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SSS Generalate
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A gathering of the Eymardian Family in Vietnam

For the first time, on Saturday, February 11th, 2017, a coming together of the SSS scholastic brothers and Servant sisters of the Eymardian Family was held at the House of Studies of the Holy Vietnamese Martyrs Province in Mong Trieu, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Together with Rev. Fr. Martin Tine, the head of Formation Commission of the SSS, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Vu Quoc Binh, the member of the SSS General Council, all members of the two Scholasticates – Formators, Fathers, Sisters and Brothers – took part in this significant exchange of Eucharistic faith and SSS vocation.

First of all, Rev. Fr. Joseph Pham Dinh Ai, the Director of the scholastic brothers opened the meeting with the words of warm welcome and greetings to all the participants so as to make known its meaning. And then two special speakers: Fr. Martin Tine and Fr. Paul Vu Chi Hy, the spiritual Director of the scholastic brothers, were invited to share their thoughts and experiences of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and SSS vocation.



In his talk, Fr. Martin touched on the close relationship between the Fathers, Brothers and the Servant Sisters in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and his Eucharistic charism, St. Peter Julian Eymard founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, a religious Community of pontifical right composed of priests, deacons and brothers. And with the great spiritual support of Sister Marguerite Guillot, he also founded the Servant Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The ideal of the SSS Brothers and Servant Sisters is therefore to live the mystery of the Eucharist fully and to make known its meaning.



Moreover, from the beginning of their foundations, Father Eymard himself wished a common Chapel for both of the Congregations to adore and celebrate the Eucharist together. But his dream did not come true because of various factors and disadvantages at his times. And yet, Father Eymard's spirit and vision of the communion among the members of the SSS Brothers and Servant Sisters as one family was strongly kept and nurtured in his heart and then somehow transferred to all future religious generations of the Congregation. Especially, according to Fr. Martin, the two branches of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament had been founded by the same Founder, received the same Eucharistic charism, and inherited the same Eymardian spirituality.

For those reasons, the SSS Brothers and Servant Sisters need to have a close cooperation in sharing Eucharistic faith and studying on the Founder's life and spirituality, as well as celebrating the Eucharist together and serving in Eucharistic mission in order to realize St. Eymard's dreams. Besides, Fr. Martin also mentioned other members of the Eymardian Family: the Servitium Christi and the Eucharistic Aggregation.

In his presentation Fr. Paul Vu Chi Hy shared with the scholastic Brothers and Servant Sisters his own experience of "Eucharistic Vocation" with the following points as a faith journey from "the vocation of being human to the vocation of being Christian, and then from the Vocation to the consecrated life to the Eucharistic Vocation". Fr. Paul also made questions for thinking and reflection, namely "Is the Eucharistic vocation the greatest blessing that holds, sums up and converges all vocations: being human, Christian and religious life?" He honestly believed that it is true because the Eucharist is "source and summit of the life and mission of the whole Church".



As an introduction to the topic of "Eucharistic Vocation", he presented shortly and concisely the essential meaning of the different Vocations in the Christian context. Starting from the universal meaning of the Vocation as God's gift offered to everyone, each one is urged to receive it as a gift and then offer it to others unconditionally and freely. It is because all of these actions - receiving and sharing - are manifestations of one's self-offering love; and because the meaning of a gift consists in offering. One's Vocation, therefore, only has its true meanings when it is called a "grace", i.e. when it is received gracefully as a seed, cultivated in hope, sprouted in good conditions, and then yields so much fruits that make the receiver become the giver who can offer others generously and continuously what he has been offered. This is really the essential meaning of "the Eucharistic Vocation" which leads us to a "Giftedness Culture", i.e. the gift-offering one for the world. It is also a "respectful offering-receiving culture" without throwing away.

