

2022 National Elections and Synodality:

Manila Priory Stands for Truth and Good Governance

By Sr. Edna Quiambao, OSB

In response to the call of the Catholic Church for Christians to engage in “principled partisan politics” to support candidates who work for the common welfare and empowerment of people, the Manila Priory issued an unprecedented declaration for the 2022 National and Local Elections in support of good governance and ethical leadership. The Statement made public on February 21, Feast of the Chair of Peter, was the fruit of intensive communal consultation, prayerful discernment, and careful assessment of each candidate. This political act echoes the words of Pope Francis: *“A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself so that those who govern can govern.”*

M. Mary Thomas Prado, OSB, Prioress, said in her post, “On the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, we release our stand as one Priory in the Benedictine pursuit for peace, justice, and integrity in government and our country. We ask the intercession of St. Peter, the successor of Christ as head of our Church, to bless us with true servant-leaders.”

For a Synodal Church

On Oct. 10, 2021, Pope Francis formally opened a two-year process called “a synod on synodality,” officially known as “Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church.” The process involves an expansion of an established institution, called the “Synod of Bishops.” To implement this, bishops all over the world will consult with everyone - from parishioners to monks and nuns, and even Catholic universities - before coming together for a discussion in 2023. Through this process, the Holy Father invites all people to be a synodal Church. Consecrated persons are already living synodality.



Page 3 please →



STATEMENT ON THE 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

The **Missionary Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila** are one with the Filipino people in working to build a caring, transparent, honorable, truthful, proactive and peaceful society.

To this end, we endorse candidates

- whose vision for our country is clear and focused and based on concrete platforms for the common good;
- who have track records of honesty and integrity in office;
- who model to us responsible citizenry, adherence to truth, women empowerment and transformative leadership;
- whose life is marked by goodness of character in keeping with right moral standards;
- who respect human rights and sincerely serve the poor and disenfranchised;
- who observe Gospel values and who will walk us out of the darkness of our times into God's wonderful light.

We therefore declare our full support and cooperation to

MA. LEONOR "LENI" ROBREDO for President
FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN for Vice-President
and the

Senatorial candidates in their slates who live out the same values and traits.

We will work for the triumph of good governance against corruption, lies, deception and abuses of power. Under the mantle of Mary who crushes the serpent's head and all its demonic forces, we offer our unceasing prayers, fasting and other sacrifices for a sovereign and better Philippines. We shall continue our utmost vigilance even after the elections to ensure that promises for good governance are kept, and that the principles of justice, accountability and transparency are strictly followed.

M. Mary Thomas Prado, OSB
Mother Mary Thomas Prado OSB
Prioress

Sr. M. Rosalina Fajardo, OSB
Sr. Rosalina Fajardo, OSB
Sub-prioress

M. Irene Dabalus, OSB
Mother Irene Dabalus, OSB
Priory Councilor

Sr. M. Christine Pinto, OSB
Sr. Christine Pinto, OSB
Priory Councilor

Sr. Agnella Capili, OSB
Sr. Agnella Capili, OSB
Priory Councilor

N.B. The Statement was also signed by all Local Superiors Respective Communities and the Implementing Arms and Lay Mission Partners.

Manila Priory Stands for Truth... From page 1

As a Priory, we have discerned together the state of our nation, the plight of our people, and our government, as we journey with them through our different apostolates. Each community - whether this be in schools, hospitals, with the indigenous peoples, those in the socio-pastoral and retreat centers, in birthing clinics, with the urban poor and those in the peripheries of society - was asked to look deeply into the kind of leadership needed to help the country move forward and uplift the lives of the Filipino people. The national and local elections on May 9, 2022, could be the most important event in the country's history given the overwhelming challenges of the past 6 years of incompetence and abuse of power in government, the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the onslaught of numerous natural calamities.

Pope Francis reminds good Catholics that they should not be indifferent to politics, but instead should offer suggestions, as well as prayers that their leaders may serve the common good. At the final stretch of the election campaign, we lift our prayer through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mother, the protection and safeguarding of ballots. May the Holy Spirit enlighten the minds of the Filipino people to choose the best leaders for our country.



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM THE MISSIONARY BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ST. SCHOLASTICA'S PRIORY, MANILA 22 FEBRUARY 2022

“The Missionary Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila are one with the Filipino people in working to build a caring, transparent, honorable, truthful, proactive and peaceful society...

We therefore declare our full support and cooperation to Ma. Leonor 'Leni' Robredo for President, Francis 'Kiko' Pangilinan for Vice-President and the Senatorial candidates in their slates who live out the same values and traits.

