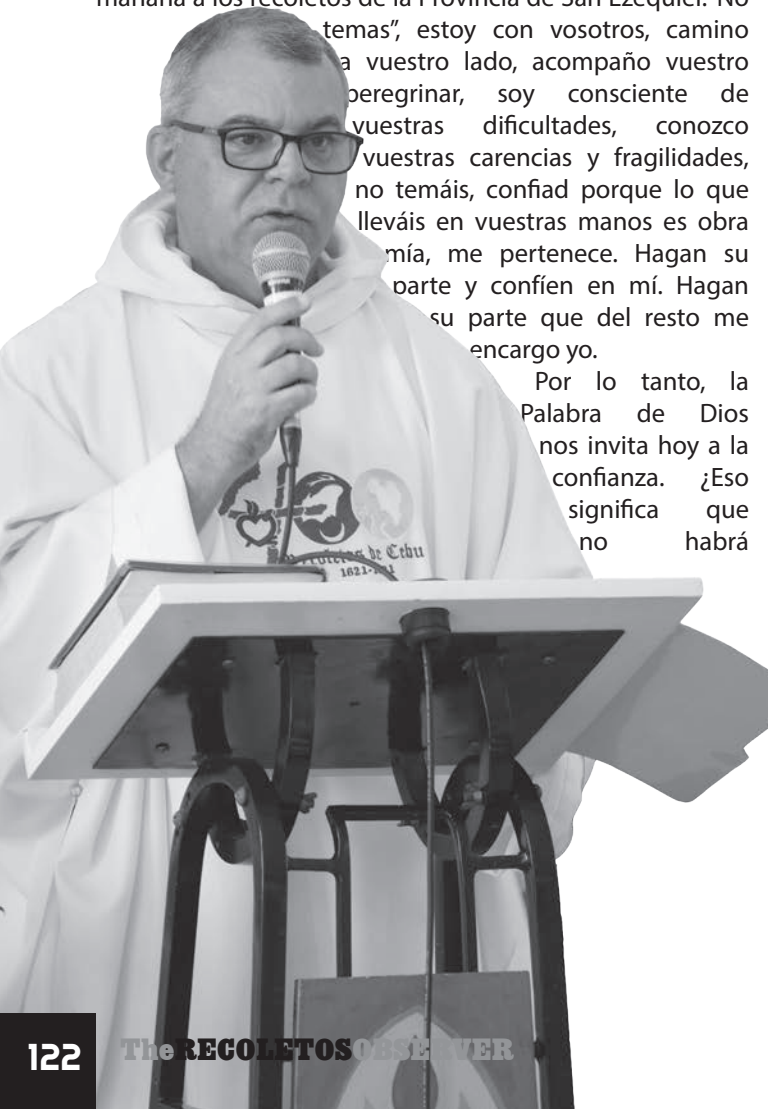
problemas para quien confía en el Señor? Ni mucho menos, pero nuestra alegría y felicidad no radica en la ausencia de problemas y dificultades, sino en que contamos con el Señor para pasar por encima de todos ellos. El Señor está contigo, a tu lado y él es nuestra roca fuerte, nuestro refugio y nuestra salvación. Nada temeré porque tú vas conmigo, tu vara y tu cayado me sostienen.

2.- “Sigue hablando y no te calles, porque muchos de esta ciudad, son pueblo mío”. A pesar de la mala fama de Corinto, Dios espera que muchos se conviertan, porque están destinados a la vida, están destinados a ser pueblo de Dios.

Muchas veces nos desanimamos porque parece que nuestra sociedad cada vez está más materialista, le ha dado la espalda a Dios, cada vez Dios interesa menos y hay menos interés por las cosas de Dios y su Reino. Esa puede ser la sensación, pero el Señor nos dice, en medio de ese materialismo, indiferencia y rechazo hay un pueblo que me pertenece y tú eres el instrumento que yo he elegido para hacerle llegar la salvación. No tengas miedo y no te desanimes, las cosas del Señor nunca fueron fáciles, ya sabes que en la lógica del Reino las cosas funcionan de manera contraria a como funciona la sociedad y su manera de pensar. En la lógica del Reino los últimos son los primeros, hay que perder para ganar, hay que morir para tener vida, hay que hacerse pequeño si quieres ser grande, etc. No estamos aquí para tener éxito y que los hombres nos feliciten, no estamos aquí para ser condecorados por nuestros triunfos, estamos aquí para llevar la Palabra de Dios a todos, muchas veces en medio de grandes resistencias y oposición. Dios quiere la salvación de «esta ciudad» donde vivimos, donde trabajamos, y por muchos que sean los fracasos que podamos estar experimentando... **«Muchos de esta ciudad son pueblo mío»**, aunque no lo parezca a primera vista o, aunque nos hayan dado ya más de un disgusto por su apatía y su falta de respuesta. No desistamos nunca, porque Dios nunca desiste de nosotros.