According to Fr. Paul, whoever always has, more or less, something to share/offer to others. One can share/offer concrete and visible things such as his/her

food, clothe and water, or/and invisible ones as his/her education, care, love, hope, joyful face, warm confidence, charity and mercy or/and spiritual ones as deliverance and Good News of Salvation or/and even oneself. However, he added, one's offering must be hidden even to oneself as if "when you give alms, your left hand must not know your right is doing" (Mt 6,3), i.e. giving without a reward, in order to collect it for "Eschatological treasure" and send to the Banquet of the Kingdom of God. Such a way of life is really the way to live "the Eucharistic Vocation" in imitation of Jesus' exemplary of self-offering love. The Eucharistic Vocation leads us to an extensive horizon of the source of grace where we are offered and then received great gifts with our deep gratitude and thanksgiving in accordance with the Eucharist as Thanksgiving Sacrifice.

After listening two speeches, everyone took part together in the Eucharistic Celebration. And then they shared in a buffet supper in agape and friendship.

This meaningful exchange brought lots of spiritual joys and encouragements to all members of the two Congregations in general, and of the two Scholasticates in particular; so that, as members of the Eymardian Eucharistic Family, they would come gradually to a close relationship by faith for our Lord's glory.



St. Jude Parish's handover to the SSS

On Sunday, May 7, 2017, the Bishop of the Diocese of Laoag, Most Rev. Renato Mayugba, DD, formally handover the administrative and pastoral care of the Parish of Saint Jude to the Sacramentinos, Province of Our Lady of the Assumption. On the same day, the bishop installed Fr. Mark Honesto del Rosario as its first SSS parish priest and welcomed his companions to this newest POLA Mission Station: Fr. Eduardo Paglinawan, Jr. and Br. Noman Anwar Nasser. The whole ceremony was held in the presence of the people of God of St. Jude Parish especially the members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Also present were some of the SSS religious especially the Provincial and some members of his Council.

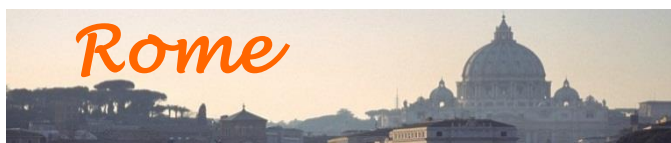
The occasion was supposed to be simply a handover and the installation of parish priest, but then immediately became full of challenges when the bishop spoke of his very concrete vision for the Parish,

i.e., to become a Shrine of the Most Holy Eucharist in the Diocese, especially as being required by Pope Benedict XVI, who ordained him to the Episcopate. There is also his very particular plan for the parish to be the center for Eucharistic evangelization in the diocese, especially for the youth and the liturgical ministers. In fact, the newly arrived team is now rushing to prepare a diocesan activity for the celebration of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ next month.



Let us continue to pray for our brothers and concretely help them in their preparation for the Corpus Christi celebration this coming June 18.

PROVINCIAL UPDATE N.43



“... You, Father Patrick D’Rozario”

“... I can’t any more address you as ‘Eminence’... rather, I want to call you ‘Father’ and, also, allow me to use the familiar form ‘You, Father’, hoping that from today, Father Patrick D’Rozario, you regard us as a your adopted sons. Thus, Father, I want to give you, symbolically, the keys of the doors of this church and those of the tabernacle: signs of what is most precious to us – the church and the Eucharist.”

These words of cordial simplicity of Fr. Maurizio Zorzi sss, the parish priest of the church of the Canadian Martyrs, reflected the fraternal and joyous climate that from 12 to 15 May 2017 characterised the presence of Patrick Cardinal D’Rozario csc, the archbishop of Dhaka (Bangladesh). They even summed up the liturgical and ecclesial significance of his taking possession of the cardinalate title, which Pope Francis assigned to him on last 19 November 2016. The event coincided with the feast of the principal patron of the parish, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, 161 years from the foundation of the Congregation of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament and in the presence of Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins sss, the Superior General. And as if these were not sufficient reasons for joy in the community, on 13 May 2017, which is also the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, it was the birthday of the youngest member of our community, Father Alex Moreira sss!



Underlining these happy coincidences, Father Patrick repeated many times the fact that he feels at home in our religious community and in the parish of which he is now the shepherd. In addition he reiterated his deep gratitude to the Holy Father, who has shown careful attention to the Bengalese people, among whom the percentage of Christians, although very incisive in the social fabric, amounts to only 0.3% in the fourth largest Muslim nation of the world. And recalling the gift that Jesus makes of himself in every Eucharist, Father Patrick confided that he has often told his compatriots of other religious: “I love you,” seeing in each one the face and body of Christ. Thus, this very small Christian community lives deeply as *light and salt of the Bengalese soil*, by means of the witness of evangelical life and generous charity in the areas of education, healthcare and promotion of human welfare.