10 ROBREDO PRESIDENT

VP Leni Robredo · Follow
Feb 22

Taos-pusong pasasalamat sa Missionary Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila sa kanilang pahayag ng suporta para sa kandidatura ng team #LeniKiko2022! Dagdag lakas ang inyong titala't pakikiisa para isulong ang isang Pilipinas na may gobyernong tapat para #AngatBuhayLahat.

Basahin ang buong pahayag dito:
<https://www.facebook.com/F4LandK2022/posts/133262742529149>

10K 218 comments · 733 shares

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Screenshot from the official Facebook page of VP Leni Robredo

SPECIAL FEATURE

Election 2022 Campaign Activities

Caravans

Sisters & Formandees Join Batangas Caravan by Postulant Ma. Carmela Malinao

St. Scholastica's Formation House Community joined the Leni-Kiko caravan held in Batangas last January 30, 2022. Various groups coming from 15 Local Government Units of the province of Batangas and neighboring towns were instructed to park their vehicles (beautifully decorated with witty or soulful election slogans) at their designated areas along the highway and waited to join the other caravans in going to Faith Colleges in Tanauan for the Eucharistic celebration and gathering of supporters. Sisters from the Priory House and staff from the SPA and Procurator's Office also joined the event.



Next page please →



While at their designated area in the stationary caravan, Sisters from the Priory House seized the opportunity to distribute campaign collaterals to passersby, motorists, and tricycle, jeepney & truck drivers.

Mural Painting



February 5 & 12 - Caysasay Development Center, Taal Batangas with the Benedictines for Peace Youth; **February 12** - Millar House along P. Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila. Collaterals were also distributed to motorists and passersby; **February 19** - Tuluyan San Benito Center, Malate, Manila with women, men and youth volunteers

Voters' Education

St. Peter's College holds Voter's Education By Sr. Leticia Saraza OSB



St. Peter's College in coordination with the St. Benedict Socio- Pastoral Center hosted a face-to-face Voters' Education session for college scholars on February 26, 2022. The facilitators were alumni headed by Mr. Jun Ocampo and are active members of various religious organizations in Ormoc City. The forum began with brief explanations on two encyclical letters, Rerum Novarum and Populorum Progressio. The small group discussions that followed helped to enlighten the youth. Hopefully, the insights would guide them to vote wisely and choose responsible leaders who espouse gospel values.

Formation of Women Volunteers



Women volunteers from areas under the Socio-Pastoral Apostolate were given formation and training to prepare them for house to house campaigns.

House to House and Person to Person Campaigns



Peoples' Rallies and Mobilizations

VP Leni's visit to SSA, Ta-bunok, Cebu



Ormoc City, Leyte

San Fernando, Pampanga



EDSA People Power Anniversary



People's Rally, Tacloban City, Leyte



Solidarity with Las Pinas Youth Volunteers



People's Rally, Legazpi City, Albay

PRIORY RESPONSE AMIDST PANDEMIC

By Sr. Theodora Bilocura, OSB



Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic compounded by the surge of Delta and Omicron variants, the Priory's Socio-Pastoral Center headed by Sr. Theodora Bilocura has assisted approximately 250 vulnerable resident families living in a cemetery in Pasay City (Cementina) outlived their misery. In solidarity with their struggles and sufferings, the Center prepared a holistic program for the community of street families in Cementina.

First, in lieu of face-to-face feeding for 50-70 school children from May until December 2021, two hundred and fifty (250) packed hot meals and/or ready-to-eat meal were distributed either individually or per family every feeding day. In addition, ten(10) breast-feeding mothers and seventeen (17)senior citizens were provided with vitamins, milk, and other food supplements. Based on the study, 60% of the regular feeding participants gained weight and height after the feeding project.

Second, instead of in-person lectures in the community, health education sessions were conducted using multi-mass media, namely: leaflets and flyers were given, whereas posters were placed on walls about health and safety measures to protect themselves against the virus as they go about their life and work in the community. Online video clips on health and nutrition guidelines were also shared per family via mobile phones. Hygiene and sanitation kits were also provided. The

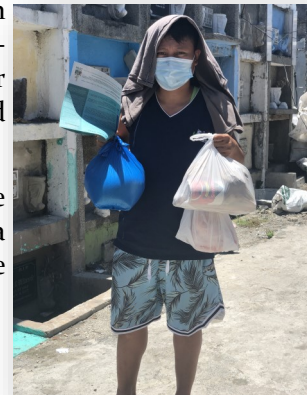
Tuluyan shelter facility served an alternative venue for community-based activities of women and children in compliance with COVID-19 health protocols.