3.- Hoy hablamos en **misión compartida** y pensamos que hemos descubierto la pólvora. Pablo sobre el año 52 ya se rodeaba de laicos para la evangelización. Hoy lo podemos ver claramente al final de la lectura, donde se nos habla de un matrimonio, Priscila y Aquila que lo acompañaban en sus viajes apostólicos y con certeza trabajaron también con él en Corinto. **Se despidió de los hermanos y se embarcó para Siria con Priscila y Aquila.**

Desgraciadamente todavía hay mucha resistencia en algunos religiosos a trabajar mano a mano con los laicos. Queremos a los laicos para que nos ayuden, nos servimos de los laicos para nuestros objetivos pastorales y a veces, desgraciadamente nos aprovechamos de ellos y de su buena disposición.



El Papa nos pidió a los Recoletos en el capítulo que pongamos el carisma en mano de los laicos, no por necesidad sino por convicción. La convicción de que no somos propietarios ni dueños de ningún carisma, sino que todo carisma es un don para construir la Iglesia, el pueblo de Dios. Por eso, tratemos de que los seculares se enamoren de nuestro carisma al ver como nosotros lo amamos y dejemos que cada vez tengan más protagonismo en nuestra vida y especialmente que tengan voz y espacio para decidir todo lo que les concierne a ellos.

Que el Señor nos conceda la valentía creativa de San José, para hacer de cada dificultad una oportunidad de superación y de crecimiento.



PRIOR PROVINCIAL IS FINALLY CONFIRMED. (photos above) The new Prior Provincial, Fray Bernard Amparado, read the Professio Fidei. Fray Miguel Hernandez, president of the chapter, hands over the Seal of the Province to new prior provincial. (middle photos) Fray Regino Bangcaya, first teller, reads the confirmation text on Fray Amparado's election as prior provincial. Fray Amparado kneels in front of the altar where the image of Nuestra Señora de la Salud is placed. (photo below) The capitulars give a fraternal embrace to the new prior provincial.



Walking Together
 8th Provincial Chapter
 Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno
 Order of Augustinian Recollects

TO ALL THE BROTHERS OF THE ORDER OF AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS

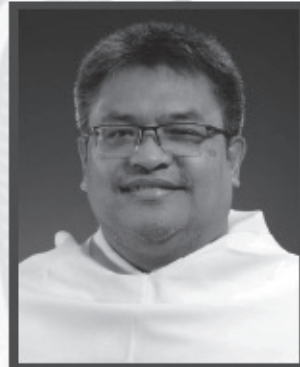
**PRIOR PROVINCIAL AND HIS COUNCIL
 TRIENNIUM 2022-2025**



Fray Bernard C. Amparado, OAR
Prior Provincial



Fray Kenneth Joseph L. Onda, OAR
Vicar of the Province/1st Councilor



Fray Leander V. Barrot, OAR
2nd Councilor



Fray Anthony A. Morillo, OAR
3rd Councilor



Fray Rafael B. Pecson, OAR
4th Councilor





FR. ENRIQUE PÉREZ, FR. FRANCISCO SÁDABA, CARDINAL VIVES Y TUTÓ, SAINT PIUS X AND THEIR ROLE IN THE *RELIGIOSAS FAMILIAS*

BY EMMANUEL LUIS A. ROMANILLOS

The papal brief *Religiosas Familias*, issued by Saint Pius X a hundred years ago, on 16 September 1912, has a somewhat protracted, colorful, breath-taking, suspenseful and exciting history behind it. It has a long journey from its initial conceptualization in the cloisters of the Augustinian Recollect mother-house in Madrid and of Via Sistina 11 in Rome up to its final publication and promulgation in the Vatican City, the *Religiosas Familias* was wrought with great diplomacy, through clandestine negotiation and with a lot of good will and affection on the part of the Roman Curia cardinals and the Holy Father towards the Augustinian Recollection.

