

BRAINSTORMING Capitulars meet by group (technically termed "commission") in order to discuss pertinent matters concerning the entire Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. Photo shows the members of the Commission on Vocation and Youth in a serious discussion.

# **Commission Phase Meetings Kick Off**

EBU CITY—Fray Julius Marcos situated the whole day activity with his reflection on healing during the holy mass. He narrated some stories of people including his mother who shared with him about the graces of healing that they received from God through the intercession of Saint Ezekiel Moreno.

As he developed his homily, Fray Marcos was able to tackle on the redemptive value of suffering as part and parcel of human life that Jesus Christ Himself embraced. He concluded his homily by saying that "we must be ready to accept suffering and pain especially in our religious life as our act of solidarity with the passion of Jesus and the plight of our suffering brothers and sisters." In conclusion, he posed three reminders to the delegates: "First, we have to deny ourselves and become self-sacrificing like Jesus. Second, we try our very best to carry our crosses everyday with joy. Third, we follow Jesus towards the cross with love."

#### The Proceedings of the Day

The morning sessions opened with a prayer at 8:30AM. The messages to the Chapter were read by Fray René Paglinawan. Discussions on yesterday's deliberations were continued. Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, chairman of the Commission on Communications-Recoletos, made his report making use of strategic management's 7S Framework:

namely, Shared Vision, Structure (General and Provincial), Systems, Strategy, Style, Staff, and Skills. Questions and clarifications were raised regarding the works of the Commission that received generous applause from the delegates.

Fray Rommel Rubia, the head of the Commission on History, Culture and Heritage-Recoletos, presented the compliance of the Commission in looking into the ordinances of the previous Chapter. He treated the completion of the Mausoleum project of the Province, the publication of the different OAR materials and books for devotion, the reintroduction of the devotion to Our Lady of Health, the Preparation of the Celebration of the 4th centenary of the arrival of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Philippines, the ongoing cataloguing of the archival materials, and the documentation of the belongings of the dead religious. He proposed that the members of the Commission during the succeeding quadrennium come up with a manual of

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### THE COMMISSIONS IN A NUTSHELL

### SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION

Fray Ian Anthony Espartero Fray Lauro Larlar Fray Bernabe Dosdos Fray Rommel Rubia Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia

### MINISTERIAL AND MISSION APOSTOLATE

Fray Edgar Tubio Fray Russell Lapidez Fray Corvin Maturan Fray Arnel Diaz Fray Enrico Peter Silab

#### **EDUCATION**

Fray Julius Marcos Fray Nemesio Tolentin Fray Cristopher Maspara Fray Charlito Orobia

### **VOCATION AND YOUTH**

Fray Don Besana
Fray Joseph Dexter
Palagtiosa
Fray Alden Alipin
Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda

### GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND COMMUNICATION

Fray Miguel Miró Miró Fray Dionisio Selma Fray René Paglinawan Fray Henry Santiago Fray Jose Emil Almayo

### **SOCIAL ACTION**

Fray Jaazeal Estelou Jakosalem Fray Leander Barrot Fray Edcel Celiz Fray Raymund Alcedo

#### JOY IN SUFFERING AND SACRIFICE

The gospel of this day was about Jesus' announcement of the great suffering that he was to endure and Jesus' invitation to his disciples to take up their crosses as well.

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SOURCE AND SUMMIT Fray Julius Marcos celebrates the Eucharist, the source and summit of Christian life.

## **Joy in Suffering and Sacrifice**

EBU CITY— Fray Julius Marcos, the outgoing Vicar of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, was the main celebrant and homilist on the third day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter. The gospel of this day was about Jesus' announcement of the great suffering that he was to endure and Jesus' invitation to his disciples to take up their crosses as well. His homily, then, revolved on Jesus' choice to suffer and related it with his own experience of suffering when his mother got sick of cancer.

He began his homily by saying that nobody wants to hear stressful news or wants to live a stressful life. This is probably the reason why the disciples, upon hearing that Jesus would suffer and if his disciples wished to follow him would also have to suffer, got upset. It was even more upsetting because at this time Jesus was performing so many great and wonderful things such as healing the sick, calming the storm, exorcising demons, etc. Added to that, Jesus never mentioned about this in the past.

Hence, Fray Marcos continued, it was

difficult for the disciples to understand why he had to suffer, be rejected and killed since he was a man who did so much good. He did not merit death nor suffering. He could have even stopped all the suffering from happening but he chose to suffer and die in the cross, in the most humiliating way. He allowed the sufferings to happen to him.