Third, the fifty (50)sponsored students in K-12 basic education were given financial assistance for their blended learning modality so that each student could access to internet connections for the online classes during the pandemic. Each student received Php 50 per week for internet load allowance. In addition, the students' academic performance and progress were monitored by the center. Moreover, in collaboration with the School of Music of St. Scholastica's College, the musically gifted students were taught how to play the violin.

Fourth, small loan grants ranging from Php 3,000 – Php 10,000 were lent to women and families to support their livelihood projects for daily subsistence amidst the pandemic due to lockdowns, closure of businesses and loss of jobs. Fifteen (15) women recipients were successful in their various livelihood projects, namely: sari-sari (convenience store, sewing, cooked food vending, street food and sweets (scramble ice cream) vending, among others. Some families have been able to pay their loans.

The open lines communications (online) between the program staff and clientele throughout the implementation of the projects and activities brought success and fruition to our endeavors. We admired their community spirit, cooperation, and perseverance despite all the trials and difficulties they encountered throughout the raging stormy pandemic.

Lastly, we thank all our benefactors and mission partners for the donations, effort and time expended for giving the dwellers of Cementina a decent way of life amid trials and pains. That in all things, God may be glorified.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Sisters and Formandees join Caravan for a Cause

By Sr. Angela Bingan, OSB & Sr. Stella Martinez, OSB

On March 8, 2022, the Priory House, Manila, Marikina, Westgrove and the Formation House Communities and Lay-Mission partners participated in the International Women's Day Celebration Caravan in Laguna with the slogan **#BreaktheBias Believe in Women's Leadership, Let Leni Lead**. This political event was a concerted effort of St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila and the Laguna for Leni Robredo group. The caravan of 27 vehicles which started from Manila converged in San Pedro, Laguna and moved to the towns of Biñan, Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao, and ended at Don Bosco College in Canlubang, Calamba City where a short program was held to conclude the celebration.

The Don Bosco Fathers and seminarians warmly welcomed and served simple snacks to all the participants. Senatorial bets for this year's May elections - Congressman Teodoro "Teddy" Baguilat Jr. and the representatives of Atty. Sonny Matula and Senator Leila de Lima came and shared their perspective on women empowerment. Majority of those who joined the caravan were youth and millennials who were rooting for good governance and moral integrity in leadership for a brighter future the our nation. Mother Mary John Mananzan, OSB read to the assembly the Statement on the 2022 National and Local Elections of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of the Manila Priory in support of candidates who uphold the values of the Gos-

Far right: Sr. Theodora Bilocura, OSB, lead convenor of the caravan onstage with senatorial bet Congressman Teddy Baguilat; **Right:** A jeep adorned with a tarpaulins ready for the caravan along Leon Guinto Street in Manila.



Young Professed attend Seminar on Human Sexuality & Mid-life Transition

By Sr. Marialuz Dungca, OSB

The grace of God overflows in our honesty and humility.

Sr. Carmelita, OSB

I again claim the conviction that God's love for me has no beginning and no end. So magnanimous and unimaginable! Being now in the second half of my life, my desire and my prayer is to glide peacefully into the paradoxes of our journey.

Sr. M. Emmanuel, OSB

We need to transmit LOVE, so that others may absorb the love we hope for and live harmoniously.

Sr. Joyanne, OSB

Our ten (10) Young Perpetually Professed Sisters (YPS) participated in a three-day seminar on Human Sexuality and Mid-life Transition held last March 28-30, 2022 at the St. Scholastica's Formation House Tagaytay City. This renewal program was sponsored by the On-Going formation (OGF) coordinated by Sr. Edna Quiamabao. Sr. Immaculada "Emma" Paloma ICMand Sr. Angelica "Jelli" Cruz, ICM, both members of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Currently, they conduct spiritual directions to various groups of religious and priests in their House of Prayer in Baguio City. →



Young Professed... From page 7

... A creative revisiting and appreciation of my womanhood as spark from the cosmic dance.

Sr. Judith, OSB

We are all searching for a relationship, only in varied ways; there is a thing such as cosmic orgasm, where we reach ecstasy without limiting ourselves to mere sexual activity but in the ordinary ways where we feel we are loved by our God, where we are reminded by the magnitude of energy/power at work in us.

Sr. M. Nicole, OSB

Passion is energy. Let us use it to proclaim God's love.

Sr. Mary Peter, OSB

"We support one another, no matter what, to have a beautiful life and community."

Sr. Zita, OSB

"Life is a journey with God. God is Love. Love is life's journey."

