



Cor Inquietum

Newsbits



Fiesta Señor 2018

This year's fiesta celebrations opened with a four in the morning penitential foot procession dubbed as "Walk with Jesus" from Fuente Osmeña to the Pilgrim Center. Up to 100,000 devotees braved the early morning cold to join the said procession which was immediately followed by the 1st Novena Mass presided by Fr. Pacifico C. Nohara, the basilica rector. During the Mass, the Hermana Mayora and the Hermano Mayor were officially installed and introduced – Mrs. Rosalina N. Go and Mr. Mark Joel N. Go. The mother and son tandem follows a long list of hermanos that started with the Adelantado, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the acknowledged 1st hermano mayor of the Cofradia del Santo Niño. To this cofradia belongs the honor of being the very first religious confraternity established in the Philippines.

For the duration of the novena days, guest priests and bishops took turns in celebrating 11 Masses a day from four in the morning (1st Mass) to seven in the evening (last Mass). Their homilies and reflections usually centered on this year's fiesta theme – "Santo Niño: Inspiration of Renewed Disciples for the New Evangelization." This year's theme also called to mind the CBCP sanctioned Year of the Clergy and of Consecrated Persons which is part of the 9-year preparation for the 2021 celebrations of the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Christian Faith in the country and the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of the miraculous image of Señor Santo Niño to our shores.

On January 19, devotees braved an early morning drizzle to join the procession in honor of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Cebu from its shrine in Barangay Guadalupe in Cebu City to Fuente Osmeña and then to the Pilgrim Center. At seven in the morning, the image of Señor Santo Niño de Cebu and of NS de Guadalupe de Cebu were motorcaded from the Pilgrim Center to the National Shrine of Saint Joseph in Poblacion, Manduae City. Called "traslacion" this event evokes a ceremonial reunion of the images of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Early in the morning of January 20, the Vespers day started with a Mass at two in the morning at the National Shrine of Saint Joseph followed by a motorcade of the images of the Holy Child and of the Virgin Mary to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Rule (of Saint Augustine) in Lapu-lapu City. The motorcade was welcomed by thousands of devotees led by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) Fathers who run the national shrine in the said city. A four in the morning Mass was presided by the Most Rev. Narciso V. Abellana, an MSC himself. After the Mass, the fluvial procession followed. This year's procession was transferred from Mandaue to Lapu-lapu in order to cater and reach more devotees from Mactan Island. A Philippine Navy marine vessel called AGTA carried the holy images during the seaborne procession. Upon landing at the pier, a short foot procession leading to the basilica followed. Fr. Nohara then presided the Mass. After the post – Communion prayer, the first Catholic baptism and the first Catholic wedding in the country were dramatized. Just before the Mass started, a re-enactment of the planting of the Cross was also held. Historically speaking, this first baptism is an important part of the history of the Holy Child because it was during this rite that the image was given as a baptismal gift by Magellan to Reina Juana, the wife of King Humabon who received the Christian name Carlos upon his baptism.

At past one in the afternoon, the solemn foot procession of the holy image of Señor Santo Niño de Cebu started its way into the almost six-kilometer

route around the major streets of Cebu City. Religious priests, brothers and sisters, diocesan clergy and millions of lay faithful joined the said procession. The Holy Rosary was prayed during the entire duration of the procession which helped keep the solemnity of the occasion. Despite the rainy weather on that day, the devotees persisted and the procession reached the basilica grounds just before five in the afternoon. Before six in the evening, a Solemn Pontifical Mass was presided by the Archbishop of Palo (Leyte), the Most Rev. John F. Du. The new Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, His Excellency, the Most Rev. Gabriele Giordano Caccia, also joined the Mass together with Cebu Archbishop Jose S. Palma and Cebu Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Antonio R. Rañola plus around 100 concelebrating priests. Devotees danced to the beat of the drums for almost an hour as they offered a religious Sinulog to the Santo Niño after the Mass. Devotees were elated to see the papal nuncio carry the image of the Holy Child and danced the traditional Sinulog. As a way of showing solidarity to the people of Marawi City in the province of Lanao del Sur, no fireworks display was staged this year. Donors and sponsors were instead requested to give financial and material aid for the people of Marawi through the Justice and Peace arm of the Basilica del Santo Niño led by Fr. Aladdin P. Luzon. A shower of petals from an aircraft was supposed to replace the fireworks but a minor glitch in timing caused the petals to fall not on the devotees in the Pilgrim Center but somewhere at the kiosk of Magellan's Cross.