The *Religiosas Familias* brought to the fore five major protagonists: Pope Pius X, José Calasanz Cardinal Vives y Tutó of the Roman Congregation for Religious, Recollect Superior General Father Enrique Pérez de la Sagrada Familia and Procurator General Francisco Sádaba de la Virgen del Carmen. Father Joaquín María de Llevaneras, the cardinal's Capuchin blood brother also played an important role in the final approval of the apostolic letter that raised the Augustinian Recollection to the juridical status of religious order with privileges, benefices, proper to it.

Enrique Pérez de la Sagrada Familia OAR

The future prior general of the Order of Augustinian Recollects was born on 14 April 1854 in Oña in the Spanish province of Burgos. His father Lesmes Perez de Mena served the Crown from 1827 to 1843 and retired as captain with several military decorations.

His pious mother Josefa Esplúguez Pellicer came from San Felip de Játiva in the province of Valencia ; she taught Enrique in his tender age how to pray and love Jesus and Mary. The new-born Enrique was baptized in the Church of San Salvador four days after his birth and was confirmed four years after his baptism. The Perez family moved to the capital city of Burgos to provide the children with better educational opportunities and there the young Enrique began his ecclesiastical studies and Latin at the Colegio de San Carlos of the Jesuits. In 1871, Enrique was with his family that transferred the residence to Madrid. His intellectual brilliance shone in his studies at the Colegio de la Asociación de Católicos. Furthermore, in Madrid he got to know Fr. Marcial Bellido, procurator general and vicar provincial of Saint Nicholas Province in Spain, who assigned him to calligraphic work in the curia, and

the uncle of his professor Father Félix Sánchez Casado, Father Gabino Sánchez, commissary general of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollects. His biographer Fr. José Javier Lizarraga, quoting the diary of the future prior general, writes that precisely “through those contacts with the Recollects, Enrique entered a new chapter in his life that he took advantage of in order to develop his vocation, definitely opting for the religious life.”

At age 18, Enrique officially began his novitiate in Monteagudo, Navarra, on 17 September 1872, donned the Recollect habit and commenced his philosophical studies. The tumultuous period of Spanish history delayed the religious profession until 15 January 1874. He finished his philosophy and went on with his theological formation in Monteagudo till 1876 when he moved to Marcilla where he finished his theology. He was ordained to the



holy priesthood on 22 September 1877 in Pamplona. He returned to Marcilla for his *cantamisa* and for a year of the course of *Oratoria sagrada*.

In September 1878, the newly-ordained priest joined the first Recollect community of the convent of San Millán de la Cogolla in La Rioja. This age-old monastery formerly owned by the Benedictine monks who were victims of the *desamortización* decrees of the Liberal Treasury Minister Juan Alvarez Mendizábal (1790-1853) in 1835 and thereafter. His decrees drove away the Recollect conventuals from their convents in the regions of Castile, Aragon and Andalusia, and completely abolished the Congregation in Spain, except for Saint Nicholas Province and its convents in Monteagudo, Marianas Islands and the Philippines. San Millán de la Cogolla was acquired by the Recollect Congregation in March 1878. The young friar was part of the San Millán community by 17 September 1878 with the new community of ix priests, for brothers and eight students of theology and philosophy. When the first parish priest Father Iñigo Narro gave us his position, Father Enrique took over in May 1879. He organized various parochial organizations like the Daughters of Mary and the Congregation of Saint Luis Gonzaga. He further revived the teaching of catechism of both children and adults. He repaired the church roof, painted the interior, built wooden platforms on the altars, and put four new bells. His pastoral tasks in the confessional, pulpit and other accomplishments as well as his character and personal traits earned him the affection and admiration of everyone in the valley of San Millán. He never had an idle moment: he complied with his obligations as a religious even a he even composed poems.