Sr. Marialuz, OSB



The participants who had been professed from 5-10 years came from the different communities, namely: Sr. Christine Pinto OSB and Sr. Mary Nicole Garcia OSB from the Manila; Sr. M. Emmanuel Espera, OSB and Sr. Mary Peter Mackay, OSB from the Priory House; Sr. Zita Jamisola, OSB from Baguio, Sr. Judith Diaz, OSB from Legaspi, Sr. M. Carmelita Lazaro, OSB from Marikina, Sr. Marialuz Dungca, OSB, from the Formation House, Sr. Joyanne Morales, OSB, from Marihatag and Sr. Matthea Husmillo, OSB from Ormoc. Sr. Edna Quiambao, OSB, the OGF Coordinator, joined and attended all the sessions to journey with them throughout the seminar.

The in-person seminar was a nostalgic throwback time "digging deep" within the participants' life's history and religious journey embodied inhuman relationships and mid-life transition. Some of the touching delicate topics were discussed namely: "My Sexual Life", "Journey of Transformation toward Holiness, and "Sexuality & Religious Life". This renewal gave us opportune moment to broaden one's perspective and vocabulary about life as one progressively discovers its truths and realities.

Solidarity Mission 2022: Tandag Diocese Reaches out to Typhoon Victims

By Sr. Odilia Bulayungan, OSB

In the aftermath of super typhoon Odette, the Diocese of Tandag organized its second wave of integrated missions called DUYOG-AMBIT (in solidarity with the people) for survivors in the parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Dinagat Island, one among many places badly affected. On January 4 to 7, 2022, the Most Rev. Bishop Raul Dael, D.D., together with 27 religious sisters, 46 priests, 8 seminarians, 19 medical front-liners and 35 lay carpenters and workers, bravely traversed the island despite the risks entailed. In preparation for the mission, all these volunteers underwent psycho-social intervention or debriefing prior to departure.

Upon arrival at the island, the group saw the devastation: unroofed churches, big commercial buildings, and houses; wrecked fishing boats; felled huge trees and electric poles scattered like match sticks on the ground, and dismal living conditions. And yet, the residents showed their community spirit and resilience as they put up temporary makeshift shelters to protect their families from the unpredictable weather conditions.



Next page please →

Solidarity Mission... From page 8

Daily Eucharistic celebrations and the opportunity for the sacrament of penance brought joyful hope and peace to the people as the group interacted and ministered to their physical, psychological, and economic needs after the traumatic experience of loss and suffering. The sisters from 4 different congregations, priests and seminarians conducted debriefing workshops, parlor games, artwork activities for children and youth which allowed them to express their fears and sufferings. In addition, the clergy and sisters listened intently to adults who narrated their painful experiences during the typhoon and how they managed to flee to safer grounds. The nurses and doctors attended to the sick and elderly. The visit ended with distribution of relief goods and clothes and a shared simple meal among the people.

The “Duyog-Ambit” mission was a collective way of being with our suffering people. Thank you #DUYOG-AMBIT mission, lay volunteers, organizers, and benefactors. Indeed, being a participant of #DYUOG-AMBIT Mission was a gift and a task to be shared. It was a unique experience of solidarity.



Left: Unroofed parish church of Sts. Peter and Paul; **Right:** Going home tired but happy - Sr. Odilia, OSB with Sr. Pem, LGC.

Medical Mission to the Periphery

By Sr. Edita Eslop, OSB

On March 12 -13, 2022, the long-awaited surgical mission in Pambujan finally saw its fruition. The idea came about in May 2021 when a group of doctor-consultants of St. Scholastica’s Hospital, Pambujan based in Tacloban, planned to unwind and take a long drive to Samar for leisure and recreation for a cause. The plan was deferred due to the surge of cases of the COVID-19 Delta and Omicron variants.

Samar, a typhoon-prone province, is one of the poorest islands of the country. Many people who need medical treatment are not able to get help because of financial difficulties.

When the situation normalized, the doctors, in coordination with St. Scholastica’s Hospital (SSH) decided to push through with the medical mission. All the medical practioners were accommodated at Clear Water Beach resort at their own expense, while the hospital provided the meals for the duration of the event.



Members of the medical mission team performing surgery at the emergency room.

Next page please →

Medical Mission ... From page 9

The medical mission team was composed of doctors, operating room nurses and staff from Divine Word Hospital (DWH) and an anesthesiologist from Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC). All the doctors offered their services for free.

With this out-reach activity, St. Scholastica's Hospital, Pambujan hopes to attract and gain more clients/patients from other municipalities in Northern Samar.

Organizers of the medical mission are grateful to the administrators, doctors, and front-liners of Divine Word Hospital - Tacloban for their generosity in offering free medical services. Likewise, they are also grateful to the community health workers who did the home visits and groundwork.



