



PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO

Chapter Chronicle

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COMMITTEES AT WORK. Fray Miguel Angel Hernandez (far right) speaks to the members of the Committee on Governance and Economy as the second phase of the chapter begins.

Chapter's Commission Phase begins

The Provincial Chapter moves on to the commission phase—the time when capitulars are organized into smaller commissions to design determinations aligned with the vision, mission, and objectives of the 56th General Chapter of the Order and of the 8th Provincial Chapter of St. Ezekiel Moreno. The proposals, when approved, become ordinances of the chapter for the years ahead.

In the morning session, when the capitulars gathered, the opening prayer lead by the moderator, Fray Rene Paglinawan, was said, and the messages to the chapter were read, the President of the Chapter, Fray Miguel Ángel Hernández, asked the body if there were other themes, topics, and concerns needing further deliberations. Fray Bernard Amparado, expressing his appreciation of the development of the chapter, made some clarifications on lay

collaboration as response to the call to synodality. Fray Ian Anthony Espartero updated the body on developments of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF). After a series of inquiries and discussions, they proceeded to the presentation of the Province's Priority Objective.

Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, presenting the proposal of the previous administration, pointed to the key themes: walking

together, synodality, accompaniment, commitment, hope, and OAR identity. After some considerations, the President of the Chapter signaled the body to proceed to their assigned commission groups to study, deliberate, and craft alternative proposals of the priority objective of the province.

Fray Enril Almayo, the chapter secretary, announced the assigned venues of the different commissions.



PLANNING FOR THE PROVINCE'S FUTURE. (L-R) The Commission on Educational and Social Apostolate and the Commission on Vocation and Youth meet to craft the determinations appropriate for their committee.

Tatak Rekoleta: Our Response

The Eucharistic celebration commences with the entrance song, “Wake up my People” an upbeat tune that awakens everyone to face the second phase of the provincial chapter—the crafting of determinations and ordinances to set the direction, goals and objectives of the province for the up-coming triennium or quadrennium. The same song also invites singers to respond to those who suffer, to participate and initiate changes where needed, and to open every door, or have welcoming disposition, for others. In the end, to be awakened, as the song goes, means to reply to the Lord’s invitation, “to love my people evermore.”

The main celebrant of the Monday morning Eucharist deepened and gave a *recoleta* flavor to the song’s perspective. Fray René Paglinawan reflecting on the word “hour”, an important vocabulary in the gospel of John, observes that such word carries a sense of temptation, opportunity, and time for making crucial decisions; and the word “day” has the nuance of rejoicing, delight, and celebration. In the concrete living experience, the movement from minutes to hours and to days is perfected in a progressive fidelity to every opportunity, event, and moment in the daily life of a religious.

Crucial before this hour or day, is an attitude, behavior, or conduct one assumes in responding to these moments and opportunities. As Augustinian Recollects,

we need to respond to these moments in the spirit of *tatak recoleta*. For Fray René, *tatak recoleta* is manifest in working *in solidum*, as a team, and as a community—characters manifest in our history, charism, and tradition. This *tatak recoleta* is counter culture to projects lacking of the community involvement or endeavors pursued personally even against the direction of the community. It is also corrective of the “*kamo-na-bahala-ana*” attitude, a mindset that avoids to go into details or to examine extensively project proposals for possible long-term negative consequences. For the homiliest, *Tatak recoleta* needs to penetrate and flow into our community activities like planning, evaluation, and decision making. It is not enough that this become a slogan or be seen printed in t-shirts or tarpaulins.

Tatak recoleta is to permeate the very life, mind and heart of every recollect religious.

An additional aspect of *tatak recoleta* for this triennium or quadrennium is accompaniment, the preacher adds. This could take the forms of fraternal correction, timely reminders or stops and pauses so we may be able to review midway what has been done. It also implies that we be the third advocate—to Jesus and the Holy Spirit—to testify to our *tatak recoleta*, to our community life, and to each other.

At the end of his homily Fr. Rene, congratulated the new Prior Provincial, Fray Bernard Amparado, both as man of the hour and one to man the hour of the recoletos life in the next triennium or quadrennium.



TATAK REKOLETO. (clockwise from top right) Fray Rene Paglinawan presides the day's Holy Mass and delivers the homily. Participants sing while instrumentalist do their thing.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Province of Our Lady of Candelaria
- Recoletos de Cavite
- Recoletos de Talisay
- Recoletos de Laray
- Recoletos de Bacolod
- Team CEAR Querétaro, Mexico
- Fray Jose Julio Charon, OAR