In August 1884, Father Gabino Sánchez designated him as

commissary and visitor general to the Candelaria Province, tasked to visit the Colombian communities. The dictator Tomás Mosquera issued decrees in 1861 and 1863 that abolished the religious orders in Colombia and divested them of their properties. The 19th-century revolutions had decimated their numbers. From one hundred religious in 1795, to ninety-seven in 1816, and in 1885 there were but ten priests who did not live a community life. In the South American country, he gathered the remaining religious, talked to them, pouring into them the great value and love for the Order, primed them about the old ideals of the forefathers and imposed wise precepts for the regular observance. Towards the end of 1885, he returned to Madrid and redacted a report of the status of Candelaria Province to the commissary general who was very pleased with the accomplishment. Father Enrique retraced his steps to the parish of San Millán de la Cogolla.

Three years later, in 1888, Father Ezekiel Moreno of San Nicholas Province led the pioneering missionary expedition of six priests and two brothers to Bogotá in order to restore the Augustinian Recollection in Colombia.

After the untimely death of Fr. Manuel Martínez in Rome in 1887, he took over the position vacated by the Procurator General. He rendered significant services in his responsibilities before the Holy See and the Recollection, showing proofs of his indefatigable zeal, activity and profound intelligence. Through his hands passed petitions for spiritual favors, privileges, rescripts, recommendations, appointments, ecclesiastical benefices, etc. He rubbed elbows with cardinals, prelates, Roman Curia officials and other dignitaries. He heard the confessions of the clergy and young students in a Spanish college. Father Ezekiel Moreno was recommended by Father Enrique to the future Apostolic

Vicariate of Casanare in Colombia. The third Recollect province was established in 1907 to include houses in Spain, Brazil, Venezuela and Panama; originally named Province of Our Lady of the Pillar, it became the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. For twenty-one years, as Procurator General, Father Enrique performed his duties to the admiration of his confreres.

His great contribution to the Augustinian Recollect history as procurator general is the celebration of a historic general chapter, after an anomalous hiatus of seventy-nine tumultuous years. In this project, Father Enrique closely collaborated with the superior general Father Mariano Bernad. Presided by Archbishop Antonio Vico, the general chapter met at the Monastery of San Millán de la Cogolla from the 16th of July 1908, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, to the 27th. After eleven days, the twenty-one chapter fathers firmed up a series of twenty-eight ordinances. And Father Enrique Pérez was elected vicar general by a unanimous vote. Thereafter, first on his mind and the *definitorium's* [present-day general council] was the compliance of the general chapter's acts and determinations prioritizing special questions. He sought the renewal of benefices and privileges from the Congregation of Religious (1909), declared Saint Joseph as protector of the congregation and Saint Nicholas of Tolentino as special protector, granted administrative autonomy to the each Province, ordered the setting up of Augustinian Section in all Recollect libraries, decreed the canonical foundation of houses in Shanghai, Madrid, etc., ordered the reprinting of the revised Ritual and Ceremonial.

In a conference to the young professed at Monteagudo, which moved Father Miguel Avellaneda could never forget for the rest of his religious life, the prior general said:



Learn, dear young ones, the laws and precepts of our Order. Interior life, through the daily hour of prayer, through Divine Office well-chanted, through sacred rites... Mass, Communion, Rosary, examination [of conscience], time to speak and time to be quiet, well-kept cell and serious studies in your priestly career. Let us love what is our own. Let us never seek outside what we can find inside. Good sons love the heritage [...] from their forefathers. Seriousness in our relationship with God, with ourselves and with our neighbors.

Then came the Rescript of 18 July 1911 and the *Religiosas familias* on 16 September 19012, wrought by Father Enrique and his three or four co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

Francisco Sádaba de la Virgen del Carmen OAR

A son of Agustín Sádaba and Josefa Oteiza, Francisco was born on 21 August 1867 in Andosilla, Navarra, Spain. He followed the Recollect lifestyle in November 1883 when he professed the three monastic vows at Monteagudo. He studied his theology in San Millán and Marcilla. His brilliance and expertise in Latin during his formation years shone when he was awarded a prize for his theological dissertation on Saint Joseph in San Millán. He received the order of priesthood in Tarazona, La Rioja, on 29 December 1889. Thereafter he taught philosophy in Monteagudo until 1890 when he was sent to San Millán to teach Dogmatic Theology.

