



FOR YOUR INFORMATION. The prior provincial and the provincial councilors begin reporting the State of the Province. Fray Ian Espartero (right) presents the implementation of the ordinances for the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality.

Information-Discussion Phase begins

Day 3 begins the information and discussion phase. Fr. Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr., was the moderator of the morning sessions. He read the *ordo capituli* to guide the capitulars as to the conduct of this phase.

Fray Dionisio Selma, the out-going prior provincial, needed the whole morning sessions to report to the body the implementation of programs and activities of the 2018-2022 Life and Mission Project (LAMP) of the province.

Representing the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality, Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia, Head of the Section

for Spirituality, and Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, President of the Secretariat of Formation and Spirituality, supported the prior provincial's report by presenting the secretariat's implementation of the ordinances proper to their section and secretariat. Frays Kenneth Joseph Onda and James Castelo added information relative to the Order's program on the

formation of formators—*In Imum Cordis*, and the province's program for ongoing formation. Discussion, question and clarification ensued after the information stage. The capitulars were guided by the *ordo capituli's* injunction to "ask each presenter for clarifications that he deems convenient, complete the information given, express his agreement



REPORTERS' TASK. (left) Fray Vincent Cadelina, representative of the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos and ARCORES-Filipinas reports the commission's accomplishments during the previous quadrennium. (right) Fray Dionisio Selma presented the province's status.

or disagreement, and offer new ideas.”

In the afternoon session, the floor was given to the Commission on Social and Ecological Concerns-Recoletos and ARCORES-Filipinas. Fray Vincent Cadelina presented the activities, fundings, and other implementing programs of the province in collaboration with the Order on social action and care for the environment. He was accompanied by Fray Rouel Sia. After some discussions and clarifications, the session ended with a prayer at 5:00 PM. Fray René Paglinawan was the moderator of the afternoon session.



QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION. (clockwise from top left) Frays Edgar Tubio, René Paglinawan, Leopoldo Estioko, and William Emilito Villaflor expressed their queries related to the informations presented by the reporters.



Contemplation and Passion: “To remain “ and “To bear fruit” in John 15:1-18

Fr. Regino Bangcaya, parish priest of San Rafael Arkangel Parish in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan and prior of the same religious community is the main celebrant of the 3rd day of the provincial chapter. In his homily, he makes a spiritual commentary on the gospel reading from John 15:1-8.

Being one of the tellers of the 8th Provincial Chapter and assigned to read orally voting results, he starts his homily with a numerical

observation of two dominant words in the gospel reading. He observes that the words “remain” and “fruit” appear eight (8) and five (5) times

respectively.

To remain in the Lord can be accomplished, he said, simply and mainly through prayer. Fr. Rex, as he is fondly called and being a spiritual theologian, zeroed in on the theme of prayer as a form of remaining constantly in the Lord. The fullness of prayer is no other than contemplation. A contemplative is one who is neither contented with common acts and oral prayers nor with the formulaic ones only (although these are equally important). Rather, a contemplative in prayer is one who is constantly connected with the Lord and is in union with Him in all his thoughts, actions, and judgements.

As perfection of such contemplation is almost next to impossible or simply difficult to achieve especially by those in active life, the very act of struggling and striving to be constantly in union with the Lord is also a sign of remaining in the Lord. It is, by itself, an act to be in a state of prayer. This too, is a step toward contemplation.

The second word closely connected is "fruit." Fr. Rex, observes that when we talk of fruits we easily refer to outcomes, results, and often with success. Fr. Rex, a former seminary formator (spiritual director and rector), gently makes a reminder, in his homily, that a common effort, the best communitarian endeavor

to work for the province, particularly this moment of the provincial chapter, is by itself a sign of being a "fruit." Results come as outflow from such a fruitful common act and encounter

Fr. Rex's reflection moves beyond the chapter days. He commented that the dynamism of remaining and bearing fruit must continue beyond the days of the provincial chapter. In daily life, the strivings to remain and bear fruit can be articulated in an attitude called "passion"—passion for the service of the Lord, passion to live the religious life in all circumstances, and passion to persevere amidst trials and difficulties.

Fr. Lauro Larlar keeps the Chapter President Informed

The official language of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno is English. Often though, the Recollects' rich ethnic diversity becomes manifest in the use of other dialects and languages in formal and informal communications and discussions.

Conscious to make the Prior General never off the communication grid, the Prior Provincial and his



council sought for the communication expertise of Fr. Lauro V. Larlar to keep the chapter president, Fr. Miguel Ángel Hernández well informed of the developments and discussion within the chapter hall.

Fray Lauro is stationed in another room distant from the chapter hall. This is to minimize disruptions and distractions for both the participants and the translator. Fray Lauro though, sees and hears everything in the chapter hall to keep the Prior General in the loop.



LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- General Curia
- Province of Sto. Tomás de Villanueva
- Recoletos de Provincialate
- Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
- Augustinian Recollect Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation
- Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters
- Bishop Ryan Jimenez, DD - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa
- Bishop Julito Cortez, DD - Bishop of Dumaguete
- Province of San Nicolas de Tolentino