Members of the medical mission team pose for posterity with the Sisters' Community of St. Scholastica's Hospital, Pambujan.

Webinar for Returning Missionaries

By Sr. Mary Ignatius Aquino, OSB



On January 21 (PM) - 23, 2022, seven (7) returning missionaries since 2019, namely: Sr. Rosalina Fajardo, OSB (Rome); Sr. Angeline Arceo, OSB (Namibia); Sr. Cecille Ido, OSB (India); Sr. Ma. Agnes Cerina, OSB (Bulgaria); Sr. Leticia Saraza, OSB (Bulgaria); Sr. Sarah Gocela, OSB (Namibia); and Sr. Mary Ignatius Aquino, OSB (Germany) participated in the online process retreat. The On-Going Formation coordinator, Sr. Edna Quiambao OSB invited three resource speakers for the online seminar namely: Fr. Antonio M. Pernia, SVD, M. Irene Dabalus, OSB and Sr. Leticia Garcia, DC.

Fr. Pernia, SVD shared his reflections on “Interculturality” and “Intercultural Living.” He explored the concept of interculturality in our globalized world and then moved on to intercultural living. According to him, communities of religious congregations nowadays are multicultural in the sense that there co-exist several or various cultures in their communities. This phenomenon arose not only in congregations or communities but in the Church as well. Before it was mono-cultural because there was only one culture, “the European culture” which shaped its understanding and pastoral practices. As Fr. Pernia opined, with the opening of the Second Vatican Council there emerged a “world Church” where all voices were heard representing all races, nations, colors, cultures, and traditions. It is the experience or encounter of “the culturally other,” to seek the other face of God, which summon us to newness of life. This simply means to accept that the other person is different from myself, yet we are both loved by God as His children knowing that God has many faces which I encounter in others.

The second topic discussed by Fr. Pernia was the call to discover the dignity of difference in intercultural living. The crucial question for intercultural living is our attitude toward cultural diversity and our response to cultural differences and how one deals with the other who is culturally different from us. He mentioned two basic responses or reactions to diversity or difference: first, EXCLUSION based on the attitude of “ethnocentrism,” where one sees one’s own culture as central to reality. The second is INCLUSION, the attitude of ‘*ethnorelativism*’ where one becomes increasingly ‘*ethno relative*’

Next page please →

Webinar ... From page 10

in one's point of view of being respectful and 'culturally sensitive' of others.

Our second speaker, M. Irene Dabalus OSB led us to a remarkably interesting missionary journey entitled, " Momentum in Mission." When one is willing to live one's faith in Christ and is ready to journey with Him all the way then one's mission begins. She shared with us the lynchpin of mission in the life of St. Paul- the nucleus, the hub of the mission in the life of St. Paul - his sparkling faith in Christ" as evidenced in the three missionary journeys of St. Paul.

M. Irene challenged us by saying, "only when as a member of a congregation makes a conscious choice to own its vision and mission, will she do whatever it takes to maintain that momentum in her life and ministry." She said, for St. Paul it was "his sparkling faith in God" that love in the person of Jesus Christ which made him bear all trials, travails, difficulties, hardships, etc. as he proclaimed the good news in his missionary journeys. This is the lynchpin of his transformation in Christ. This must also be our lynchpin. Yet this momentum could have a reversal.

Looking at ourselves as Missionary Benedictine Sisters, we need to look deeply into our living out of the evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience, chastity and conversatio morum as we grow daily in our missionary Benedictine life, wherever we are sent either in one's home priory or abroad. On the other hand, reversals in mission may come into one's life. It is here that the Sister must discover the triggers in the momentum of living out her life as a religious, as a Missionary Benedictine Sister. Reversals in mission take the form of personal issues such as **inordinate attachments, hang-ups, addictions or compulsions** and **sensualities** which could pull us away from experiencing growth and fruitfulness in living out God's mission as a consecrated person.

Sr. Leticia Garcia, DC was the third speaker. She talked about the Mystique of Living Together. She struck us with her simple and clear explanation on the Science of the Heart." The HEART tells the BRAIN what to THINK but the BRAIN CANNOT TELL the HEART what to FEEL. The HEART might be the REAL BRAIN of our ENERGY ORGAN. She narrated several examples of an EGO-CENTERED and SPIRIT-LED community life. Most of her stories were about conflicts in community which are rooted in egocentricity. The presence of even one positive and spirit-led Sister can reverse the situation and create a spirit of peace and harmony in community. In sum, what we need is FAITH that WARMS THE HEART, one that SEEKS TO EXPERIENCE THE GOD OF MYSTERY, NOT ONLY TO UNDERSTAND THE MYSTERY OF GOD. As Pope Francis in his Encyclical letter, Evangelii Gaudium says, "communities need a mystagogical renewal which attend to the "way of beauty". "Every expression of true beauty can thus be recognized as a path leading to an encounter with the Lord Jesus." EG 167. This means a renewed esteem for beauty as a means of touching the human heart and enabling the truth and goodness of the Risen Christ to radiate within us.