With sixteen other Recollects, he boarded the steamer *Isla de Panay* at

Barcelona in September 1891 for the Philippines. The Diocesan Seminary of Vigan was his first assignment where he taught Dogma, Latin, Philosophy and Sacred History. He was named synodal examiner of the Diocese of Nueva Segovia, despite his young age. After the province moved out of the seminary of Vigan, in June 1895 he was assigned as assistant parish priest of Rosario, Batangas. Upon the resignation of Father Tomás Roldán as provincial secretary, the prior provincial designated him to the post. In 1902, he was appointed provincial counsellor. It was Sádaba who deftly and promptly worked for the negotiation for the sale of Haciendas in Imus and Bacoor, which ran the risk of complete loss to Saint Nicholas province. He was the provincial chronicler in 1902, simultaneously as provincial counsellor, and archdiocesan synodal examiner of Manila (1900-1906). His most important work and magnum opus as chronicler was definitely *Catálogo de los Religiosos Agustinos Recoletos de la Provincia de San Nicolás de Tolentino de Filipinas desde 1606, el año en que llegó hasta nuestros días*.

On 19 October 1906 he was named Secretary General of the Congregation by the General Counsel. With Father Mariano Bernad and Father Enrique Pérez, he collaborated in the two major accomplishments: the creation of the Hispano-American Province of Our Lady of the Pillar, later Saint Thomas of Villanova Province, and the General Chapter of 1908.

During his term as procurator general elected in 1908-1914, it is important to mention his close collaboration with Cardinal Vives y Tutó in various Recollect matters. He would consult first Cardinal Vives y Tutó before going to Mariano Cardinal Rampolla, cardinal protector of both Augustinians and Augustinian Recollects. Among his innumerable significant contributions to the growth and strong foundation of

the Augustinian Recollection was the establishment of Palawan as apostolic prefecture on April 1910, later elevated to Apostolic Vicariate with Gregorio Espiga as its last apostolic prefect in 1953-1955 and apostolic vicar in 1955-1987.

Furthermore, Father Sádaba very closely worked together with Cardinal Vives y Tutó in the tenacious and constant negotiations for the missions in Shanghai petitioned from the Holy See for the Congregation in 1908-1910. In the 1922-1925 triennium, as provincial counsellor he travelled to China with the Recollect confreres for the establishment of the first missions. He fell very ill after arrival from the China missions and he returned to his Maker on 5 August 1925 at San Nicolás Convent in Intramuros, Manila.

Saint Pius X

In the town of Riese in the province of Treviso, Venice, Giuseppe Sarto was born on 2 June 1835. Both parents were of lowly condition in life: the father Giovanni Battista Sarto, town postman, died early in 1852. The mother Margherita Sanson, a exemplary woman, prudent wife and mother without compare," aided the family income by needlework and lived to see her son raised to the office of cardinal. She gave their nine children a fine education. She died at age eighty-one. Giuseppe studied at his hometown. At age eleven, he walked to a school in Castelfranco, seven kilometres away, daily for four years. At age 19, he entered the seminary in Padova and eight years later he was ordained as priest. He was assigned as assistant priest of a small town called Tombolo but he did all the parochial tasks on account of the old age and illness of the parish priest. Still he had time to study intensely theology and canon law. When the war broke out between the French and Italians against the Austrians, Father Sarto was chaplain, infirmarian



to every wounded soldier in Tombolo. After nine years, he was moved to Salzano and there he constructed a hospital where in 1872-1873 his spirit of sacrifice and self-denial shone brilliantly among the victims of the cholera epidemic. "He arrived poor and departed poorer," says the Venetian proverb.

The bishop of Treviso named him a canon of the cathedral church. Soon he became the bishop's secretary who exerted effort the religious education be taught in public schools. In 1870, Father Sarto was appointed by the cathedral chapter as vicar general and ecclesiastical administrator upon the bishop's demise. In 1885, he was consecrated as bishop of Mantua. He assembled a diocesan synod in Mantua after 209 years. He taught moral theology to his seminarians, encouraged reforms in the liturgy and promoted the Gregorian chant and sacred music. Pope Leo XIII gave him the cardinal's purple hat in June 1893 and was soon after designated Patriarch of Venice. Archbishop Sarto took possession of the patriarchate only in January 1895 on account of some complicated political problems with the Italian government. His priority was focused on the intellectual formation of his clergy. He fostered sacred music, convoked a Eucharistic congress and an archdiocesan synod. He promoted social work and rural banks, established numerous religious houses and took great care of the poor.

