



A MISSIONARY'S PERSPECTIVE. Fray Russell Lapidez (right) shares his experience and views about the Order's missionary presence in Indonesia.

Information and discussion phase continues

The morning session started with the reading of messages and greetings to Prior General and the capitulars. After the greetings, Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, Jr., moderator of the morning sessions, gave the floor to Fray Dionisio Selma who introduced the next reporters.

Recalling the projects and activities of the Secretariat of Vocations and Youth, Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia shed light on the current situation of the Recollect Augustinian Youth in the Philippines.

The National Vocation Director (NVD) and Head of the Section for Vocation Ministry, Fray Allan Jacinto, graphically presented how the NVD and the local vocation promoters work hand in hand to plan and implement the modality of vocation campaign for Recollect religious and priestly life.

After the morning break, the Section for Ministerial and Mission Apostolates presented their accomplishment reports. Fray Edgar Tubio, Head of the said section, gave an update on the possible mission and mission-like territories offered to the Recoletos by local ordinaries. The missionaries, present in the chapter, also shared their experiences in the mission. Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo talked about their life in Sierra Leone, Africa; Fray Corvin Maturan discussed the situations of the missionaries in Taiwan; Fray Russell
cont. p.2.



VOCATION AND EDUCATION. Fray Allan Jacinto (top) and Fray William Emilito Villafior (bottom) report the state of vocation recruitment and educational apostolate of the province, respectively.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Recoletos de Pangasinan
- Religious of the Good Shepherd
- OAR Vicariate of Mexico
- Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity-Cebu Chapter
- Recollect Augustinian Youth-National
- Bro. Jayzl Nebre, SAR

Kumusta ka

Kumusta ka? Fr. Joephil or Fr. Tray, few of the names he is fondly called, greets the capitulars at the start of his homily. Such greeting, he continues, has been too familiar yet often superficial and cosmetic especially during the campaign rallies in the recent national elections. However, *kumusta ka*—when uttered by a friend or a former formand about one’s life situation, conditions of health and vocation, whether one is bored or burnt-out—can be intriguing yet introspective, probing but discerning, astute and still insightful. *Kumusta ka* becomes a question about life and love.



The preacher connects this evening-experience dialogue with the gospel reading. Echoing the verses of the Gospel, he says, our joy can only be complete and true if we have immersed ourselves in the very joy that Jesus has shared with us. Interpreting the same text, Fr. Tray, identifies the key to unlock this true joy—it is no other than to remain in Jesus’s love as He has kept the commandment of God. The commandment of God is Jesus’s life, Jesus’s love, and Jesus’s joy. What Jesus therefore, teaches, preaches, and shares is no other than his very own life, love and joy—His experience of love with the Father.

Fr. Joephil, a formator for the greater part of his religious life, sees the same model in our formation life cycle. He shares a mirror-image-identity model in which one develops according to the significant other who accompanies, believes, and convinces who really one is. We, in the context of on-going formation, need to recognize the

words of the Father to Jesus as equally addressed to us, “you are my son, my beloved.” Jesus heard this affirmation in his baptism and transfiguration—two important beginnings in his life—at the inception of his public ministry and at the early stage of his passion death and resurrection. Likewise, we need to hear the assurances of the Father’s love continually and perpetually to remain constantly in God’s love through thick and thin, in good and in bad, for better or for worse—always in God and Jesus’ love and joy.

Fr. Tray, ends his homily with the response to that evening *kumusta-ka* question. Because of this love, life in the seminary has never been boring, there are no dull moments, everyday is a new day. In fact, he concludes, it is psychologically and spiritually rewarding for formators like him, to see his once-upon-a-time formands now forming part of the administration of the province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

Information and discussion... (from page 1)

Lapidez spoke on behalf of the brothers in Indonesia. Fray Selma explained the conditions of the Recollect missionaries assigned in Rota, located in the western Pacific Ocean.

In the afternoon, Fray René Paglinawan navigated the day’s third session.

Fray William Emilto Villaflor, President of the Recollect Educational

Apostolate in the Philippines (REAP), enlighten the capitulars on the Section for Educational Apostolate. The school president-capitulars—Fray Henry Santiago of San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila; Fray Rafael Pecson of San Sebastian College-Recoletos de Cavite; Fray Christopher Maspara of University of San Jose-Recoletos; and Fray Anthony Morillo Director of Colegio San

Nicolas de Tolentino-Recoletos—shared the situations of the OAR schools in the Philippines as rejoinders to the report of the REAP President. Interventions and clarifications were raised after the reports. Others gave additional information.

The afternoon session ends with a prayer elevating to God their works of the day and asking Him help to persevere in the mission entrusted to them.