ON-GOING FORMATION

Online Seminar on Candle-making and Designing

By Ngoc Tan Lam (Postulant Belle)

On Saturday, February 26, 2022, the On-going Formation (OGF) organized a webinar on Candle-making and Designing. Sr. Angela Bingan, OSB demonstrated how to make candles, while Sr. Florence Lañas, OSB of the Benedictine Sisters of the Eucharistic King showed the participants how to embellish them. Sisters from the different communities, formandeas, lay mission partners, and friends participated. The online seminar also demonstrated how to recycle used candles or wax drippings and turn them into attractive and colorful candles.

The participants joyfully engaged in the practicum, using recycled soda cans as molders and presented with excitement their finished products through the small screen of their laptop.



Next page please →

Online Seminar ... From page 11

Candles, which represents the light of Christ, have a special meaning in the life of a religious, . They are companions in prayer, both communal and personal. While demonstrating the process of candle making, Sr. Angela narrated that when she was an aspirant, she found ways to recycle all the used candles in the chapel to make a big candle for Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca OSB, her Formator, who loved to have a candle lit in her room. Her story inspired the participants, specially the formandees, how a simple candle-making activity can be a channel of love as the light of Christ is shared to others.



Sr. Edna Quiambao, OSB is the coordinator of the OGF. The participants are grateful to her and to the OGF team for this meaningful and engaging webinar.

OBLATES NEWS

Online Rite of Oblation

By Sr. Pia Lansang, OSB



Three groups of aspiring Oblates of St. Benedict of the Manila Priory capped their 2021 year-long activities with an online joint Rite of Oblation on December 8, 2021, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Mother Mary Thomas Prado, OSB, Prioress, officially received a total of thirteen (13) candidates as full-fledged Benedictine Oblates of our priory. These new Oblates are directly affiliated with our communities of Manila and Marikina, or associated with our social center, the Caysasay Development Center in Taal, Batangas.

Two others from the Marikina community were also received as Oblate Novices and will continue with their further formation, while the bigger bulk of members made their annual renewal of Oblation. Moderators of the groups are Sr. Pia Lansang, OSB and Sr. Carmelita Lazaro, OSB assisted by Sr. Edna Quiambao, OSB and Sr. Rosalind Tanhueco, OSB.

The Rite of Oblation was a spiritual event which took place in the context of an Advent Recollection given by Fr. Anselm Manalastas, OSB of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Mendiola Manila. The Manila Priory joyfully welcomes the new addition to our Benedictine Oblates who are a part of our Benedictine monastic family. As such they share in our prayer-and-work while remaining in their chosen state of life in the secular world.

FORMATION NEWS

FH Community Holds Lenten Community Pantries

By Novice Anna Margaretha Fondavilla

The Formation House Community conducted three community pantries during the month of March 2022, as part of its communal Lenten practices. Savings from the community's fasting practices were channeled to these pantries, together with the funding from the BREAD Foundation. Donations from Bong Salazar (Sr. Mary Vincent, OSB's sibling), and Novice Kathleen De Guzman's family, were used to buy basic food necessities which were given to poor families.



Some of the staff members also participated in the pantries, which were held back-to-back in the morning and afternoon of March 22, 2022, and another one in the morning of March 31, 2022. Beneficiaries were families from Amadeo, and Barangay Lalaan I, Lalaan II, and Munting Bukal in Silang, Cavite. They received rice, vegetables, cooking oil, and other food items.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. SCHOLASTICA: A Reason to CELEBRATE!

By Aspirant Joan Bartolome

The Formation House Community celebrated a solemn mass, presided by Fr. Rudy Carabuena, from St. John Mary Vianney Galilee Development and Retreat Center, Tagaytay City, in honor of our patron saint, St. Scholastica on February 10, 2022. The altar was turned into a "Garden of Eden" because it was filled with flowers which added to the prayerful and festive celebration.

To cap the celebration, the formandees showcased their talents during the evening program with the theme, "Lights... Camera... Action". Each formandee portrayed the virtues of St. Scholastica mentioned in her litany.

As Pope Francis says, "*It is love that transforms: ordinary things become extraordinary when done with love.*" For us, the solemnity of St. Scholastica gave us reasons to joyfully love and serve God in community through prayer and work and celebrate God's bountiful blessings amidst the turmoil of our present situation.

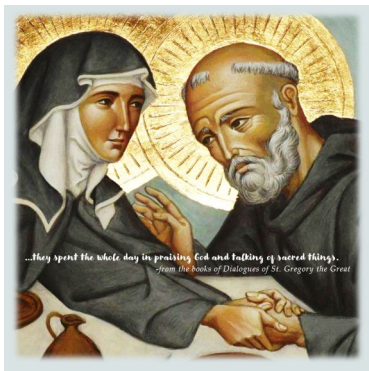


VOCATION PROMOTION NEWS

LIFE DIRECTION SESSION (LDS)

By Sr. Carmelita Lazaro OSB

On February 25, 2022, Friday, the 36th anniversary of the ED-SA Revolution, twenty-five (25) ladies attended the online Life Direction Session (LDS) together with some Benedictine sisters from different communities. The theme of the session was entitled **Holy Conversation**.



Next page please →

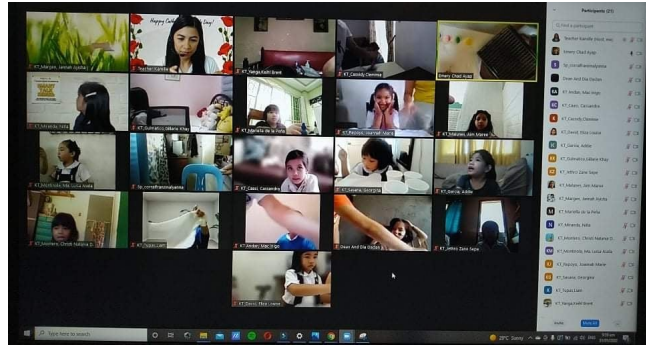
Through a short, recorded video, Sr. Aquinata Boekman OSB with beauty and simplicity pointed out the utter power of St. Scholastica who “loved much, did more” she was also granted by God with the proverbial rain that led to the “holy conversation” between the twin saints in Plumberio-la, their annual meeting place. Sr. Aquinata later stressed that God is love and it is not surprising that Scholastica could do more, as she loved more.

After the input, the attendees were divided into breakout rooms where they had ample time for “holy conversation” among themselves. After each group’s sharing, all returned to the main room and shared thier take away reflection with God. Sr. Daniela Romero provided a synthesis of the insights shared by all the participants. Midday prayer closed the session.

NEWS FROM STATIONS

ST. SCHOLASTICA’S ACADEMY BACOLOD COMMUNITY

January 31, 2022. St. Scholastica’s Academy, Bacolod celebrated Catholic Teachers’ Day with the theme “Our Teachers, Our Heroes”. The Parent – Teachers Association led by Ms. Rochelle Pereira surprised the faculty with gift certificates. To give the teachers a respite, some volunteer parents gladly took over the online classes of the graders for the day.



February 10, 2022. The Sisters and the school community celebrated the Feast of St. Scholastica with a Holy Mass presided over by Bishop Patricio Buzon, SDB, DD, Bishop of Bacolod. It was held in the school chapel and streamed live via the school’s Facebook page for the parents and students, teachers, and non-teaching personnel.

March 12, 2022. The Health and Sanitation Committee of the Parents-Teachers’ Association headed by Ms. Marie Jo Asto organized the last of a three-series vaccinations for Scholasticans at Robinson’s Bacolod.

This was done in partnership with the local government health unit. Two earlier vaccinations were held on November 5 and 24, 2021 at the same venue.



CAYSASAY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC) TAAL, BATANGAS

Faith-life Reflection with San Luis Group

Sr. Rosalind Tanhueco, OSB met with the San Luis Group for a Faith-life reflection and sharing on February 10, 2022. Among the topics reflected upon were the type of advocacy work the group will undertake in preparation for the national elections in May 2022. They also discussed a food security project where members may avail of a loan without interest to augment the family income as the pandemic continues.



To augment their family's income as the pandemic continues, the Benedictines for Peace (B4P) Women's group from Baranggay Pansol, Taal and nearby baranggays organized a community-managed disaster response program where they could loan seed money to finance an income generating project of their own choosing. The loan is payable for 10 months by monthly installment basis. The following pictures are testament to the success of their respective projects.



