

COR INQUIETUM

The Official News Magazine of the
Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu - Philippines



Reenactment of the first baptism during the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. The reenactment was held during the 500 YOC celebration at the Plaza Sugbo in front of the Magellan's Cross.

April to June 2021 Issue



Ten Point Agenda of SANTO NIÑO AT 500



Santo Niño at 500 Launching

Given the significance of the 500th anniversary, a launching will be held on Nov. 13 (the 1665th birthday of St. Augustine) at the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño, Cebu City. Major activities include unveiling of the commemorative logo, launching of the official website and presentation of plans of the 500 Years celebration.



Augustinian Legacy Mapping

This marks the trail of the contributions of the Augustinian missionaries to the Philippines in education, culture, agriculture and the spread of Sto. Niño devotion, among others.



Conferences

There are academic and/or historical conferences and a possible publication on topics related to Sto. Niño, ECCE HOMO, Magellan and Pigafetta.



Kaplag and Augustinian Presence in the Philippines

The commemoration of Kaplag (discovery/finding of the image) is essentially the celebration of Augustinian presence in the country. As part of the build-up activities for the 500th quinquennial celebration, this will be highlighted with the Augustinian legacy mapping



Santo Niño at 500 Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage of the Image of Santo Niño is undertaken both locally and internationally to come up with 500 pilgrimage sites to highlight the quinquennial celebrations.



Historical Markers

To mark the significance of this event, a 500th Year historical marker will be put-up at the Plaza Sugbo (Cebu City) in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Cebu City Government and Archdiocese of Cebu.



Sto. Niño Museum

Part of highlighting the significance of the 500th anniversary is making the Santo Niño Museum more accessible to the public.



Revival of the Missionary Presence

The local ordinary of the Diocese of Laoag envisions the re-establishment of the Augustinian presence in 2021.



Conservation Plans

As the home of the oldest religious icon of the country, the conservation of the Basilica and its surrounding structures ensures that the cultural, historical and scientific values of the centuries-old Basilica will be more aptly emphasized. This offers a more welcoming environment and more accessible to the ever-increasing pilgrims and tourists in the coming year 2021 and onwards.



Coffee Table Book

A coffee table book will be published in collaboration with the Basilica Media Center and the Sto. Niño Publishing House. This publication will contain all the highlights of the 500 Years celebrations.



Province of Santo Niño de Cebu
- Philippines
Order of Saint Augustine

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Provincial Secretary

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GENERAL CURIA

Pope Francis appoints Fr. de San Martín, OSA, as undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops



The Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced on February 6, 2021 the appointment of Fr. Luis Marín de San Martín, OSA as the

undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, nominating him the titular bishop of Suliana. At the time of appointment, he was one of the Assistant Generals of the Order overseeing the South European region of Malta, Italy, and Spain.

Two months after, April 11, 2021, Fr. Marín was ordained bishop at the Santa María la Real de la Almudena Cathedral, Madrid, Spain by Carlos Cardinal Osoro Sierra, Archbishop of Madrid.

Bishop Luis Marín de San Martín, OSA was born on 21 August 1961 in Madrid, Spain. He gave his first vows in the Order of Saint Augustine on 5 September 1982, and his solemn vows on 1 November 1985.

He was ordained priest on

4 June 1988. He was awarded a doctorate in sacred theology at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas of Madrid. He has held a number of offices including: formator of the Tagaste Major Seminary, Los Negrals (1996-1999); Provincial Counsellor (1999-2002); Prior of the monastery of Santa María de La Vid (2002-2008); and Professor of theology in the Augustinian Centres in Los Negrals, San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Valladolid.

Since 2004, he has served as visiting lecturer at the Facultad de Teología del Norte de España in Burgos. He is the Archivist General of the Order, General Assistant of the Augustinians, and President of the Institutum Spiritualitatis Augustinianae.

Diocese of Macerata begins first phase of Mario Gentili's beatification

Tolentino, May 9, 2021 - The first solemn session of the diocesan phase of the process of beatification and canonization of the servant of God, Mario Gentili, professed of the Order of Saint Augustine (1928-2006), was inaugurated in the Basilica of St. Nicolas of Tolentino.

During the ceremony, presided over by His Excellency Msgr. Nazzareno Marcone, Bishop of the Diocese of Macerata-Tolentino-Recanati-Cingoli-Treia, the members of the Tribunal who will investigate the life, the virtue, the reputation of holiness and the intercession of the Servant of God, took their oath of office.

The members of the Historical Commission, which will have the task



of collecting all the documentation on the Servant of God, together with the Postulator General also took their oath.

At the end of the ceremony, Mons. Marcone pointed out the validity of the cause which reminds

all the baptized that holiness is an achievable goal in the ordinariness of life.

Several Augustinian confreres, priests, religious sisters, relatives, friends and devotees participated in the important moment.

GENERAL CURIA



OSA elects new Assistant General

On May 18, 2021, the Prior General, Alejandro Moral Antón, OSA, along with the General Council announced the election of Fr. Javier Pérez Barba, OSA as the new Assistant General of the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA).

Fr. Barba replaces the newly consecrated Bishop Luis Marín de San Martín, D.D., OSA who became one of the undersecretaries to the Synod of Bishops. His appointment by Pope Francis left the seat of the Assistant General vacant.

Fr. Javier was born in Salamanca, Spain on July 27, 1979. He is affiliated to the Province of San Juan de Sahagun in Spain. He has a License in Ecclesiastic Studies from the Pontifical University of Salamanca (2004) and a License in Mathematics from the University of Malaga (2010). Since 2014, he has diligently and faithfully served as General Director of Colegio Los Olivos in Málaga, Spain.

The Prior General and the General Council is grateful for his willingness to serve the Order as Assistant General and he is expected to report in Rome.



Vicariate of Iquitos has a New Bishop

Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr. Miguel Ángel Cadenas Cardo, OSA as the new bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos in Peru on May 15, 2021.

At the time of his appointment, he was the Superior of the Augustinian Vicariate of Iquitos under the Province of San Juan de Sahagun de España since July 2018.

Miguel Ángel Cadenas Cardo, OSA was born on October 21, 1965 in Laguna de Negrillos in Spain. After completing his primary and secondary studies in León, he entered the Order of St. Augustine and studied philosophy and theology at the Studio Teológico Agustiano of Valladolid. He made his religious vows on May 5, 1991 and was ordained priest on November 27, 1993.

Since priestly ordination, he has held the following offices: Parish Vicar in Mostoles, Spain (1993-1994);

Parish Vicar in Iquitos (1994-1996); Parish Priest of Santa Rita de Castilla on the Rio Marañon (1996-2001); formator in the Augustinian Seminary in Trujillo (2002-2003); Parish Priest of San Felipe y Santiago in Nauta (2003-2013); Parish Priest of Santa Rita de Castilla on the Rio Marañon (2013-2014) and since 2015 of the Inmaculada Concepción in Iquitos.

In a separate letter from the Prior General Alejandro Moral Antón, OSA, he extended his praise and thanks to God and to all members of the Order for the passionate and loving service offered by Fr. Miguel. He has been working in the Peruvian Amazon for 27 years since 1994.

Bishop-elect Cardo, OSA was ordained Bishop on July 18, 2021 at the Central Courtyard, Colegio San Agustín, Iquitos, Peru through the hands of consecratory prayers of Bishop Julián García Centeno, OSA.

PROVINCE UPDATE

Five Friars ordained as Deacons



In two separate occasions, the Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu – Philippines witnessed the ordination of its five friars to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

On the morning of April 24, 2021, the feast of the Conversion of Saint Augustine, Most Rev. Buenaventura M. Famadico, Bishop of the Diocese of San Pablo (Laguna), ordained Fray Elmer E. Ebol, OSA

and Fray Jebie U. Jugarap, OSA to the diaconate at the Santo Niño de Cebu Parish Church in Biñan, Laguna.

Meanwhile, on April 29, 2021, Fray Rey Cyril C. Lagrosa, OSA, Fray John Louis S. Ricamora, OSA and Fray Roner M. Anildes, OSA were ordained to the diaconate by Most Rev. Jose Romeo O. Lazo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese

of Jaro, at the Saint Nicholas of Tolentino Chapel of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City.

The five newly ordained deacons will continue to serve in their respective communities until they are given new assignments which will start on July 1, 2021.

Congratulations, brothers!!!

OSA recognizes 5 New Lay Affiliates in PH



The Order of Saint Augustine (OSA) recognized five laity as affiliates to the Order on two separate occasions last June 2021.

Four of them were recommended by the Basilica del Santo Niño de Cebu community and were installed last June 19, 2021 by the outgoing Prior of the Basilica Community, Fr. Pacifico C. Nohara, OSA. They were: Marcelino Ylaya Alegarbes, Dory Go Chua, Rodolfo Omboy Kintanar, Sr., and Maylen Almario Licatan.

Meanwhile, Divina Ventocilla Castillo was installed by the outgoing Prior of the Mother of Good Counsel Parish (MGCP) Community, Fr. Danilo M. Carido, OSA last June 27, 2021.

The Constitutions of the Order of Saint Augustine provides that the Order has the faculty of affiliating to itself the faithful who merit special recognition because of their distinguished cooperation for the good of the Order.

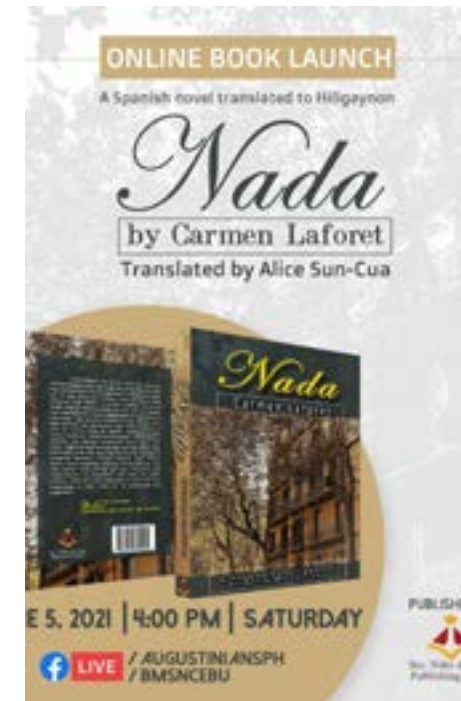
By reason of this affiliation, they belong to the Augustinian Family and share in all the spiritual benefits of the Order.

Affiliation is granted by the Prior General on his own initiative or upon the request of any community of the Augustinian Family.

Congratulations to our new lay affiliates!!!

PROVINCE UPDATE

PADO-SNPH publishes first book



event was attended by esteemed personalities in the field of Literature, the likes of Dr. John Iremil Teodoro, a multi-awarded writer, poet and professor; Dr. Genevieve Asenjo, a multi-awarded writer, poet, translator and professor; and Director Javier Galvan, the current director of the Instituto Cervantes de Manila, who has also published a number of articles on Architecture and Urban Heritage.

The Santo Niño Publishing House (SNPH), a resource-generation initiative of the Philippine Augustinians Development Office Inc. (PADO), held an online book launch via Facebook Live of its first-ever published book, “Nada” by Carmen Laforet, translated into Hiligaynon by Dr. Alice M. Sun – Cua, on June 5, 2021.

SNPH’s goal is to propagate the Catholic faith through publishing of Trade Books, relevant studies and research from Augustinian institutions of learning, and duly selected authors and materials, manuals and books for Theology while at the same time serving the Augustinian mission areas from its revenue sources. It also aims to support a viable, vibrant, and diverse Catholic publishing environment that produces reading materials that would help spread God’s word and promote the use of various local languages. Thus, the birth of “Nada.”

The virtual book launch

The author, Dr. Alice M. Sun – Cua, an OB-GYN turned award winning writer who has published various books both in the medical and non-medical field was participating actively throughout the event. The UP Singing Ambassadors, an award winning choral group, performed some songs in Hiligaynon and Spanish. It was indeed a celebration of Literature, Language, and Music.

PADO-SNPH coordinated with the Media Centre of the Basilica Minore del Santo Nino de Cebu (BMSN) for the staging of the online book launch including the countdown, hosting, publicity materials and the drum beating a week before the activity.

Nada books are available online through Shopee or Lazada and at the PADO-SNPH office located at the OSA Provincial Offices, Santo Nino Pilgrim Center in Cebu City.

This book as mentioned is published in the hopes of generating income for the Augustinian mission. It also promotes our advocacy on the use of local languages and is an excellent material for general reading and for academic purposes. Grab a copy now! /Carmelita M. Egot, PADO Deputy Director

Fr. Jan Pieter Fatem remains Regional Vicar

Fr. Andres D. Rivera, Jr., OSA and his Council has appointed Fr. Jan Pieter Fatem, OSA as Regional Vicar of the Vicariate of Christus Totus – Papua for a new quadrennium during their regular meeting held last June 24, 2021. His nomination was confirmed by the Prior General on July 1, 2021.

In 2013, Fr. Fatem became the first Regional Vicar of the Vicariate of Christus Totus – Papua when the former Delegation of West Papua was elevated into a vicariate during the Order’s 2013 General Chapter.

In 2016, the vicariate’s dependency was transferred from the Province of Holland to that of Cebu.

PROVINCE UPDATE

Fr. Berdon authors book on PH Augustinian Province's birth

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity in the Philippines and the 456th year of Kaplag or finding of the Santo Niño de Cebu image which also marks the arrival of the Augustinians, Fr. Eusebio Berdon, OSA authored a book, "The Birth of an Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu-Philippines."

The book was launched on June 24, 2021 at the Colegio San Agustin (CSA)-Bacolod Auditorium graced by the incoming school president, Fr. Arnel Dizon, OSA, outgoing Augustinian friars of the CSA community, selected key persons, and representatives of the different stakeholders.

"As the first Prior Provincial of the Province of Santo Niño de Cebu-Philippines, Fr. Berdon is indeed a credible author," said Fr. Andrew Batayola, OSA, outgoing president, in his opening remarks.

The book, divided into eight (8) chapters, traced the significant events



in the creation of the Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu-Philippines.

The short audio-visual presentation and Fr. Berdon's synthesis for each chapter during the launching has given the attendees the chance to understand the apostolate of the Augustinian Order.

Fr. Andres D. Rivera Jr., OSA,

incumbent Prior Provincial of the Province, and Fr. Ericson Borre, OSA, a Filipino Augustinian currently based in Valladolid finishing his dissertation in History, have also extended their congratulatory messages to Fr. Berdon. */with reports from CSA-Bacolod Website*

OSAPAN: Kwentuhang Augustinian launching

To boost the Augustinians' presence in cyberspace and in various social media platforms, the Province's Mass Media Office in cooperation with Radyo Niño of the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño's Media Centre has launched the program, "OSAPAN: Kwentuhang Augustinian" last April 27, 2021.

The online show's hosts are Fr. Aimark P. Asor, OSA, Fray Ronnel Ian M. Garcia, OSA and Shiela Mae Gumapon. Topics and guest speakers were carefully selected every week to inform and to promote the Augustinians to online viewers and netizens. All episodes of OSAPAN

are now available on Facebook, Spotify, Youtube, Radio Public, Pocket Casts, Google Podcasts, Breaker and Anchor.

April 27: Pilot Episode

May 8: The First 100 Years of the Augustinians in the Philippines with Fr. Ericson M. Borre, OSA

May 15: The Birth of a Filipino Augustinian Province with Fr. Eusebio B. Berdon, OSA

May 22: The Vicariate of the Orient with Fr. Peter A. Casiño, OSA

May 29: The Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation with Sr. Niceta M. Vargas, OSA

June 5: The Augustinian Missionary Life with Fr. Sisinio A. Paderog, OSA

June 12: The Augustinian Missionary Life in Japan with Fr. Charlie B. Pomuceno, OSA

June 19: The Missionary Experience in Indonesia with Fr. Victor F. Gonzaga, OSA

June 26: The Ministry of Exorcism with Fr. Andres D. Rivera Jr., OSA

PROVINCE UPDATE

Filipino Augustinians present Vocation Song: Sulyap sa Tawag Mo

Sulyap sa Tawag Mo

I
Maraming beses akong nakatingin sa malayo;
Nag-iisip, naghahanap, nagtatanong,
Sino ba ako? Saan ba ako patungo?
Ano ba ang papel ko dito?

II
Sa maraming oras at araw na lumipas;
hindi ko matanto; 'di ko makita ang tugon (sagot)
sa mga bakit, paano at saan ng buhay ko.
Ano ba ang gagawin ko?

Pre Chorus
Ngunit sa pagmulat ng aking mga mata;
sa pagbukas ng aking isip sa plano Nya(mo);

Chorus
Ang sagot ay nandito; ikaw na nasa puso ko
Ang ganda ng tawag mo; pero di ko agad natanto
Sa kabila ng pagkukulang ko; ako pala ay mahalaga sayo
Pakiusap gabayan mo ako para maglingkod sayo

III
Ang mundo ay sadyang magulo;
'Di (talaga) madali(ng) makita ang totoo.
Ako'y nalilito; paulit-ulit na nag(ka)kamali;
mahirap ma(y)akap ang saya; mailap(elusive) makamit
ang minimithi.

Pre Chorus
Ngunit sa pagmulat ng aking mga mata;
sa pagbukas ng aking isip sa plano Nya(mo);

Chorus
Ang sagot ay nandito; ikaw na nasa puso ko
Ang ganda ng tawag mo; pero di ko agad natanto
Sa kabila ng pagkukulang ko; ako pala ay mahalaga sayo
Pakiusap gabayan mo ako para maglingkod sayo

Coda
Ang puso ko'y balisa; hindi alam saan pupunta.
saan ba ko magpapahinga?
Pakiusap, Gabayan mo ako para malingkod sayo.



The Commission on Vocation of the Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu- Philippines in partnership with the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño de Cebu's Augustinian Vocation Promoters launched the official Filipino Augustinian Vocation Song last June 19, 2021 at the Aula Magna, Sto. Niño Pilgrim Center.

The song is entitled "Sulyap sa Tawag Mo" which was written by Rev. Fr. Dante Juloc, OSA. It was composed and arranged by Nendel Endrina and interpreted by Thomas John Castañares.

The lyrics are inspired by the vocation journey of St. Augustine. The words express the constant search of the human soul and the restlessness of the heart. They also speak about the personal journey of an Augustinian as he goes through the living of the Augustinian ideals - the search and discernment continue; the restlessness remains.

According to Fr. Juloc, OSA, the song's lyricist, Sulyap sa Tawag Mo hopes to bring inspiration to young men and women as they search and discern God's plan for them.

You may also listen the song via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfJSURUotwA>

Here's the lyrics of the song:

INITIAL FORMATION

OSA sweeps RST Solemn Investiture 2021

On June 3, 2021, ten Augustinian simply-professed friars graduated in their respective academic degrees from the Recoletos School of Theology (RST) in Quezon City – and with a stroke of grace, all of them received academic distinctions.

The RST Rites of Solemn Investiture were held, with the observance of health protocols, in Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Mira-Nila Homes, Quezon City. The Baccalaureate Mass was presided over by Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR, the Provincial of the Augustinian Recollect Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. Fr. Jasper Valmores, OSA, Master of the simply-professed Friars, and Fr. Willibaldus Jampa, OSA, accompanied the Augustinian graduates on the occasion.

Seven of the friars were conferred the degree of Bachelor in Sacred Theology (SThB). Along with their respective academic distinctions, they are: Fray Jules



Van A. Almercz, OSA (magna cum laude), Fray Fevin T. Baoc, OSA (cum laude), Fray Alberto C. Bartiana Jr., OSA (cum laude), Fray Ronelle S. Dogon, OSA (magna cum laude), Fray Keith Lawrence J. Ermac, OSA (cum laude), Fray Eugenio S. Reserva, OSA (cum laude), Fray Albert Benedict B. Soliman, OSA (magna cum laude).

Three other friars were vested with the degree-Master of Arts in Theology (MAT). They are: Fray James O. Alibong Jr.,

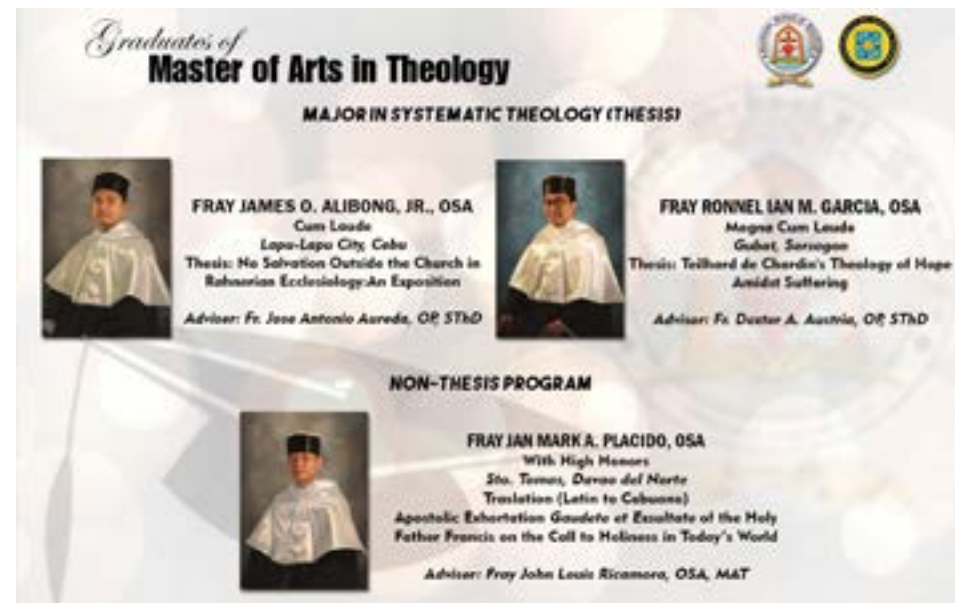
OSA – MAT (Major in Systematic Theology, cum laude), Fray Ronnel Ian M. Garcia, OSA – MAT (Major in Systematic Theology, magna cum laude), Fray Jan Mark A. Placido, OSA – MAT (Non-Thesis Program, with high honors)

Moreover, the Augustinians also placed at the top of their respective classes. Fray Garcia headed the list of MAT graduates, while Fray Soliman, Fray Dogon and Fray Almercz swept the first three places among the SThB graduates with Fray Soliman as the class valedictorian.

In his address, Fray Soliman invited his fellow graduates to make progress in faith, hope and love in order to become faithful ministers of the Church.

“Let us keep the faith in us, and faith will guide us in life. Let us keep the hope in us, and hope will see us through. Let us keep the love in us, and then we can sing with the Eagles, ‘love will keep us alive,’” he said.

Later that evening, the simply-professed Friars held a celebratory party for the brothers who brought home academic degrees and awards.



INITIAL FORMATION

Friars Renew Commitment to Augustinian Life

Twenty-two Augustinian friars renewed their vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience on June 12, 2021 at the Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Oratory of San Agustin Center of Studies (SACS), Quezon City.

Presiding over the rite of renewal of vows was Rev. Fr. Edgardo L. Lazo, OSA, House Prior of the SACS Community, who reminded the brothers to be faithful to their calling to the Augustinian way of life.

The friars who renewed their vows are the following:

1st renewal:

Fray Jeremy Jonas R. Alcaria, OSA
Fray Ronel M. Bayon-on, OSA
Fray Nemie Boy R. Cataluna, OSA
Fray Shierwin S. Espenido, OSA
Fray Glenn A. Macorol, OSA
Fray King V. Nepangue, OSA
Fray CSN S. Pomoy, OSA
Fray Harvey Kent S. Solatorio, OSA
Fray Kristofer Carlo E. Sta. Ana, OSA

2nd Renewal:

Fray James N. Dosado, OSA
Fray Jules Van Almercz, OSA
Fray Keith Lawrence Ermac, OSA

3rd renewal:

Fray Fevin Baoc, OSA
Fray Alberto Bartiana Jr., OSA
Fray Ronelle Dogon, OSA
Fray Eugenio Reserva, OSA
Fray Albert Benedict B. Soliman, OSA

4th renewal:

Fray James Carlo Atienza, OSA
Fray Ronnel Ian Garcia, OSA
Fray Anacleto Morales III, OSA
Fray Ariel Panimdim, OSA
Fray Jan Mark Placido, OSA

The newly renewed friars were asking to accompany them in their prayers as they persevere in their religious vocation.



Vocation and Promotion Comm creates Augustinian Vocation Manual

The Commission on Vocation and Promotion (2016-2020) headed by Fr. Dante O. Juloc, OSA in partnership with the Augustinian Vocation Promoters (AVP) of the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño (BMSN) published the Augustinian Vocation Promotion Manual last June 23, 2021.

The manual was approved during the 10th Ordinary Provincial Chapter held at the Santo Niño Spirituality Center in Consolacion, Cebu last February 24 - 28, 2020. Copies of the manual were already distributed to the different communities and residences of the Province.

All local directors of vocations are enjoined to refer to the manual in their conduct of vocation campaigns for their respective localities.

The manual was approved during the 10th Ordinary Provincial Chapter held at the Santo Niño

SJCS: Graduation and Moving Up Ceremonies

Celebrating attainment and achievement as the school year ends in every learning institution is always among the focused sets of priorities.

SJCS Commencement Exercises and Moving-Up for school year 2020-2021 was held at 2:00 o'clock on Friday, May 7, 2021, through virtual.

In the morning, the first part was the 66th Virtual Kindergarten Moving-up and Recognition Ceremonies with the theme: Graduates and Completers 2021: "Fruits of the 500 YoC for Continuous Evangelization and Societal Transformation."

This was highlighted with an online mass at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Leo Mario F. Singco, OSA, School

Director/Principal, concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Jose R. Gonzales, OSA, School Registrar, and Rev. Fr. Raul M. Marchan, OSA, School Treasurer.

After the mass was the Virtual Moving-Up Ceremony of Kinder 2 and awarding of honors and awards to the undergrad recipients.

In the afternoon of the same day, the virtual 66th Commencement and Moving-Up Ceremonies started at 2:00 o'clock.

The School Director/Principal, Rev. Fr. Leo Mario F. Singco, OSA, welcomed the graduates and completers, parents/guardians and other stakeholders with his encouraging opening remarks.

After the presentation and confirmation of graduates and completers, conferment of Honors

followed.

A virtual participation of the Commencement Speaker Arnaldo R. Tuga, the current Program Supervisor, Division of Iloilo City and a school alumnus, has added meaning and inspiration to the occasion.

The program was completed with virtual presentations of diplomas, certificates, induction of Junior High School completers to the SJCS alumni association, closing remarks, acknowledgement of rosters, PTA and Student Council Officers of School of School year 2020-2021.

Completely, despite the challenges, the activity was a successful enhanced accomplishment of the Augustinian Family for the year end.

CSA-B conducts 57th Collegiate Commencement Exercises



A total of 115 Augustinians marched to completion during the 57th collegiate commencement exercises of Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod (CSA-B) at the school's auditorium on June 4, 2021.

Students from the College of Engineering (COE) and College of Accountancy, Business Education and Computer Studies (CABECS) made up the list of graduates for this school year.

Stricter compliance of health protocols were implemented since the event was conducted in a face-to-face set-up.

The graduation came along with a theme, "Augustinian Graduates: Gifted and Grateful Witnesses of the Mission for Societal Transformation."

Congratulations, Augustinians!!! We are proud of you!

USA-Iloilo names first Lay, Woman as VPAA



The University of San Agustin announced on April 22, 2021 the appointment of its newest academic leader, Prof. Regina Aileen May V. Vergara, Ph.D., as the first lay and first woman Vice President for

Academic Affairs (VPAA) in the 117 years of the university's presence in the region.

Dr. Vergara took office on July 1, 2021 and one of her responsibilities is to lead the academic affairs and oversee the different colleges, departments, and programs of the university.

It was a long and diligent process of search and screening for the new VPAA of the university and upon recommendation of the University President, Rev. Fr. Frederick C. Comendador, OSA, in consultation with the General

Advisory Council, the USA Board of Trustees approved the resolution during its BOT meeting on April 20, 2021.

The VPAA office is usually given to one of the Augustinian friars assigned in the University. The last Augustinian friar to hold the office was Rev. Fr. Manuel Vergara, OSA, who was reassigned to Colegio San Agustin – Biñan in June 2019.

Since then, the position has been vacant.

Before Dr. Vergara's appointment, Fr. Comendador stood as the acting VPAA. *With reports from USA-Iloilo Facebook Page*

USA organizes Webinar on Kaplag



In celebration of the 456th anniversary of the Augustinians' Presence in the Philippines and the 456th anniversary of the Finding of the Miraculous Image of Señor Santo Niño, the University of San Agustin (USA) organized a webinar activity.

Guest speakers were Rev. Fr. Arnel Antonio S. Dizon, OSA and Rev. Fr. Czar Emmanuel V. Alvarez, OSA.

Fr. Dizon talked about, "The Augustinians in the Philippines: Origins and Charism" while "The Augustinian Legacy to Panay" was discussed by Fr. Alvarez.

The webinar was live streamed via Facebook on the University of San Agustin's official page.

IN PHOTO



Fr. Patrick finishes his Doctorate on Philosophy Major in Educational Leadership from the University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City.

Dissertation: "The Philosophy of Education of St. Augustine: Awareness, Integration, and Practices in the 21st Century."

Bacolod Chapel Updates



A wooden image of Saint Monica was installed on May 4, 2021 at the College building of Colegio San Agustin - Bacolod. The celebration of the Holy Mass was presided by Fr. Eusebio B. Berdon, OSA (Prior of CSA – Bacolod Community) who also

blessed the image. Present were some members of the educative community and the Augustinian friar-administrators.

On April 28, 2021, the Community celebrated a Mass to commemorate the 500th anniversary

of the arrival of the Christian Faith in the country and of the Santo Niño image in Cebu, the 456th Anniversary of Kaplag (Finding of the Santo Niño image) and the 456th Anniversary of Augustinian Presence in the Philippines.

Cofradia del Santo Niño members and some school personnel were present during the Mass. After the Mass, an image of Saint Joseph was blessed and installed at the chapel.

On June 18, 2021, two new stained-glass windows were installed at the entrance near the school chapel. The windows, donated by generous sponsors, depict an image of Santo Niño de Cebu and the giving of the Santo Niño image to Queen Juana of Cebu.

CSA-Bacolod's CEPO launches Augustinian Tree Growing Project

In celebration of the Augustinian Mission Awareness Day and the Environmental Month of the Negros Occidental Province, the Community Extension Program Office (CEPO) spearheaded the launching of the Augustinian Tree Growing Project on June 10, 2021 at Centro Sant'Agostino-Benedicto Retreat House (CSA-Bacolod Retreat House), Don Salvador Benedicto.

Fr. Eusebio B. Berdon, OSA Vice President for Augustinian Formation, Religious Affairs and Mission and Prior of the CSA-Bacolod Community, in his welcome message shared the importance of fulfilling the mission entrusted by the Lord to every person in whatever field or profession he/she may be.

The Head of the Program



Management Division of the Provincial Environment and Management Office (PEMO), Dr. Eriberto M. Madalag, gave the message on the importance of the protection of the environment

during the activity.

After which, Ms. Desiree D. Diel, CEPO Head, disclosed the background of the project. Then, the blessing of the site was done by Fr. Tito D. Soquiño, OSA, Vice President for Student Affairs and External Relations.

Different stakeholders were represented namely: Rudy Reveche and Rocky Nicor for the Alumni, Marites B. Javelona, PTA, Sandra de Erit, NTP/FEASA, Engr. Jhonel Espanola, Student Government, Karen L. Zamora, HRMDO, Gereon Cabarles, PhD., Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Eriberto Madalag, Mr. Carlo Eran (PEMO Forester) and team from PEMO, and Desiree Diel and Altha Gracia Diopido for CEPO.

Five Augustinian friars who participated in the tree growing were: Fr. Eusebio B. Berdon, OSA, VPFAM, Fr. Tito Soquiño, OSA, VPSA, Fr. Romanico Cañon, OSA, Fr. Patrick Paul M. de Castro, OSA, Retreat House Administrator, and deacon Rey Cyril C. Lagrosa, OSA, Retreat House Assistant Administrator. (www.csab.edu.ph)

One of the worries of the teachers of the Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod Extension Campus is the possible destruction of its walls during floods or rainy days since it was built on soft soil and the proposed solution of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) teachers is to create a supporting wall made of eco-bricks.

A project was launched before the pandemic entitled "NSTP Eco-bricks Garden Wall Project." 500 students enrolled in the subject helped in the project by collecting 1.5-liter plastic bottles and stuffed them with teared plastic waste. Eco-bricks are a way of upcycling plastics rather than letting them leak back into the environment.

Instead of using the typical hollow blocks for construction, eco-bricks are the solution and help prevent flooding in the city.

According to Tess Tingson, CSA-B NSTP Head, "These eco-

Eco-bricks solution to flood and erosion in CSA-Bacolod Extension Campus



bricks can help in plastic waste pollution."

The project continued even during the pandemic, and "it has become a family bonding for parents and children' while tearing and stuffing garbage plastics in the bottles, as Tingson further stated.

A total of 2,500 eco-bricks were gathered from the students and on June 19, 2021, a blessing and turnover ceremony was held at the extension campus.

Fr. Bernardo Coleco, OSA, Vice President for Finance and Administration, supports and calls out to continue the project.

Moreover, the NSTP of the school aims to expand this project and plans to create classrooms, facilities and homes made from eco-bricks. /with reports from GMA News TV One Western Visayas

Archbishop Lazo holds pastoral visit at San Jose Placer Parish

His Grace, the Most Rev. Jose Romeo O. Lazo, D.D., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Jaro, conducted a pastoral visitation to the Augustinian-ministered San Jose Placer Parish in Iloilo City from April 24 – 25, 2021.

According to Canon Law, an official pastoral visit is one of the responsibilities entrusted to a bishop which is an occasion to rejuvenate the energies of those engaged in evangelization, particularly of the pastors and the parishioners.

Upon his arrival on April 24, a liturgical rite was held at the church's main door to formally begin Archbishop Lazo's visit. He then offered a flower to the image of Saint Joseph enshrined inside the church.

The good Archbishop later met the members of the Parish Pastoral Council together with Fr. Jose R. Gonzales, OSA who is the acting Parish Priest of San Jose.

He also visited a chapel at Barangay Concepcion and met the officers to listen to their programs and activities, and later in the evening, he joined with the youth in praying the Holy Rosary.

On the following day, the pastoral visit was officially closed with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Good Shepherd Sunday presided by the Archbishop.

The visit highlighted the pastoral concern of the Archbishop to the local Christian community of San Jose and their importance to the whole Archdiocese of Jaro.



Nuestra Señora de Gracia (NSdG) celebrates Parish Fiesta

The feast of Nuestra Señora de Gracia was celebrated in Guadalupe Viejo this year on May 8, the actual date of the feast in the Augustinian Liturgical Calendar.

For pastoral reasons, the parish used to celebrate their fiesta every 3rd Sunday of May but it was changed by Fr. Basilio S. Sugataon, OSA, former NSdG parish priest, this year after consultations with the Parish Pastoral Council.

The morning fiesta Mass was presided over by Fr. Sugataon. A motorcade procession around the streets of Guadalupe Viejo followed the eucharistic celebration.

The Guadalupe Viejo image

of Nuestra Señora de Gracia shows the Virgin Mary with hands extended and wearing the traditional Marian white and blue vestments.



Guipos celebrates 4th Parish Fiesta



The Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur celebrates its fourth Parish Fiesta last June 26, 2021.

Most Rev. Ronald Luna, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Pagadian, presided over the Pontifical Mass together with the Augustinian friars.

Due to the pandemic, fiesta activities were only limited to liturgical celebrations such as novena masses,

the sacrament of confirmation and a mobile procession around the town.

The events were led by Rev. Fr. Mark Anthony Tamos, OSA, the first Parish Priest since its canonical establishment in 2018, together with his Parochial Vicars, Rev. Fr. John Ion Miranda, OSA, Rev. Peter John Cardos, OSA and the incoming parish priest, Rev. Fr. Vicente Amplayo, OSA.

Pag-omaw Festival at Bagacay

Devotees of Señor Santo Niño braved the threats of the corona virus disease and went all out for their celebration of Pag-omaw Festival in Barangay Bagacay, Gubat, Sorsogon from June 3 to 4, 2021.

Novenas, motorcades, street dancing and a fluvial procession were the highlights of this year's festival. The celebration of the Holy Mass on the fiesta day was presided by the Vicar General of the Diocese of

Sorsogon, Msgr. Felix B. Eljado, Jr., and was concelebrated by Augustinian priests and some diocesan clergy. Pag-omaw Festival (Bicol word meaning "to praise") was started by Fr. Arlon M. Vergara in 2005 to honor the Holy Child Jesus.

The festival is now on its 17th year and continues to attract more devotees and pilgrims alike in Bagacay.

MGCP celebrates Parish Fiesta



The Mother of Good Counsel Parish celebrated its second fiesta in the midst of a pandemic last April 25, 2021.

Fr. Danilo M. Carido, OSA was the main presider of the feast day mass of the parish in Chrysanthemum Village, San Pedro, Laguna.

In addition to their usual novena and live streamed masses, online contests for parishioners were also held. The choir loft near the main door of the parish church and the newly renovated shrine of Our Mother of Good Counsel were blessed after the feast day mass.



Saguday Parish: Lone Jubilee Church in Quirino Province

The Saint Augustine of Hippo Parish (SAHP), Saguday, Quirino Province was designated as one of the three jubilee churches of the Diocese of Bayombong for the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines.

The other two are the Saint Dominic de Guzman Cathedral in Bayombong and the San Luis Beltran Parish in Solano, both in the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

This makes the Saguday parish the only jubilee church in the province of Quirino and the only parish church under the Province to be designated as such.

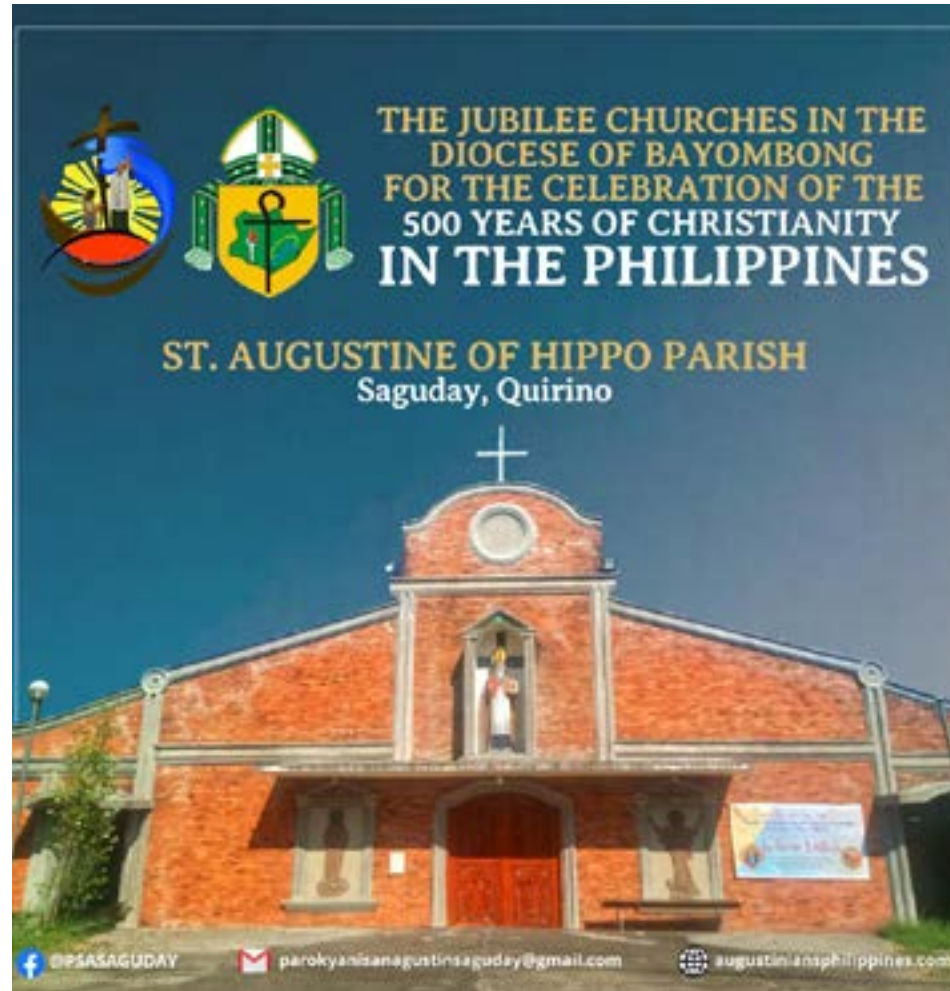
On May 27, 2021, on the liturgical memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest, Most Rev. Jose Elmer I. Mangalino, D.D., Bishop of Bayombong, opened the "Porta Sancta" or the holy door at the SAHP Church in Barangay Rizal, Saguday, Quirino.