On the fiesta day itself, Archbishop Palma presided the six in the morning Pontifical Mass. Also present were the auxiliary bishops of Cebu and other bishops in the Visayan region. During the day, nine other Masses were held at the Pilgrim Center attended by a jam-packed crowd. Due to the sheer number of devotees, some of them were not able to go inside the Pilgrim Center and were satisfied to just stay outside the church compound to follow the ongoing Masses from giant TV screens installed at strategic locations around the basilica complex. A one hour traditional religious Sinulog again followed after the last Mass of the fiesta day (7 PM) presided by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo M. Bastes, SVD, DD.

On January 22, a Thanksgiving Day was observed at the basilica. Masses were offered to thank the Señor for a successful, generally peaceful, orderly and meaningful fiesta celebrations for this year. This year's grand winner of Sinulog Festival's free interpre-

tation category from Daanbantayan, Cebu performed at the Pilgrim Center just before the last Mass of the day (7 PM) while the Sinanduloy Cultural Group from Tangub City in Misamis Occidental province also performed after the ten in the morning Mass at the Pilgrim Center.

This year's celebration of Fiesta Señor culminated with the so-called HUBO Mass presided by the Rector of the Basilica del Santo Niño, Fr. Pacifico C. Nohara, OSA on January 26 at four in the morning. Thousands of devotees flocked to the Pilgrim Center to witness the ceremonial changing of vestments of the image of Santo Niño which traditionally happened on Friday following the feast of the Holy Child and which also signals the official end of the Fiesta Señor. In his homily Fr. Nohara reminded the devotees that: "The rite of Hubo is not merely a ceremony of divesting the image of its fiesta vestments. Rather, it also reminds us to strip ourselves of the robes of sin especially pride, self-centeredness, hatred, corruption, and indifference." Hubo was originally a private affair held at the oratory of the Convento del Santo Niño and witnessed by the Augustinian friars and done by the camareras of the image. In 1990, however, the friars decided to make it a public event.

All these religious celebrations and events were spearheaded by the Community of the Augustinian friars assigned at the Basilica del Santo Niño headed by their Father Prior, Fr. Pacifico C. Nohara, OSA who is also the Rector of the Minor Basilica. Different committees also helped to save the day during the preparations and the actual celebrations of the Fiesta Señor 2018. Numerous volunteers, liturgical ministers, sponsors, benefactors, local, provincial and national government officials and devotees also helped to make this year fiesta celebrations a success!

The Augustinian friars (members of the Order of Saint Augustine, OSA) are the caretakers of the miraculous image of Señor Santo Niño from the time it was found by an army officer of Legazpi's fleet in 1565 until the present time. In honor of the image's holy name, their first Province in the Philippines was named Santissimo Nombre de Jesus de Filipinas or the Most Holy Name of Jesus of the Philippines based in Intramuros, Manila. In January 15, 1984, an new all-Filipino Province was officially inaugurated at the Basilica del Santo Niño and still carrying the name of the Holy Child this new Province was formally named the Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu – Philippines. From 1565 until the latest fiesta, the fri-

ars were/are at the forefront of all the celebrations and they will do the same as long as there is time! Pit Señor!!!

Other Fiesta Señor celebrations around the Province

Señor Santo Niño de Cebu is the Titular of the Filipino Augustinian Province and so aside from the Fiesta Señor celebrations in Cebu, other Communities of the Province and their institutions also celebrated the Feast of the Holy Child:

January 20

Fiesta Señor at Colegio San Agustin – Mati

January 21

Fiesta Señor at the Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Chrysanthemum Village,
San Pedro, Laguna

San Pedro, Laguna

Fiesta Señor at Saint Augustine of Hippo

Parish, Saguday, Quirino

Fiesta Señor at the University of San Agustin,

Iloilo City

Fiesta Señor at Santa Ana Parish,

Burgos, Surigao del Norte

January 28

30th Indakan sa Biñan 2018 and Parish Fiesta of Santo Niño de Cebu Parish, Biñan City, Laguna

Fiesta Señor at San Agustin Center of Studies, Quezon City

Fiesta Señor at Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod 50th Dinagyang Festival at San Jose Parish,

Iloilo City

Pag-omaw Festival at Saint Augustine Parish,

Gubat, Sorsogon

February 4

Fiesta Señor at Colegio del Santo Niño Extension Campus, San Fernando, Cebu

Fiesta Señor at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Socorro, Surigao del Norte

February 11 Parish Fiesta of Santo Niño de

Cebu Parish, Mohon, Talisay City, Cebu

Furthermore, new Cofradia del Santo Niño de Cebu Chapters were erected at two of the Province's top educational institutions: a chapter at Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod and a chapter at the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City.

Fr. Gamos to Canada

After months of preparations, Fr. Benjamin B. Gamos finally flew to Canada last January 26, 2018. Fr. Gamos is the Province's newest missionary to the Diocese of Prince George in British Columbia, Canada. Fr. Gamos is temporarily staying at the Saint John Mary Vianney House just a few steps away from the Diocesan Chancery of Prince George.

In 2016, Bishop Stephen A. Jensen, DD invited the Province to send missionaries to his diocese to help in the vast field of pastoral ministry in Prince George. Fr. Gamos is the 3rd member of the Province to be sent there as a missionary. There are approximately 60,000 Catholics in the diocese, which is about 20 percent of the total population in the area. Prior to his assignment in Canada, Fr. Gamos was assigned as Member of the Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod Community and served as General Services Director of the same school.

Fr. Seidel to Ketapang, Indonesia

Fr. Jose S. Seidel, Jr., Member of the Monasterio de Guadalupe Community in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati has started his short exposure in Ketapang, Indonesia last January 23, 2018. He will stay there until February 14, 2018.

Fr. Seidel joined Fr. Victor F. Gonzaga, the Province's 1st missionary in Ketapang, in order to see if he can be of help to the apostolate there. They are both staying with the Augustinian Sisters of the Divine Mercy who invited the Province to go to Ketapang. This coming May 8, 2018, the friars' residence inside the compound of the Augustinian sisters will be blessed and inaugurated. Fr. Gonzaga's apostolate includes administering the sacraments, teaching English to the sisters and their students and giving retreats and recollections. The Province hopes to send more missionaries to Indonesia in order to strengthen the Order's presence in that country and also to help the friars of the Vicariate of West Papua.

SACS Formators attended the Conference on the new Ratio for Priestly Formation

Two SACS Formators, Fr. Jasper V. Valmores, the Master of the Simply Professed Friars and Fr. Rommel G. Bongcac, the Master of Pre – Novices at Saint Thomas of Villanova Hall (STVH) attended the National Conference to promote the new Ratio Fundamentals Institutionis Sacerdotalis held at the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) Pavillion in Mabolo, Cebu City from January 22 to 26, 2018. There are actually 9 Augustinian friars who attended the conference but the other 7 were from the Vicariate of the Orient in Intramuros, Manila. As a group, the friars were given an award for the most number of delegates from a religious order/congregation along with the Order of Preachers who also sent 9 friars.

The said conference, aims to (1) to familiarize the formators with the content of the new Ratio and its implication on their approaches to formation; (2) to provide venue for exchange of best practices drawn from the wealth of experiences of seminary formators; and (3) to organize concurrent sessions that will generate ideas, materials and resources that will aid the Episcopal Commission on Seminaries in the task of coming up with an updated Ratio Nationalis. The said conference was initiated by the same commission on seminaries headed by Bishop Gerardo A. Alminaza, DD of San Carlos (Negros Occidental).

The said document, entitled Ratio Fundamentals Institutionis Sacerdotalis was promulgated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2016 and published in the Osservatore Romano. The last Ratio was published in 1970 during the pontificate of the now Blessed Paul VI and updated in 1985 during the reign of the now Saint John Paul II. The new norms seek to take into account the rapid evolution in historical, socio – cultural and ecclesiastical contexts and drew inspiration from the teachings and spirituality of the present pontiff, Pope Francis. In the Order, there is also a move to update the Ratio Institutionis Ordinis Sancti Augustini or the Plan of Augustinian Formation. A draft in English was sent to all the Provinces of the Order last 2016. On the part of the Province, the Commission on Initial Formation headed by Fr. Joel L. Beronque has already prepared an updated Seminary Formation Program which will be presented to the Chapter Delegates of the 9th Intermediate Provincial Chapter (February 19 – 23, 2018 at Santo Niño Spirituality Center, Consolacion, Cebu).

Invitations for the Province

The Province has received several invitations for collaborations within the Order. Fr. Domingo Amigo Gonzales, President of the Federacion de Provincias de España, requested the Province to consider sending friars for possible collaboration on the Order's work and apostolate in Cuba specifically in Havana, Chambas and Holguin. As of the moment, Spanish Augustinian friars are working as missionaries to the Order's newly established presence in Cuba.

On the other hand, Fr. Luciano De Michieli, Provincial of Italy, also invited the Province to send friars who can minister to Filipino migrants/OFWs, say Mass and hear Confessions in English in Cascia, Fano, Florence and other sanctuaries and parishes under the Italian Province.

Finally, Fr. David Austin, Provincial of Australia and Fr. Anthony Banks, the Order's Assistant General for Asia Pacific region invited the Superiors of the Circumscription of the Order of Saint Augustine in Asia Pacific (OSAAP) to collaborate on a possible mission in Vietnam.

All these invitations are open to the all the friars of the Province and a potential way to expand our Province's presence to new horizons and new fields of apostolate abroad.

Fr. Batayola is now a Doctor in Management (D.M.)

Fr. Andrew P. Batayola, the President of Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod, is now a Doctor in Management (D.M). Fr. Batayola has successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "The Leadership Styles of the Lay Educative Administrators in the Perspective of Augustinian Spirituality" last January 17, 2018 at the University of San Jose – Recoletos in Cebu City. Congratulations Father Andrew!

Fr. Don earns Licentiate from the Augustinianum

Fr. Norberto Dominic S. Don III has earned his Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Sciences from the Pontifical Patristic Institute – Augustinianum in Rome, Italy last June 22, 2017. Fr. Don's thesis is entitled "Augustine's Pneumatology in the Tractates on the First Epistle of John."

Upon his return to the country last November, Fr. Don received his assignment as Member of San Agustin Center of Studies Community, Member of the Professorium Formation Team and Director of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Institute (STVI).

10th Augustinian Initial Formation Congress

The San Agustin Center of Studies (SACS) Community and the Province's Commission on Initial Formation has successfully hosted the tenth staging of the Augustinian Initial Formation Congress (AIFC) held from February 1 – 3, 2018 at SACS. Attended by all students in initial formation and formators of the Province as well as those from the Vicariate of the Orient (aspirants, postulants, novices and simply professed friars), this year Congress theme was: "VERITAS: Sharing the Search for God in the Community." Invited speakers expertly expounded on the theme based on the level of formation of candidates:

Fr. Ric Anthony A. Reyes, OSA
STVH College Seminarians with Pre – Novices from the Vicariate of the Orient

Fr. Czar Emmanuel V. Alvarez, OSA
San Agustin Seminary Pre – Novices

Fr. Nelson G. Zerda, OSA
Novices from APAN/ANPH

Fr. John Paul S. Mabanta, OSA
SNTH and Vicariate of the Orient Simply Professed Friars

Fr. Frederick C. Comendador, President of the University of San Agustin and Provincial Counselor, delivered the Keynote Address on the opening day of the Con-

gress and the Prior Provincial, Fr. Andres D. Rivera, Jr., presided the Closing Mass on February 3, 2018.

AIFC started in 2008 during Fr. Andrew P. Batayola's chairmanship of the Commission on Initial Formation. It was initially called Augustinian Seminarians' Spirituality Congress. The first congress was held in November 2008 at Saint Michael Retreat House in Antipolo City, Rizal. In 2012, during the term of Fr. Jose Rene C. Delariarte, its name was changed to Augustinian Initial Formation Congress. The staging of the annual AIFC is a testimony of the importance of initial formation in the life of the Province. Congratulations to the organizers of the 10th AIFC!!!

San Jose Parish – Iloilo's Anniversaries for the Year 2018

150th Anniversary of San Jose Parish as an Augustinian pastored/ministered Parish
50th Anniversary of the Arrival of Santo Niño de Cebu replica image to San Jose Parish
50th Anniversary of Cofradia del Santo Niño – San Jose Parish Chapter

San Jose Parish in Iloilo City is the only parish of the Augustinians from the Spanish colonial period that the friars still continue to administer even today. This church was given to the friars in exchange for that of Jaro which in 1868 was chosen to be the cathedral church of the then newly erected diocese (later archdiocese) of the same name.

This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of Santo Niño de Cebu replica image to San Jose Parish in 1968 and the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Cofradia del Santo Niño – San Jose Parish Chapter. Both events were made possible due to the efforts of the late Fr. Ambrosio J. Galindez, OSA. These events also gave a start to the Ilonggo counterpart of Sinulog Festival: the Dinagyang Festival. The church of San Jose is the center of all religious activities of Dinagyang Festival and a religious "sadsad" is held in the church patio on the vespers of the Fiesta Señor every 4th Sunday of January.

CSA – Bacolod student won AYE 2019 Songwriting Competition

Alyssa Marie Ungson, a Senior High School student of Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod won the songwriting competition for the theme of the 2019 Augustinian Youth Encounter to be held in Panama on January 15 to 20, 2019. The said competition was announced through a letter from Fr. Edward Daleng, the Chairman of the Order's Youth Commission which was disseminated to all the Communities and institutions of the Province. Ms. Ungson's win was announced through a Facebook post of Eja-Panama-2019 last January 25, 2018 and her winning opus is entitled: You are the Father. Her work will be the official theme song of the coming AYE 2019. Congratulations to Ms. Ungson and to CSA – Bacolod!!!

Coming Publications for 2018

2019 Vulnerasti

The Augustinians in Pampanga (in cooperation with the Center for Kapampangan Studies)

Larawan: Miraculous Images associated with the Augustinian Friars in the Philippines

Res Augustiniana, The Official Journal of the Province

Upcoming Event

Order of Saint Augustine
PROVINCE OF SANTO NIÑO DE CEBU - PHILIPPINES
9TH INTERMEDIATE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER
February 19-23, 2018 | Santo Niño Spirituality Center, Tolo-tolo Consolacion, Cebu