Income Generating Projects

Hog-raising; Tutorials; Goat-raising; Vinegar making; Neighborhood store (Sari-sari store)

ST. AGNES ACADEMY (SAA) LEGAZPI COMMUNITY

Senator Risa Hontiveros graced SAA with her presence last February 10 to give a talk to faculty, non-teaching personnel, alumni and student council officers. In her own words, *“Bilang isang Benedictine child, I’m happy to visit St. Agnes Academy in Legazpi during the feast of St. Scholastica. All the things I learned in St. Scho are still very present in my heart and in my mind until now. And I’m glad to finally come home to the Benedictine school here in Legazpi, dito sa St. Agnes.”*



Now on its 3rd year, the **One Billion Rising 2022** campaign was held on **February 14** at the campus grounds. This year's theme *“Rise for the Bodies of all Women, Girls and the Earth,”* is a call to create a deeper, more purposeful, empowering, and hopeful future where women and girls and the earth flourish in a joyful symbiosis. The dance which the Sisters joined with other representatives of the various sectors of the school community was uploaded to the school's web page.

Next page please →

The Diocesan Social Action Center of Legaspi spearheaded the **PENITENTIAL WALK FOR TRUTH: Election 2022** last **March 19**. The well attended event started with a Mass presided by Bishop Joel Z. Baylon, DD, together with vicarial priests and parish delegations.



The SAA gymnasium was the venue for the Holy Eucharist followed by the Penitential Walk to the seaside Embarkadero for the closing liturgy and program.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY ANGELES COMMUNITY

A Walk Down Memory Lane

By Sr. Mary Frances Dizon OSB

On February 20, 2022, our community went to visit a few of the pilgrim churches in Pampanga with the intention of praying for peaceful, orderly, and honest elections this coming May. We first visited San Guillermo Parish Church in Bacolor, Pampanga which was buried in lahar more than half of its original height during the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo in 1992. Adjacent to the parish church was our former St. Mary's Academy which had the same fate. To date, the place has been converted into a museum that narrates the historic event of Mt. Pinatubo eruption.



Our second stop was at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Cabetican, Bacolor. Here we saw all the different statues of the Blessed Mother with all her different titles and apparitions. At the shrine, we got oil, rosaries, and *stampitas* for free. We also lighted candles while praying for our intentions.



Our third stop was at the St. James the Apostle Parish Church in Betis, Pampanga. The ceiling of the Church replicates that of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. Here, we met Fr. Raul de los Santos, a friend of many of our sisters.

At the end of the day we returned home filled with pleasant memories of the past as we walked through the remnants of natural disaster in Pampanga 3 decades ago. According to the prophet Isaiah "God can bring beauty out of ashes."



Counterclockwise from top:
Praying in what used to be the Sisters' Clausura chapel at San Guillermo; Interior of San Guillermo showing how low the ceiling has become; Statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Cabetican; Fr. Raul delos Santos welcoming the Sisters in Betis.

SSA San Fernando celebrates Employees' Day 2022

By Sr. Mary Ignatius Aquino OSB

"Because we love much, we serve much", is the theme for this year's Employees' Day held on the morning of February 10, 2022 at the Amrhein Hall.

Sr. Mary Ignatius Aquino, OSB, Human Resource Officer & High School Principal spearheaded the planning and implementation of the tasks of the different committees. Members of the committees were representatives from the faculty, staff, and maintenance personnel. Only the school administrators, service awardees, committee members, and members of the choir were present onsite while the rest of the school community joined the Eucharistic Celebration and the awarding ceremony via the school's Facebook page which was streamed live. There were 14 awardees who rendered 10, 15, 20, 30, and 35 years of dedicated love and service.



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A simple tribute was given to Mrs. Mary Anne Lacanlale, Grade School Nurse, for her 12 years of service. She joined our Creator two days before the occasion.

Each awardee received a plaque of recognition given by Sr. Lydia Villegas, OSB, a cash gift handed by Sr. Mary Ignatius Aquino, OSB and Sr. Alexis Lamarroza, OSB, and a bouquet of flowers from the President of the Faculty and Staff Association. A video presentation was also prepared in their honor. Mrs. Marilyn Yap (35 years of service) delivered the words of gratitude in behalf of the awardees. Recorded performances from several alumnae here and abroad made the event something to remember.



Welcome back

Sr. Marianne Shilengifa, OSB from Windhoek Priory arrived in Manila on March 5, 2022 for her mission assignment to Manila Priory. She is assigned to Tagaytay Community. Sr. Marianne is no stranger to the Philippines. She was in Manila in 2015 for exposure to the Priory's liturgy. She also took organ lessons at the College of Music, St. Scholastica's Manila.



THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED.

MANILA PRIORY BULLETIN TEAM

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