Many other challenges are faced together – such as that ecological threat caused by flooding and mentioned in the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*, or other challenges from outside the peaceful local culture, like the phenomenon of terrorism. Rather than weakening intercultural and interreligious coexistence, these challenges have opened up the pathways of dialogue

and a communal endeavour among religious leaders with the help of the Bengalese political authorities. In short, the days spent with Father Patrick D’Rozario in our midst were beautiful and intense, starting a journey together that is promising.

Then, there is the time for “thanksgiving” that springs from the heart, since clearly nothing, absolutely nothing comes from us, but everything is given to us. This entails recognizing, despite our limitations, imperfections and even sins, that God’s faithfulness never fails us. It is He who all along our journey has drawn near to us, come to meet us, sustained our steps in difficult crossings, raised and set us upright when we were cast down by doubt or weariness... His love enables us, to live faithfully and to renew our ‘yes’ day after day for our part, each one whoever and wherever and with what he is as loved as he is by Him. Giving thanks thus enables us to listen confidently to Jesus’ words to his disciples: “Go! Have confidence! I am with you unto the end.”



Father
Antoine
Ndong

Thanks to you, dear Father-Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario csc, for your great simplicity has left a memorable mark on the calendar of this pastoral year!

FATHER YVES-MAX SAGNA, SSS

For years a religious endeavours to offer the Lord and his brothers his availability, his faith, his patience, his prayer, but what’s essential is that the Lord is giving all this. What’s most important about being living stones is what is received and what is passed on. And the life is the Risen Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for being alive and enlivening us. “Brothers, draw near to the Lord Jesus,” said St Peter. This is what was realized by Fathers Gregory Dog, Bernard Noel Tine and Antoine Ndong 25 years ago on 8 September 1992.



Silver Jubilee 25 years of religious life

To celebrate a jubilee is a time of grace to stop and take time to focus on the paths we have travelled in order to recall all those who have helped us to grow, loved us, accompanied us for a time, shared their faith in living and certainly their faith in God. And for us who have been baptized and believe in God, all called from various ways of living to be Christ’s disciples, this means taking time to recognize the traces of Jesus Christ’s steps alongside us, whatever landscapes we may have traversed.

Father
Bernard
Noel
Tine





Father
Grégoire
Dog

Our hearts indeed rejoice as we are united with them on this day when they celebrate their Silver Jubilee: 25 year of life consecrated to God!

With them we give thanks to the Lord for this jubilee and for his work of love in them! On that day, now 25 years ago, they dared to give their commitment and the Lord bound himself radically to them in their "yes." By their consecrated life they bore witness to the possibility of finding one's happiness in God Alone, to love in the joy of serving and sharing. We are in a communion of thanksgiving with them and we thank the Lord for choosing them. We ask the Lord to stir up in them, each day more deeply, the desire for his divine Presence. May He grant them all the graces they need to continue the journey they began in the service of the Kingdom of God 25 years ago!

Congratulations for your jubilee, dear Fathers!

NOVITIATE *THE CENACLE* – KOUDIADIÈNE
SPECIAL EDITION, SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017



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35th General Chapter 2017

Choose the language between **French**, **English** and **Spanish**, and then go to the **celebration** folder where you will find the day-to-day proceedings of the Chapter. In the folder **photos**, the material is divided also by weeks and days.



Attention

We inform you that the website:

www.sssinternational.net

is not available at the moment, because of technical work in progress. We will notify you as soon as the site will be open to the public again.



N. 1514 - Brother Francisco ALVES BARBOSA

Province: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Community: Caratinga, Brazil
Death: 12 April 2017
Age: 84
Profession: 33

The death of a brother will be celebrated as a Paschal event filled with hope. We shall faithfully carry out the prescribed prayers for our deceased (RL 13).

N. 1515 - Brother Claude, Georges FRANCOEUR

Province: Saint John the Baptist
Community: Québec, Canada
Death: 2 June 2017
Age: 91
Profession: 72