

PRESENT VOTE, PROVINCE'S FUTURE Capitulars cast their votes whether to accept a proposal or not. The decisions of the 7th Provincial Chapter shall be implemented for the next four years.

## **Decision Phase Commences**

EBU CITY—As the 7<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter progressed, the delegates continued to reflect on the message of Lent to guide them in their Chapter deliberations.

In his homily, Fray Leander Barrot highlighted the importance of listening and repentance in the life of every Christian. He cited personalities in the Scriptures who were icons of listening and renewal. He mentioned that listening led to the assimilation of the message of God that eventually transformed the life of the listeners towards discipleship. Fray Barrot cautioned the delegates to be very careful to what they listened to so that this would result to metanoia rather than the separation of believers from God.

The regular procedures of the day like reading of the messages and giving of reminders were observed. The discussion of the minutes of the previous sessions was decided to be deliberated in the evening to give way to the studying of the final draft of the different Commissions for presentation to the assembly.

In the afternoon, the sessions resumed at 2:45 P.M. The messages coming from different persons and religious communities were read. Successively, the presentation and the casting of votes of the proposals were made. Before the afternoon break, the delegates completed the scrutiny and voting of the proposals suggested by the Commissions on Vocation and Youth, Social Apostolate, Ministerial and Mission Apostolate and Spirituality and Formation. The two remaining Commissions, Educational Apostolate, and Governance, Finance and Communications, presented their proposals for voting in the evening.

After a very strenuous day, the evening session was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

## Listening and Repentance



Fray Leander Barrot delivering his homily. Story in page 2.



## **Listening and Repentance**

**EBU CITY**—Fray Leander Barrot, OAR, Vice-Prior of the Recoletos Formation Center and one of the three who composed the terna for Provincial, was the main celebrant and homilist of the Eucharistic celebration on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2018.

He focused his homily on the gospel which had a very eschatological theme. He mentioned that the gospel underscores two characteristics, namely: listening and repentance. These two characteristics teach man how to live in the present so that when judgement day comes it would simply be like a walk in the park.

He said that these two characteristics in the gospel are counter signs. In the gospel, the first theme, listening, is presented in the person of the queen of the south who listened to Solomon and her act of listening was presented as counter sign to the people of Israel who were supposed to be expert listeners. The second theme, repentance, is presented in the people of Nineveh who after listening to Jonah, repented. This act of repenting was also a counter sign to the people who were considered masters in repentance.

These two characteristics, exhorted Fray Barrot, are step ladders because one needs to listen in order to repent and that there is no other way to repentance except through listening. Fray Barrot reflected further by saying that listening, has as end in mind, which is the desire to become a disciple and to become the message and this is what leads to conversion.

He continued expounding the topic on conversion by mentioning the Greek word "metanoia" which, at its base, means beyond (meta) what man is thinking (nous-mind). Metanoia, therefore, simply means to look beyond the life of flesh and corruption that man has lived. He then connected this with the characteristic of listening because if man listens to the Word of God, to the wisdom of the Eucharist etc., these will lead man away from the life of sin, and will lead him towards conversion.

Fray Barrot concluded by challenging the listeners that if only man lives out these two characteristics in the present then there would be no reason for him to fear the final judgement. In fact, these two characteristics, lead man towards the becoming creators of communion.