Jesus allowed the sufferings to happen to him because he knew that at the end of the painful road, the Heavenly Father is glorified and man is saved, reflected Fray Marcos. He added that Christ's joy rests in the glory of the Heavenly Father and the salvation of man. This self-sacrificing love of God was the reason why Jesus would wake up every morning and face the increasing sufferings he had to face each day.

Fray Marcos concluded his homily by telling the capitulars of the need to remind oneself of these three things: to deny oneself in order to be self-sacrificing like Jesus, to carry one's crosses with the joy of being with Jesus, and to follow Jesus in carrying the cross with love for him since he sacrificed so much out of his love for us.

### LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 7<sup>TH</sup> PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Worship Ministry-Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira Nila Homes, Quezon City
- Recoletos de Taiwan
- Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan
- Collegio Sant' Ildefonso, Via

- Sistina, Rome
- Fr. Francisco Javier Tello, OAR, Secretary General
- Province of Our Lady of Consolation
- Augustinian Recollect Contemplative Nuns, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- Saint Ezekiel Moreno Community, Madrid, Spain
- St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos, Antipolo City, Rizal
- Augustinian Recollect Sisters, Milpitas, California
- Colegio de Sta Rita, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental
- Congregation of Augustinian Recollect Sisters
- Immaculate Conception College, Balayan, Batangas
- St. Nicholas of Tolentino Parish, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- Most Rev. Reynaldo G.
   Evangelista, DD, Bishop of Imus





Fray Leander Barrot shares his ideas with the members of the Commission on Social Action.

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regulations and procedures as well as the Standard Operating Procedures during the passing away of a brother religious.

Fray Amado Emmanuel Bolilia gave an update on the San Sebastian Basilica Conservation, Foundation, Inc. He cited that the Diagnostic and Publication phase were already done. Due to be implemented next year would be the Design and Construction phase which would require adequate financial resources.

Fray Bernabe Dosdos updated the delegates on the Mausoleum project in Antipolo novitiate house. He revealed to the delegates that the approval of the City of Antipolo to issue the special use permit for the construction of the mausoleum is still on process.

Having completed the information phase, Fray Lauro Larlar distributed a copy of the Primary Goal of the 7th Provincial Chapter to all the delegates, which was submitted by the Provincial Council, for the consideration of the next phase of the Chapter: the Commission phase. The delegates took a break at 10:00AM.

After the break, Fray Dionisio Selma imparted to the delegates the proposed three elements of the Priority Goal for the quadrennium, namely, creators of communion (encounter), prophets in daily life (accompaniment), and men of hope (discernment). Suggestions and discussions on the three elements were deliberated at the session hall.

After the delegates organized themselves according to their commissions, they formulated the Primary Goals that would set the direction of the next four years. The Midday prayer was prayed at 11:45 AM and it was followed by lunch at the refectory.

The afternoon session started at 3:00 PM. The voting machines and buttons were tested before the messages and prayers for the Chapter were read. The Minutes of the February 14, 2018 were read, corrected, and approved.

The brainstorming regarding the Priority

Goal commenced subsequently. The different Commissions took turns to present the outcome of their group discussion during the morning session. Almost all groups presented varied adaptations and improvements of the proposed statement by the Provincial Council. A short break was called at 3:45 PM to give way for the Chapter Officials to discuss the mechanics of the voting process. The session resumed at 4:00 PM. It was deliberated and voted upon by absolute majority that the Primary Goal of the next quadrennium is: "Placing all our trust in God's mercy, we, the Augustinian Recollects of the Province of Saint Ezekiel Moreno, desire to be creators of communion and witnesses of the Gospel values through our consecrated life and service to humanity."

The sessions ended at 5:00 PM. The delegates rested for two hours to do their group exercises before the praying of the Vespers and Complines at 7:00 PM. Dinner was served at 7:30 PM.

- Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova
- Most Rev. Antonio Tobias, DD, Bishop of Novaliches
- Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, DD, Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan
- Most Rev. Julito Cortez, DD, Bishop of Dumaguete
- Most Rev. Francisco de Leon, DD, Province of Saint Augustine Bishop of Antipolo
- Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, DD, Bishop of Cubao
- Province of Saint Nicholas of **Tolentine**
- Most Rev. Ryan Jimenez, DD, Bishop of Chalan Kanoa
- Province of Saint Joseph
- Province of Saint Rita of Cascia
- University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu City
- Our Lady of Consolation Parish Pastoral Council
- Province of Our Lady of

- Candelaria
- San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila
- SARF-Mira Nila Chapter
- Fr. Jose Julio Chacón. OAR and the community of Chiclayo, Peru
- Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena