



HAPPY TO SERVE. The Commission on Mission, Ministerial, and Social Apostolates joyfully craft determinations to guide the next administration on how to administer the parishes and missions of the province.

Capitulars finalize the Priority Objective of the Province

The Chapter, entering the second day of the commission phase, finalized the priority objective of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno for the next triennium or quadrennium.

At 8:30 in the morning, when all were gathered at the plenary hall, Fray René Paglinawan, the assigned moderator, led the opening prayer. He read the messages recently received to which the capitulars applauded as a sign of appreciation. They reviewed the minutes (*actas*) of May 20, 2022 proceeding which then were approved by the capitulars.

The 8th Provincial Chapter official hymn “Our Greatest Dream” was first presented to the capitular assembly. The hymn is penned by Fray Dominador Mercado, OAR; the music composed by Fray Samuel Eyas, OAR; the instrumental arrangement by Noel Espenida; and the Music Video production is engineered by Fray Reynaldo Jaranilla. The song interpreters are Fray Raymund Alcedo, OAR, Sr. Leonian Lacbayo, AR, and Sr. Valerie Ann Coz, AR. The capitulars appreciated the video and moved for its public dissemination.

Pivotal to the morning session was the presentation of the alternative versions of the priority objective of the province for the upcoming triennium or quadrennium. At the end of a long deliberation, the version prepared by the Commission on

Spirituality and Charism, being all-inclusive, concise, and dynamic, captured the hearts and minds of the capitulars. This priority objective guides the capitulars as they craft the determinations of the province and likewise the province as it faces the challenges of the years to come.

The afternoon session was dedicated to finalizing the proposed determinations of the different commissions to be readied for presentation, debated, and God willing—approved.



SPIRITUAL AND CHARISMATIC. Members of the Commission on Spirituality and Charism meet for their proposals.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Fray Giovanni Gil Magbojos, OAR
- Sis. Evelyn Balingit, SAR
- Sis. Rosario Galang, SAR
- SARF Antipolo Chapter
- SSC-R de Cavite
- 羅曉琪 Monica

Letting go: choosing life

Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, the main celebrant and homilist for the day, reflected with the capitulars the gospel reading from Jn 16:5-11. The gospel reading talks of Jesus leaving His disciples to go back to the Father. In His place, Jesus promised to send the Advocate.

Fray Ian, a moral theologian, Dean of the Recoletos School of Theology, and President of the Secretariat of Spirituality and Formation, points to three significant moments of letting go—as person, in belief or faith, and having authority or influence. In all these instances, the preacher asserts, letting go is choosing the better life.

On a personal level, he recalls a major decision he made. He was to decide, together with members of his own family, whether to resuscitate or simply let go of their father who was seriously sick in bed. His faith and his theology got the better part of the decision. The preacher, after handing over his point of view, intimates, “I was consoled by the fact that he [the father] needed to go so that he would reach the place which he could rightly call his ‘true home.’” Letting go is choosing the

better life for the father in the heavenly abode.

In the gospel, the disciples had to reckon with the fact that Jesus Christ had completed the mission given to him by the Father. Thus, the disciples needed to let go of their teacher, lord and master. While, on the one hand, letting go and moving on would be difficult, painful, and agonizing on the part of the disciples; on the other hand, letting go allows the promise of Jesus to send an Advocate from the Father to be realized. Through the Advocate, the disciples would receive strength, grace from God, security, comfort and ease. This advocate, received from the Father and the Son, would lead them to appreciate the movements of God leading them to where God wants them to go and do. In the end, letting go of the resurrected Jesus is acceptance

of a mission, commitment to faith, and choosing life for God and for others.

One of the greatest temptations of humanity is the temptation to cling to power, fame, and prestige. Self-conceit often takes the better part of us believing that we are indispensable, the only qualified person, the right and the best choice for the job. To the words of the preacher, “we believe ... that nobody can equal our presence, surpass our performance, or take over our place.” Sometimes, it takes tragedy to knock us out of our self-conceit. To such self-belief, there is only one antidote. Unless, the self recognizes God to be the number one in one’s life, letting go is next to impossible. But, with God at the center of one’s life, letting go is choosing the better life.



LET GO AND LET GOD. The capitulars celebrate the Holy Mass elevate to God their intentions and prayers as they prepare for another day of commission meetings and crafting of the Life and Mission Project of the province.