In the conclave following the death of Pope Leo XIII, the patriarch of Venice voted by fifty-five of the sixty cardinals on 4 August 1903, taking the name Pius to honor the great Pius IX. In January 1904, he urged the Congregation of Rites to make his *motu proprio* of 22 November 1903 in Venice a universal law, highlighting and officially recognizing the great help of sacred music for the piety of

the faithful and the majesty of worship. He convoked a Marian congress in Rome in 1904 and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the apparitions in Lourdes with pomp and solemnity in 1908. With his papal program of restoring all things in Christ, he ardently promoted piety among the faithful and clergy. He heaped encomium on the Franciscan family on the occasion of the 7th centenary of their foundation in 1909. He founded the Pontifical Biblical Institute and entrusted it to the Jesuits. He further mandated the codification of the Canon Law, reformed the Roman Curia and enthusiastically promoted the study of Saint Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*. In 1907, he published his famous encyclicals *Lamentabili* on certain teachings of the Church and *Pascendi* censuring the dangers and errors of modernism.

During his papacy, he continuously supervised and fomented the Catholic social action by means of pontifical documents filled with wisdom especially in Germany, France, Spain and Italy. We can say then that he was on equal footing with his predecessor Pope Leon XIII and his great encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. Pius X clashed with the leaders in the governments of France and Portugal with blatant opposition against Catholic teachings and Church institutions, but maintained corial relations with all Latin American countries. He spent huge sums of money for the poor of Rome and aided flooded cities in Italy, but most especially hapless victims in the Philippines devastated by a super-typhoon in 1912. Towards the end of July in 1914, the unfortunate events leading to World War I took place and the Pope's delicate health turned worse and on the 20th of August the holy Vicar of Christ on earth and 259th Successor of Saint Peter passed away in the odor of sanctity.

His pastoral solicitude for the

clergy's training, for the Franciscan Orders and especially for the Augustinian Recollects came with the Rescript of 18 July 1911 and the *Religiosas familias* on 16 September 19012.

José de Calasanz Cardinal Vives y Tutó

In the town of San Andrés de Llevaneras on 15 February 1854, José was born to a very humble family. Still an infant, he was consecrated by his mother to the Blessed Mother in a church dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy. His humility, love for the Eucharist and devotion to Mary shone later in his religious life. The young boy's father José Vives y Comas was a carpenter who earned his living by the sweat of his brow. Catalina Tutó y Garriga was a figure of a caring, sweet mother with a firmness of spirit. Catalina simply told his sons Joaquín and José who were set to cross the Atlantic Ocean and join the Franciscan Capuchin Order in Guatemala where the friars had taken refuge in the wake of the *exclaustración* of 1835 in Spain: "You are God's [children] before you are mine." Two other siblings likewise became religious sisters. After his years in the missions, his elder brother Joaquín, age 29, was elevated to the post apostolic commissary of the Capuchins in Spain who in 1885 were suppressed to form the new Spanish province.

The young Capuhin friar journeyed from Antigua in Guatemala, from there to San Francisco in California, then to Tolouse in France, to Ecuador in Latin America and to Perpignan in France. His errant life ended in the convent of Igualada (Barcelona). He was dispatched to the Eternal City to work for the union of the Spanish Capuchins with Rome which took place in 1885. There endowed with wisdom, prudence and counsel, he became a consultor of various dicasteries of the Roman Curia and later member



of several special commissions and in June 1899 he was given the cardinal's red hat by Pope Leo XIII. Cardina Vives y Tutó possessed a profound knowledge and expertise in Sacred Scriptures, Dogmatic Theology, Canon Law, Patrology and Moral Theology. In 1908, he was named Prefect of the new Congregation of Religious. For the cardinal prefect, his very lofty concept of religious life: "the religious must set an example, must not be an occasion for scandals, must live a life of sanctification, must be a mirror of virtues... hence, he shall seek the purity and authenticity of religious life." He then set his mind and soul for the general reform of religious life in the Church. In a decree in 1909, the Congregation of Religious declares: "Christ's Church seeks quality in religious, rather than quantity... It is better so much to close the door of entry than to have to open the exit..." He forbade the admission of fickle or unpredictable candidates to religious life and those expelled from other seminaries for whatever grounds. The same statutes should be applied to women religious. He contributed much to the codification of Canon Law promulgated in 1917. In 1913, a diabetic for years, he manifested symptoms of intestinal infection and later operated on for appendicitis. After an apparent recovery, passed away on 7 September 1913 in the Alban Hills, twenty kilometres southeast of Rome, where he had been undergoing intensive care and medication since April.

To him is due the juridical independence of the Order of Augustinian Recollects. Other beneficiaries were the Mercedarians, Discalced Carmelites, etc. He was the cardinal protector of 68 religious institutes in 1913 and assisted them in the redaction of their constitutions.

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P Pointless Points to Ponder Not...

BY FRAY ONZ, OAR

How to properly prepare and “brew” a PATENTE

Divide all the religious into groups of 20 then:

1. Put 400 bricks in a closed room.
2. Put 20 religious in a room and close the door.
3. Leave them alone and come back after 6 hours.
4. Then analyze the situation:
 - a. If they are counting the bricks, assign them to tasks that involve Accounting.
 - b. If they are recounting them, put them in offices that need auditing.
 - c. If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks, put them in works related to engineering. .
 - d. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in planning.
 - e. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in operations and logistics.
 - f. If they are sleeping, put them in liturgical functions. .
 - g. If they have broken the bricks into pieces, put them in information and communication centers.
 - h. If they are sitting idle, put them in human resources. .
 - i. If they say they have tried different combinations, they are looking for more, yet not a brick has been moved, put them in transactions and business deals.
 - j. If they have already left for the day, put them in Management.



k. If they are staring out of the window, put them in planning and research.

l. If they are talking to each other, and not a single brick has been moved, congratulate them and put them as counselors.

Finally, if they have surrounded themselves with bricks in such a way that they can neither be seen nor heard from, put them in the Provincial Center. .

Repeat steps suggested up until all religious are given the test.

(Adapted from a suggestion from a human resource friend-manager)



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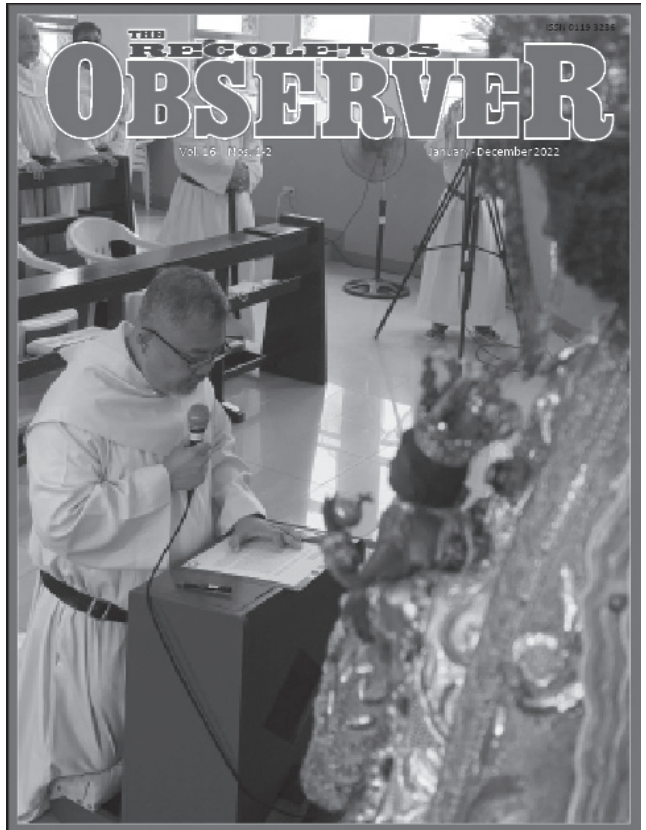
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The Cover: Fray Bernard C. Amparado reading the *Professio Fidei* during his confirmation as the 9th Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

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