The parishioners prepared for this special event through a novena that was held from May 18 to 26.

The designation as a Jubilee church is a testament to the Augustinians' pioneering work of evangelization in what is now the civil province of Nueva Vizcaya during the Spanish colonial era and the present pastoral accomplishments of the Filipino friars who first came to Saguday in 2012.

Moreover, it also poses a challenge to the friars of the Province to be more proactive in promoting the devotion to the Santo Niño de Cebu in the northern part of the country particularly in the Ilocano-speaking areas of Luzon.

All dioceses in the Philippines were asked by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)



to designate jubilee churches in their respective ecclesiastical territories for the quincentennial celebration of the arrival of Christianity in the country. Each jubilee church will have its own holy door where pilgrims can enter to receive plenary indulgences.

In Saguday, the church's main door or "porta mayor" was selected to be the holy door. It is made of hardwood and features several carved images which includes the coat of arms of the Augustinian Order and of the Diocese of Bayombong on the upper part. Carved on the lower

part are the images of Saints Monica and Augustine.

The holy door symbolizes a "ritual expression of conversion" and a "passage from sin to grace." It also points the pilgrim Christian faithful to Christ the Lord who through his paschal sacrifice became the door of salvation and humanity's way back to the house of the Father. The faithful who will pass through the holy door in Saguday and on other jubilee churches will gain plenary indulgences until April 22, 2022 as decreed by Pope Francis.

Augustinian parishes host own Community Pantries



Three Augustinian-administered parishes in Luzon hosted their own community pantries namely; the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish in Makati City, St. Augustine of Hippo Parish in Gubat, Sorsogon and St. Augustine of Hippo Parish in Saguday, Quirino.

A community pantry is a movement of helping people in need and at same time considered as the modern-day Bayanihan that carries the phrase "give what you can, take what you need" or in Filipino, "Magbigay ayon sa kakayahan, kumuha ayon sa pangangailangan."

The Augustinian community pantries reached out not only to their parishioners but to all those who are in need. The success of their respective community pantries was supported

by the friars and the parishioners.

Community pantry in the Philippines emerged at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic that was initiated by a small act of kindness of a young woman, Patricia Non, in May 2021 at Quezon City. Her community pantry has inspired many people and it has evolved into something so impactful where more than 6,700 other community pantries were conducted for several months.

Meanwhile, the Augustinian friars looked at the emergence of the community pantries as linked to the common life lived by the first Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 4:32-35) and to the common life as envisioned by the Rule of Saint Augustine.

Socorro Parish replaces old Retablo

The parish church of the Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Socorro, Surigao del Norte replaced its old wooden retablo with that of a concrete one this year.

The retablo was designed by Fr. Elmer J. Lendo, OSA, former Prior and Parish Priest of Socorro, and was partially ready last June 19

when the parish celebrated its annual fiesta.

As of writing, a crucifix will be placed at the central niche and below it will be the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help made in Italy. Statues of Saints Monica and Augustine will also grace the other two smaller niches of the retablo.



Sto. Niño Parish Mohon launches “SUBAYON TA!” exhibit

In line with the Quincentennial celebration of Christianity in the Philippines, the Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish in Mohon, Talisay City, Cebu launched an exhibit, “Subayon Ta!: A Parish Commemorative Exhibit!”

This is to commemorate, showcase, and present significant

events in the parish and to acknowledge the people who are indispensably part of the humble beginnings of the parish.

Moreover, it also highlights the foundation of the parish including the growth of faith and devotion of Sto. Niño within the parochial

jurisdiction and authority of the parish. The exhibit is a celebration of the Gift of Faith 500 years ago tracing its path of Christianity and as the parish endeavors also to trace its roots until the present.

The parish commemorative exhibit was officially launched and inaugurated last June 30, 2021 and will culminate in April 2022.

As of writing, the exhibit is closed to the public until further notice due to the surge of COVID-19 cases in the locality.

The Office of the Parish Priest, headed by Rev. Fr. Jonas Mejares, OSA, organized the activity in close consultation with the Parish Advisory Councils – Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council – and the technical assistance from the members of the Parish Social Communications Ministry and Parish Youth Coordinating Council.



Blessing of the New Shrine of the Our Mother of Good Counsel

On June 30, 2021, a new shrine of the Our Mother of Good Counsel located at the right side inside the parish was blessed.

Prior to the blessing, a thanksgiving mass was offered and presided by Rev. Fr. Danilo Carido, OSA, Parish Priest, and attended by the parishioners.

It was also a farewell mass for the outgoing pastors as they are to report to their new assignments starting July 1.

Fr. Carido and Fr. Aimark Asor, OSA are to be assigned at San Agustin Seminary and Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish in Makati, respectively. While, Rev. Jebbie Jugarap, OSA is bound to Saguday, Quirino.



Historian-Theologians Present The Augustinians: Their Pioneering Missionary Work and its Impact to the Faith Growth and the Philippine Society in Augustinian’s Webinar Series

The last of the three-part webinar series by the Santo Niño at 500 Committee of the Order of Saint Augustine – Province of Santo Niño de Cebu premiered live on Facebook on April 3, 2021. Three historian-theologians discussed The Augustinians: Their Pioneering Missionary Work and its Impact to the Faith Growth and the Philippine Society.

Fr. Ericson M. Borre, OSA, a member correspondent of the Augustinian Historical Institute in Rome currently assigned at the Real Colegio de los Padres Agustinos in Valladolid, Spain – lectured on The Augustinian Missionaries and the Filipino Indios: Early Contacts, Treatment, and Relations. He shared that the Augustinian friars, being the first missionaries to be in contact with the Filipino Indios 44 years after Magellan was killed in Cebu, have a handful of materials that narrate their interactions with the natives. These are contained in the Libros de Gobierno (Archivo Provincial in Valladolid, Spain) which interestingly suggest an alternative perspective from the common historical narrative heard in school or read in history textbooks. He attempted to review and reflect the effects of the early conquest and mission to the Filipino Indios and how exactly the friars treated them based on the decrees issued by the Prior provincials and approved by the chapters. He emphasized that it is important to be able to put in place other pieces

of our history, which may help us in understanding its flow without pinning down historical controversies that lead to the present scenario, most often converted as political events rather than simply day-to-day life encounter and assimilation between two worlds.

Fr. Arnel S. Dizon, OSA, University Archivist and Vice President for Administration and Finance of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City expounded on the Impact of Fray Andres de Urdaneta’s Discovery of the Torna Viaje. He discussed that the tornaviaje refers to the return route to New Spain from the Philippines that traversed the vast Pacific Ocean from west to east. It conclusively established the trans-Pacific connection between Europe and Asia, through the Philippines and Mexico. From the commercial point of view, it opened new economic opportunities for the Spanish empire and its colonial dependencies. Urdaneta’s trip back to New Spain shortened the distance for travel and transportation. He highlighted that Urdaneta’s route made directly possible the launching of the transpacific galleon trade, the colonization of the Philippines, and the return journey to the western hemisphere.

Fr. Dedert V. Duarte, a graduate student of the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Münster, Germany, talked about Fray Martin de Rada and the Defense of the Natives’ Rights. He shared that

the Spanish colonial system and its structures, such as the encomienda, tributes, forced labor, and even the conquest and pacification of the islands, had been sources of tensions and conflicts between the natives and the Spaniards during the early colonial period in the Philippines. Having witnessed the human rights abuses and injustices committed by his fellow Spaniards against the natives, the Augustinian Fray Martin de Rada and his fellow missionaries called the attention of the Spanish authorities and demanded for immediate remedies and even reparations. The Navarrese friar believed that such atrocities were compromising the noble aims of both the Crown and the Church.

The three-part webinar series entitled Bound by History: Magellan, Santo Niño and the Beginnings of the Augustinian Evangelization is part of this year’s celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Image of Santo Niño de Cebu.

Organized by the Santo Niño at 500 Committee of the Order of Saint Augustine – Province of Santo Niño de Cebu, the webinar series is in partnership with the National Quincentennial Committee, Republic of the Philippines, Cultural and Historical Affairs Office – Cebu City, 500 Years of Christianity – Archdiocese of Cebu and Philippine Embassy in Spain. /from www.santonino500.com

SANTO NIÑO AT 500

Declaration of Santo Niño Basilica as National Cultural Treasure highlights April 14 Quincentennial events



Roman Catholics in the Philippines commemorated the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the country through a Pontifical Mass; declaration of the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño's church and convent, and the Pavilion of the Magellan's Cross as National Cultural Treasure (NCT); launching of Santo Niño at 500 commemorative stamps; opening of Santo Niño Exhibit; re-enactment of the First Baptism and Gifting of the Santo Niño Image to Doña Juana; and, a cultural show.

On April 14, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan's expedition chaplain Fr. Pedro de Valderrama baptized Datu Humabon, his wife, and around 800 natives of what was then called Sugbo. The event is considered the

birth of Christianity in these islands. Datu Humabon's wife, christened as Queen Juana, was also gifted with the image of the Child Jesus, now more popularly known as Santo Niño.

PONTIFICAL MASS

His Excellency Archbishop Charles J. Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, presided over the Pontifical Mass at Plaza Sugbo fronting the Magellan's Cross. Seven young children between the ages of 7 to 12 were also baptized during the mass. Three of those baptized are beneficiaries of the homeless project in Cebu City of the Santo Niño de Cebu – Augustinian Social Development Foundation, Inc. (SNAF), the social

development arm of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA)-Province of Santo Niño de Cebu – Philippines.

DECLARATION OF BASILICA AS NCT

Following the Pontifical Mass, a marker declaring the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño National Cultural Treasure was unveiled inside the Basilica. The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) along with the representative from the National Museum of the Philippines and other government cultural agencies took part in the declaration ceremony. NHCP Chairman and National Quincentennial Committee

SANTO NIÑO AT 500



(NQC) Executive Director, Dr. Rene Escalante, pointed out that the declaration is one of the highest recognitions the State can give to a particular built heritage. The recent marker is the fourth installed within the Basilica compound. NHCP unveiled one for the church in 1941, another one for the Magellan's Cross in the same year, and another one for the Augustinian order unveiled in 2018. The declarations allow the cultural agencies to appropriate funds for the conservation of the Basilica without violating the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and State, Escalante explained in his speech.

SANTO NIÑO EXHIBIT

The opening of the Santo Niño exhibit and the launching of the commemorative stamps of Santo Niño at 500 completed the Augustinian-related activities of the quincentennial celebration.

Earlier in the afternoon, a re-enactment of the first baptism and the gifting of the Santo Niño image was presented at Plaza Sugbo. Cebu Archbishop Jose S. Palma, the Augustinian Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Fr. Andres Rivera Jr., OSA, Basilica Rector Rev. Fr. Pacifico C. Nohara, Jr., OSA, local government officials, parish heads and representatives graced the events.

A cultural show titled "Credo in Unum Deum" punctuated the series of activities.

MOTORCADE

A motorcade procession of the Sto. Niño de Cebu image and the Jubilee cross was also held for three days prior to the 500th Years of Christianity anniversary in the town of Cordova, and the cities of Lapu-lapu, Cebu, Mandaue, and Talisay City.

The Republic of the Philippines NQC, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cebu, and the OSA Province of Santo Niño de Cebu-Philippines organized the said events. */with reports from www.santonino500.com*

SANTO NIÑO AT 500



SANTO NIÑO AT 500



SNAF beneficiaries baptized during 500 YOC Pontifical Mass

Three out of the seven children who were baptized last April 14, 2021, during the Pontifical Mass of the 500 Years of Christianity celebration were beneficiaries of the soup-kitchen program of the Sto. Niño de Cebu - Augustinian Social Development Foundation, Inc. (SNAF).

They were historically baptized by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown, at the Plaza Sugbo (Magellan's Cross) as a concrete reenactment of the first recorded baptism held in the country 500 years ago through Rajah Humabon and his wife, Juana.

These three children were Jolito (8 years old), April (11 years old), and Billy Cony (12 years old).

The children were part of the families who took shelter at Barangay San Roque Gym during the lockdown of last year. They were originally living



on the streets around the vicinity of the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño de Cebu.

After the baptism, an image of Sto. Niño was given to each child as a gift, which is the symbol of Christianity in the Philippines, and whose original image was given

by Ferdinand Magellan to Juana in 1521.

Meanwhile, the staff and volunteers of SNAF also stood as their godparents, who took care of them and other families in Brgy. San Roque.

SANTO NIÑO AT 500

Paglambo sa Pagtuo Concert punctuates 456th Kaplag Celebration with High Notes



The first evangelists to the Philippines and caretaker of the centuries-old image of the Santo Niño, the Order of the Augustinians (OSA) highlighted the 456th year celebration of the Kaplag with an online concert titled Santo Niño @500 and Beyond: PAGLAMBO SA PAGTUO. Kaplag is the Cebuano term for “finding,” which is the term used for the miraculous finding of the image of the Senor Santo Niño by the Legazpi-Urdaneta expedition.

Four hundred and fifty-six years ago, on April 28, 1565, the armada of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, along with five Augustinian priests including Fray Andres Urdaneta, OSA, found the unscathed image of the Santo Niño among the burnt remains of a house where the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño now stands.

Novena masses were celebrated daily nine days leading to the April 28 event. Fr. Andres Rivera Jr., OSA, the Prior Provincial of the OSA Province of Santo Niño De Cebu,

presided the Holy Mass celebrating this year’s Kaplag preceding the online concert.

The 2-hour concert which premiered on Facebook showcased songs from the HuNiño (Huni Halad alang kang Santo Niño) songwriting competition. The concert opened with the popular Bato-Balani sa Gugma (Magnet of Love) song which never fails to evoke tearful singing by the faithful with hands waving up in the air during the song chorus. The HuNiño songs sang during the concert were grouped into Songs for Children, Songs of Hope and Peace, Songs of the Choir, Songs of Petition, Songs of Forgiveness, and Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise.

HuNiño is an annual songwriting competition offered to the Santo Niño which started in 2007. After a tedious screening process, only 12 songs are normally slated as finalists that will be staged in an actual singing competition held at the Santo Nino Pilgrim Center with a

crowd of devotees. These songs are utilized in the Masses at the Basilica.

The HuNiño songs are compiled into albums in forms of compact discs (CD) and music books that can be purchased at the Basilica del Santo Niño Store. The Augustinian friars have intended that the proceeds of the album will help send to school the less fortunate but deserving beneficiaries of the Basilica del Santo Niño Children’s Welfare Foundation, Inc.

The 21-song concert culminated with the song Called to Share, the official song for the Santo Niño at 500 celebration to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Holy Image in our islands. The Holy Image given to Dona Juana during the first baptism on April 14, 1521, is believed to be the same image found by the Legazpi-Urdaneta expedition. (with reports from www.santonino500.com)

A New Look at Philippine History and the Friars

Rev. Fr. Alberto Esmeralda, OSA

When I was studying Philippine History in high school, I was given the impression that the last hundred years of Spanish regime in the Philippines was characterized by the corruption of Spanish officials and the immorality of the friars. The image of Padre Damaso man handling the brothers Crispin and Basilio and Padre Salvi’s lust for Maria Clara as narrated in Rizal’s Noli Me Tangere is still deeply embedded in my memory. And there was no other textbook in Philippine history that would gainsay the narrations of Gregorio Zaide. The anti-Spanish sentiments which were still alive until the time of Corazon Aquino (remember the much maligned “blue ladies” of Malacañang) is a memorial to the influence of Zaide’s history. But there is a lot to what I learned in high school that will have to change. For the first time, I’ve seen a publication from 1899, written by a Catholic American journalist that challenges the views presented by Zaide in his Philippine History.

The article appears in a volume of Catholic World dated June 1899, scanned and submitted for viewing through a web browser at this address (<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/maajrnl/bac8387.0069.411/305:1?rgn=full+text;view=image>). It is written by Bryan J. Clinch who came to the Philippines during the same year of his article’s publication.

What is so significant about the article is that he compares the situation of the Catholic Church at the time to conditions in France, and the situation of the Christianization of Philippines to that of Hawaii which was evangelized by Protestants. Apart from these, the article contains “snapshots” of the Philippines around the time when Dewey had entered the ports of Manila, Aguinaldo’s revolutionaries had created their damage among the friars and four hundred friars were awaiting their fate in the jails of the capital.

If you have studied the history of the Philippines from Rizal’s death in 1898 to the coming of the Americans, you may have wondered: what was the Philippines like? what were the sentiments of the indios towards the allegedly corrupt and immoral Fray Botod’s of their times? The article of Bryan Clinch may bring up surprises. It was written to correct misconceptions about the way Spain has been running the Philippines and as a reaction to an article about the Philippines that appeared in the New York Herald. I will be presenting here some excerpts.

I am an Augustinian friar and so I am interested in the kind of work that the friars did in the islands during the period delineated in the article. Clinch shows in this section of his article that misconceptions circulated about the priests working in the islands are mainly due to anti-Spanish sentiments. He describes to us how many priests were there working not only in the Philippines, but also in the Ladrones and Carolines at the time and then centers on the kind of work provided by the allegedly lazy friars.

The “swarms of lazy friars” that form a picturesque if rather unkindly feature of so many pen pictures of the Philippines are even more mythical than the exorbitant fees collected by them. We have already mentioned the reason why so many are found at the present moment in Manila, but the official records of both the religious orders and the government, published long before Dewey entered Manila Bay, show that in no Catholic country is the number of priests so small, compared with the population as in the Philippines. The priests are fewer than in almost any diocese in the United States compared with its Catholic population. In 1896 the whole clergy of the islands numbered nineteen hundred and eighty-eight priests between all the orders and the seculars combined. The secular clergy amounted to seven hundred and seventy-three, of whom about one-half were of the native

racés. These had charge of a population of over eleven hundred thousand. The archdiocese of New York last year had five hundred and ninety-seven priests for less than a million of Catholics, St. Louis three hundred and eighty-eight for two hundred and twelve thousand and Chicago, four hundred and fifty-nine for over half a million. The secular priests of the Philippines are almost exactly in the same proportion to the population as are the priests in Chicago, which certainly is not the happy hunting ground of swarms of idle clergymen.

After this description of how small the number of the priests working in the Philippines really was in comparison to the number of the population, he then describes the kind of work they do

The whole number in the Philippines, Carolines and Ladrones was only twelve hundred and fifteen, including Jesuit and Dominican professors in the colleges, those in charge of the Manila observatory, and the missionaries among the Mohammedans of Mindanao and the heathens of the Carolines. The latter occupied a hundred and five of the hundred and sixty-seven Jesuits and the other sixty-two being in Manila in the usual scholastic work of their order. Two hundred and thirty-three Dominicans supplied the religious needs of three quarters of a million Catholics. That the task was not a nominal one is shown by the registration during the year of forty-one thousand baptisms, eight thousand marriages, and twenty-nine thousand interments with the funeral rites of the church. The Jesuits and Benedictines, besides their literary work, attended to the parish needs of nearly two hundred thousand Christians.

The Franciscans properly so-called had two hundred and forty priests in the Philippines and this two hundred forty attended to a population of over eleven hundred thousand. The Recollects had three hundred and twenty-one priests for a million and a quarter of Catholics. The task of the Augustinians was the greatest of all. Three hundred and twenty-seven priests, including the superiors and the general administrative force in Manila, attended to the religious wants of two million three hundred and forty-five thousand Catholics. In the year they baptized a hundred and fifteen thousand children, buried with due rites fifty-one thousand Catholics and blessed sixteen thousand seven hundred marriages. Add to this the celebration of Mass and other public church offices for over two million Catholics, the preaching, teaching, hearing of confessions required by

them, and all the other details of a Catholic parish priest, and let any discerning man say whether it was a work that left any chance for lazy self-indulgence. (p. 300)

One may ask: if the friars were these industrious and generous in their work, why the bad sentiments towards them? But were the friars really hated? Clinch gives us the report of some exiled Augustinians who passed by San Francisco. One would think that these would be embittered, but the tone of the report given is quite different.

As to the disposition of the natives of the country towards their pastors, we were assured by all the exiled Augustinians who passed through San Francisco this year that it was one of sincere attachment. Two of them, when arrested by the revolutionary emissaries in their residences, had been delivered by their parishioners, and another assured us that in nine different pueblos he had witnessed the general grief of nearly the whole population on the arrest of their spiritual guides. As he told the story, the arrest and murder of so many priests (there were over fifty put to death and more than four hundred are now captives) was the work of small revolutionary parties, backed by the power of the revolutionary government set up by the Manila Meztizos. In a way the course of events was not unlike that of the early days of the French Revolution under Jacobin rule. The capital dominated the provinces more by fear than by sympathy. The Philippine country folk are wholly unused to arms or violence. A missionary assured us that before the revolution the number of murders committed in the island of Panay, with a population of over half a million, hardly averaged one in the year. In Manila among the Chinese Mestizos it was worse, but even there the amount of public crimes was much less than in most American cities. It is easy to understand how among such a population a few armed bands, claiming to be backed by the army of Aguinaldo and the American fleet were able to pillage and slay at will. In many cases the jails were empties and the released convicts, maddened with drink, atrociously maltreated and murdered priests and religious; but these were not acts of the population at large. (p. 302)

The author also compares the kind of treatment that the Catholics in the Philippines received to that of the Hawaiians who were evangelized by Protestants. He does this within the context of an analysis of

population growth in the Philippines. He says that in other countries, natives who underwent the same process as the Philippines were depopulated. He writes

In order to understand the significance of these figures (the rate of population growth in the Philippines — my note), it should be noted that nearly all the islands of the Pacific, inhabited a hundred years ago by races allied to the native of the Philippines, have been almost depopulated since the appearance of European civilization. Hawaii which received its introduction to civilization under the guidance of American ministers, as the Philippines received it from the much-maligned friars, is a striking example. When Messrs. Bingham and Thurston were entrusted with the destiny of the Hawaiian natives by the widow of Kamehameha I, their first care was to take a census of the people. It gave over a hundred and forty thousand. Sixty years of Protestant civilization and teaching had reduced the number to thirty-eight thousand, with only a couple of thousand American civilizers to take their place. In 1750, the population of the Philippines was given at nine hundred and four thousand exclusive of infants under seven. In 1896 a detailed census gave the number at nearly seven millions who had grown up under the instruction of the Spanish friars and in the Catholic morality taught by them. The Protestant missionary colony in sixty years had, by its own statement, possessed itself of nearly all the land and wealth of Hawaii and it ended its mission

by rising in arms and seizing the government on that very plea. At the present moment over four hundred friars in the Philippines are lying in prison in tropical jails, liable at any moment to the death which has already come to more than fifty at the hands of fierce mobs, for the sole reason that these friars are natives of Spain. Yet writers in the American press do not blush to talk of the greed and laziness and immorality of the Spanish friars, even as a Hawaiian missionary in Honolulu reviled the memory of heroic Father Damien, and hinted at personal immorality as the reason of his death in the Molokai leper settlement.

One might, after reading the above excerpts think that the article was written by an American Catholic defending other Catholics. But it does put into a different perspective the years surrounding the events of the Philippine Revolution and its aftermath, and challenges the kind of one-sided historical education we have and continue to receive.

I also would like to add that Filipino-based Fundamentalists have begun to use the Noli Me Tangere to draw half-cooked Filipino Catholics into their version of the Christian religion, thereby extending — for the purposes of increased revenue for their churches — the miseducation of the Filipino. Read the article from 1899, and judge for yourselves.

Prior Provincial's Report

The past year was full of difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic that affected all aspects of our lives both as religious and citizens of our country. Economic and social disruptions that ensued from travel restrictions and lockdowns greatly affected the mental health and perspective of many friars in the Province. Faced with these situations, we bravely undertook innovative ways in administering our educational and pastoral apostolates. We boldly adjusted our priorities as we embarked to minister to our brothers and sisters in faith under the new normal.

And yet, the past year was also a time of grace and many blessings both in our communities and in the lives of the faithful we serve and collaborate with. Despite the challenges that the pandemic continues to bring in our lives, the Province was able to survive the worst of last year's crisis and continues to face the present with invigorated trust in God's divine Province.

I. BASIC STATISTICS

Solemnly Professed Friars

As of this writing (July 2021), the Province has a total membership of 126 solemnly professed friars. Five young friars solemnly professed their vows just last January 23, 2021. 16 friars are assigned abroad either as 1) students; 2) missionaries to other dioceses or 3) ascribed to or working in other Augustinian circumscriptions. The other 112 friars are assigned in 15 communities and 4 residences in the country while 1 friar is currently on the process of exclaustation.

At 37, the Province is still "young" as well as the majority of its members:

45 friars are 45 to 59 yrs. old

56 friars are 27 to 44 yrs. old

On the other hand, 25 friars are now senior citizens (60 to 85 yrs. old).

The Province has 116 priests, 5 non-clerical brothers and 5 transitional deacons.

Two friars died this year, both senior citizens.

Out of fraternal charity and concern, the Provincial Council has again and again reached out to some friars who have illicitly left the Province. Those obedient enough to heed our summons were reintegrated into the Province. For those who do not, we are in constant coordination with the Procurator General for the process of their dismissal from the Order.

Students in Initial Formation

By the grace of God, the Province is gifted with an abundance of vocations for the current Formation Year:

College Students: 16 aspirants (3 – 1st yr., 3 – 2nd yr., 10 – 3rd yr.) and 1 postulant

San Agustin Seminary (for professionals): 2 aspirants, 2 postulants

Novices: 5: 4 from Cebu Prov. and

1 from the Vic. of the Orient (the Asia Pacific Augustinian Novitiate or

APAN is temporarily suspended for this novitiate year)

Simply Professed Friars: 24 (1 – 6th yr., 5 – 5th yr., 5 – 4th yr., 3 – 3rd yr., 9 – 2nd yr. and 1 – 1st yr.)

II. COMMUNITY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought many challenges with regards to our outside apostolate. Fortunately, it also brought the community members together during the days of hard lockdowns. The pandemic provided an opportunity for the friars to rethink and rediscover the beauty and depth of our Augustinian common life. In the absence of outside engagements and other pastoral commitments, the friars turned to their own communities for solace and comfort during these trying times. Community prayers, conventual Masses, common meals and recreations were all well attended by the friars. Truly, those days of seemingly endless quarantines had turned into grace-filled times of intense fraternal communion and fellowship for the friars of the Province.

The Province's annual retreat, usually a joyful time of reunion and camaraderie among the friars, was held by community last year. Neighboring communities joined each other in their retreat. Themes of the retreat centered more on evangelization and community renewal in the time of the pandemic. The same arrangement will be observed this year.

Zonal meetings via online conferences with local priors and other local officials were held in July and October last year. The meeting became an opportunity for a brief virtual reunion for the friars in each zone of the Province. Priors gave a short update of the status of their respective communities and their apostolates while the Treasurers and Procurators gave an update on the finances of their respective communities. Thanks be to God and for the cooperation of all the friars of the Province, we were able to survive financially the past year by following cost-cutting measures and some simple budgeting.

III. THE AUGUSTINIAN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Province through its different Communities, Residences and institutions have organized a well-coordinated response to the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected the majority, if not all, Filipinos from mid-March last year until today. Here are some of the initiatives undertaken:

- The Augustinian Relief Services (ARS) is the humanitarian arm of the Santo Niño de Cebu Augustinian Social Development Foundation, Inc. (SNAF). SNAF, on the other hand, is the social development arm of the Province's Commission on Justice and Peace. Through partnerships with different foundations and organizations, ARS and SNAF were able to regularly provide decent meals three times daily and psycho-social inputs to more than 150 homeless individuals in Cebu City.
- ARS has also partnered with a civil society group to make DIY Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) that were distributed to medical front liners in different hospitals, clinics and LGUs all around the country.
- Distribution of relief goods and other supplies to more than 700 families in the northern municipalities of Isabela and Quirino provinces as well as in Sorsogon and in Socorro, Surigao del Norte in the south.
- Other Communities of the Province also initiated their own relief operations and humanitarian efforts. The Province appreciates the collective efforts of all the friars, the institutions attached to the Communities and the undying support of all collaborators in these efforts. Indeed, through all these works of love, the friars and their lay counterparts were able to share the true spirit of solidarity to all our needy brothers and sisters.
- On the spiritual side, social media platforms and other virtual venues were utilized by the different Communities and institutions of the Province to live stream Masses and other religious activities and devotions for the benefit of the many homebound faithful here and abroad. The prayer models and other materials sent by the Augustinian Spirituality Institute and those from OSAAP's core animating team indeed greatly benefitted the friars in their time of reflection and during our chapters of renewal.
- We also continued our spiritual support to our Augustinian sisters of contemplative life and to other Augustinian sisters in the country.

We have generously shared our talents and our resources to all in need. All in all we can confidently say that the Filipino Augustinians did not leave any stone unturned in showing our solidarity and support to our brothers and sisters during this pandemic.

IV. VICARIATE OF CHRISTUS TOTUS PAPUA INDONESIA

The Vicarial Chapter of Christus Totus Papua Indonesia was originally scheduled on the first week of July 2021. However, it was postponed to a later date also because of this pandemic. We are in constant communication with the leadership of the Vicariate most especially with the Regional Vicar, Fr. Jan Pieter Fatem, OSA and the Vicarial Secretary, Fr. Adri Durenge, OSA.

The Vicariate continues to grow in terms of membership as 5 novices were accepted for the current formation year. On the other hand, four friars were ordained priests last February 14, 2021 at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Sorong. Another three are scheduled for ordination to the diaconate later this year.

We again commit ourselves to lend support to the Vicariate in whatever way we can but especially in the areas of formation, personnel, and governance.

V. CONCLUSION

The friars of the Province received their new assignments effective July 1, 2021 for the quadrennial term 2020 – 2024 last May 26, 2021. Considering the different travel restrictions per region in the country, we allowed the friars to report as late as July 15, 2021. Many friars are now slowly settling down in their new assignments and are getting ready to begin their respective ministries.

2021 is an important year for Filipino Catholics. This year we are celebrating the 5th centenary of the arrival of Christianity in our country. The Augustinians are also celebrating the 5th centenary of the arrival of the Santo Niño image in Cebu. Various historical, cultural and religious activities are slated for these very special jubilees. We hope and pray that with the guidance of our Province's Titular, our beloved Señor Santo Niño de Cebu, the Filipino Augustinians may lead the path to the new evangelization by the renewal of our common life and the pursuit of our religious ideals even amidst the many challenges of the contemporary world. With God's help, we know we can all move forward and continue our journey even with the "new normal".

FRAY ANDRES DIONALDO RIVERA, JR., OSA
Prior Provincial

July 15, 2021
Provincial Offices, Cebu City

Remembering Fray Arturo Palmos Adalim, OSA

Fray Arturo P. Adalim, OSA was born in Barangay Tuyon, Cauayan, Negros Occidental on May 7, 1937 to Cenen Gayona Adalim and Macaria Salazar Palmos. He entered the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA) at San Agustin in Manila and received his first profession of vows on November 2, 1963 by the then Vicario Provincial Fr. Santos Abia Polvorosa, OSA at the Convento de San Pablo de Manila (San Agustin in Intramuros, Manila). After four years, on November 2, 1967 he solemnly professed his vows in San Agustin.

Fray Adalim was affiliated to the Vicariate of the Philippines for quite a number of years. When the new Province of Santo Niño de Cebu – Philippines was instituted in 1983, Fray Adalim together with the majority of Filipino Augustinian friars chose to be affiliated to the new Province.

Fray Adalim or better known as "Fray Ada" served the Province in various capacities through the years. Aside from his usual assignments in the community, he also served as a religion teacher at the Colegio del Santo Niño in Cebu City as well as in San Jose Catholic School in Iloilo City.

During the first quadrennium of the new Province (years 1984 – 1988), Fray Ada was assigned as member of the Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod Community in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

Then in 1988 – 1992, he served as the Community Procurator of the same community. In 1992, he was transferred to San Jose Community in Iloilo City where he was assigned as Community Member.

From 1994 to 1996, he served as Community Treasurer of San Jose and Community Procurator from 1996 – 2000. For the term 2000 – 2004, he was retained in San Jose and was reassigned as Procurator. From 2004 – 2012, Fray Ada was assigned to Santo Niño de Cebu Parish Community in Barangay Mohon, Talisay City, Cebu. He served the community as Procurator from 2004 – 2008 and as Treasurer from 2008 – 2012. After 8 years in Cebu, Fray Ada was transferred to Iloilo in May 2012 and was assigned as Procurator of San Jose Community for three years. He remained in San Jose for six more years as a community member until the day of his death on the evening of June 8, 2021.

In 2013, Fray Ada celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first profession of vows. And in November 2017, he also celebrated the 50th anniversary of his solemn

profession of vows.

The Lord called Fray Ada to his eternal reward at the ripe old age of 84 after serving the Lord as a humble and simple Augustinian friar for 57 years. Fray Adalim's remains were interred at Forest Lake Memorial Park in Mandurriao, Iloilo City on the afternoon of June 11, 2021 after a Funeral Mass was offered for the eternal repose of his soul at San Jose Parish Church, Iloilo City.



IN MEMORY

Recalling the life of Fr. Rodolfo Pingol Sicio, OSA



Fr. Rodolfo P. Sicio, OSA was born on November 28, 1936 to Vicente Soriaso Sicio and Quirina Pasman Pingol in Barangay Alibunan, Calinog, Iloilo. Three days later, he was baptized at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Calinog on December 1, 1936. From 1943 – 1951, he attended Dawis Elementary School in Zarraga, Iloilo. He finished his secondary education (1951 – 1955) at the Our Lady of Peace Academy in New Lucena, Iloilo.

In 1956, he was accepted as an aspirant and entered the Order at the Convento de San Pablo de Manila in Intramuros where he studied Latin and Spanish for two years from 1956 – 1958. Three years later, in 1959, he was accepted as a postulant. He spent his canonical novitiate year also in Intramuros from July 1962 to July 1963. His first profession of vows was held at San Agustin on July 25, 1963. After three years, he solemnly professed his vows as an Augustinian friar on July 25, 1966. On May 20, 1967 at the Manila Cathedral, he was ordained as deacon by Manila Archbishop Rufino J. Cardinal Santos who also ordained him to the presbyterate on December 23, 1967 at the same church.

The entirety of Fr. Sicio's academic formation was spent at the University of Santo Tomas where he finished his Bachelor of Arts, Major in Philosophy (1958 – 1962), Bachelor of Sacred Theology (1963 – 1967) and Licentiate in Sacred Theology (1968).

In 1981, he received from the same university his M.A. in Oriental Religions and Culture and in 1983 his PhD. in Educational Management. In 1975, he received his M.A. in Education from the University of San Agustin in Iloilo. In 1987, he received from Coady International Institute of the Saint Francis University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada his diploma in Social Developments.

Fr. Sicio held several important positions and assignments throughout his many years of ministry in the Province. His first assignment was an Assistant Parish Priest of San Jose Parish in Iloilo City from 1967 – 1969. He was then transferred to the University of San Agustin in 1969 where he served as university chaplain and Dean of Theology until 1972. In November of 1972, he was transferred to the Monasterio de Guadalupe in Makati City and was later assigned as Procurator of the community. In 1976, he was Assistant Parish Priest of Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati. For 3 years (July 1979 – 1982), he was Master of College Students at San Agustin Seminary also in Makati. Fr. Sicio was also assigned as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at the Colegio San Agustin – Bacolod from 1982 – 1983. This was the last post he held as a friar affiliated to the then Augustinian Vicariate of the Philippines.

In 1983, upon the canonical foundation of the new Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu – Philippines, Fr. Sicio together with many of the Filipino Augustinian friars

chose to be affiliated to the newly created Province. He was elected to the Provincial Council for the quadrennium 1984 to 1988 and served as the 1st Augustinian Parish Priest of the Saint Jerome Emiliani Parish (now Mother of Good Counsel Parish) in Chrysanthemum Village, San Pedro, Laguna. During this time, Fr. Sicio was also the Prior and Treasurer of the Augustinian Community of San Agustin – Biñan and the Director of Colegio San Agustin – Biñan. In 1986, he was assigned as Parish Priest of Santo Niño de Cebu Parish in Biñan City, Laguna. He stayed in Biñan until 1990. It is good to note that Fr. Sicio was very instrumental in the foundation and growth of Colegio San Agustin – Biñan and of the two parishes of the Province in the Diocese of San Pablo: the Santo Niño de Cebu Parish and the Mother of Good Counsel Parish.

From May 1990 to 1993, Fr. Sicio was assigned to the San Jose Community in Iloilo City. It was here that he celebrated his Silver Presbyteral Ordination Anniversary on December 23, 1992. After toying with the idea of becoming a monk (Servants of God of Saint Augustine in Maine, USA) and a diocesan priest for a time, Fr. Sicio returned to the Province in 1996 and served as Parish Priest of Santo Niño de Cebu Parish in Mohon, Talisay City, Cebu for three years. For the next quadrennium 2000 – 2004, Fr. Sicio was transferred to the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City. From 2004 – 2016, Fr. Sicio was the Director of San Jose Catholic School in Iloilo City. From 2004 – 2012, he was also assigned as Member of the Provincial Commission on Educational Apostolate. In 2016, Fr. Sicio was transferred to Sambag Residence in Barangay Sambag, Jaro, Iloilo City. It was in Sambag that he celebrated his Golden Presbyteral Ordination Anniversary on December 23, 2017.

Fr. Sicio will be remembered as an indefatigable friar who has pioneered many new frontiers for the then young Province of Santo Niño de Cebu - Philippines. He was also a beloved formator and vocation director to so many generations of Filipino Augustinians.

At around 9:30 in the evening of June 22, 2021, Fr. Sicio breathed his last. The Lord called him to his eternal reward at the ripe old age of 84 after serving the Lord as a humble and simple Augustinian friar for 57 years and a priest for 53 years. Fr. Sicio's remains were cremated on June 23, 2021 and inurned at Forest Lake Memorial Park in Mandurriao, Iloilo City on the afternoon of June 26, 2021 after a Funeral Mass was offered for the eternal repose of his soul at the chapel of the said memorial park. May his soul rest in peace!

OBITUARY

Rogelio R. Pedrialva
+ April 10, 2021
Affiliate Biñan Community

Saturnino Y. Lao
+ April 24, 2021
Affiliate Basilica Community

Zaldy T. Senoro
+ May 1, 2021
Brother of Fr. Renchie Vicente T. Senoro, OSA

Alfredo M. Echeveria
+ May 2, 2021
Brother of Fr. Nicolas M. Echeveria, OSA

Lorna A. Reyes
+ May 12, 2021
Mother of Fr. Ric Anthony A. Reyes, OSA

Jocelyn C. Lagrosa
+ May 26, 2021
Mother of Rev. Rey Cyril C. Lagrosa, OSA

Rogelio A. Lumentac
+ May 31, 2021
Father of Fr. Exuper G. Lumintac, OSA

Juan R. Rentoria, Sr.
+ June 2, 2021
Father of Fr. Harold LI. Rentoria, OSA

Irwin D. Cuervo
+ June 5, 2021
Brother of Fr. Dennis D. Cuervo, OSA

Fray Arturo P. Adalim, OSA
+ June 8, 2021

Fr. Rodolfo P. Sicio, OSA
+ June 22, 2021

*“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let your perpetual light shine upon them.”*

Devotion to St. Nicholas of Tolentine (Perpetual Novena) For the suffering Souls in Purgatory

Remember, O gentle and compassionate Lord, the pity that stirred your heart when the cry of misery and sorrow came to your ears in Israel.

How your eyes searched the rocks for the poor lepers who called to you; how you reached out your hand to the child of Jairus and to the widow's son at Naim,

How the tears came to your eyes at the tomb of Lazarus.

Look upon Purgatory, the land of suffering, where souls that love you await the touch of your healing mercy.

Through the merits of your great sufferings reach out your hand once more to relieve the poor souls in their sufferings.

O Lord, hear our prayers unworthy though be.

We unite them to the prayers of your holy servant, Saint Nicholas, which he offered to you through the silent hours of the night.

Hear our prayers for those who cannot plead for themselves; and grant to the holy souls in Purgatory happiness and rest. Amen.



Order of Saint Augustine
Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu - Philippines



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with a heart!

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