



## WELCOME, FR. LEOCIR!

The Camillians in the Philippines were blessed by the pastoral visitation of Very Rev. Fr. Leocir Pessini, Superior General of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm from Feb. 5–25, 2018. He was accompanied by Fr. Aristelo Miranda, General Consultor for Ministry. They went to the different communities, gracing some significant events, namely:

- Blessing of new central offices including the Camillian Philanthropic and Health Development Office (CPHDO) at St. Camillus Pastoral Care Center on Feb. 6;
- Sacerdotal Ordination and Thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Anthony Ongcal at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral and St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, respectively, in Calbayog City on Feb. 10;
- Celebration of the World Day of the Sick in Tinambacan, Calbayog on Feb. 11;

- Commissioning of the new set of officers of the Lay Camillian Family of Davao on Feb. 13
- Celebration of the 20th anniversary and unveiling of commemorative marker of St. Camillus Hospital in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental on Feb. 15; and the
- Investiture of the three novices, namely Ruel Fernandez, Paul Austin Echavez and Benjie Ibañez at St. Camillus Novitiate in Baguio City on Feb. 20.

The day before his departure, Fr. Leocir together with Frs. Jose Eloja, Gabriel Garcia and Aristelo made a courtesy call to His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, DD, Archbishop of Manila, at the Archbishop's Residence in Intramuros, Manila.

The pastoral visitation by Fr. Leocir was an occasion to renew fraternity, solidarity and friendship among the Philippine Camillian confreres as he also met with the Provincial Council and discussed their concerns and plans for the future.



Blessing of new central offices



Unveiling of the commemorative marker in Mati



Investiture of the 3 novices at St. Camillus Novitiate in Baguio



Ordination and Thanksgiving Mass of Rev. Fr. Anthony A. Ongcal, MI



Courtesy call to His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle



Our Province was blessed by two important occasions as we entered the Lenten season. First, our Superior General together with one of the General Consultors conducted a pastoral visitation to the different communities of our Province in the Philippines on February 5–25. Second, our brother Anthony Ongcal was ordained to the priesthood in his hometown on February 10 by Most Rev. Isabelo Abarquez, Bishop of Calbayog.

Canon 628, § 1 establishes that Superiors should visit the houses and the members of their Institute, according to their own laws. Our Constitution says, "The Superior General, during his mandate, has the obligation of carrying out the pastoral (canonical) visitation personally, or through the vicar general or the other general consultors..." (Const. 106).

Fr. Leocir Pessini, the Superior General, accompanied by Fr. Aristelo Miranda, General Consultor for Ministry, was welcomed by the religious in the eight communities visited. Fr. Leo's visit aimed primarily at animating us in all the aspects of our Camillian religious life. In addition, he said that as Superior General, he wished that his visits to the different communities provide guidance, direction, and protection among the religious. His brotherly concern for each one of us made our encounter with him to be inspirational, relaxed, light and fun. We are grateful that for the second time in three years, Fr. Leo came to visit the Philippines. Indeed, it was a fraternal, pastoral, and canonical visitation.

In the course of his visit to the different religious communities, he also met some officers and members of the Lay Camillian Family. For some light moments, he was able to visit some historical sites like Corregidor and the Manila Cathedral.

It was fortunate also that during the pastoral visitation, Rev. Anthony Ongcal was ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Leo had the chance to celebrate this moment of grace with the confreres and the local community of Calbayog. As a Brazilian, he said that there are some cultural similarities with the Latinos when we celebrate occasions like this and other fiestas.

There were other activities attended by Fr. Leo during his trip from north to south of the country. I would like to thank the Provincial Councilors and all the confreres together with the lay collaborators who prepared for all the activities and contributed to the success of this pastoral visitation. May the joys and blessings of this visit sustain us as we look forward to the celebration of the great feast of Easter!



# POSTCARDS FROM TAIWAN

NEWS FROM FR. GIUSEPPE DIDONE, MI



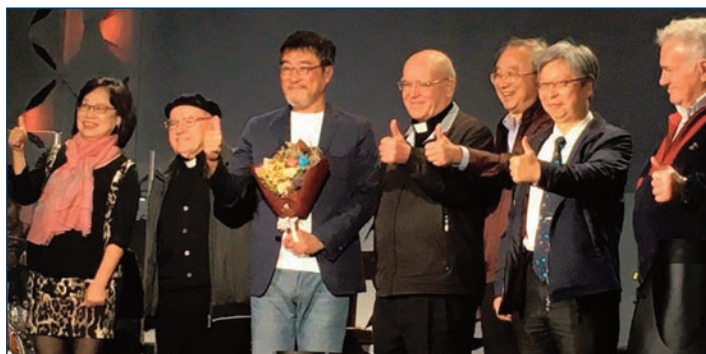
As a custom, days before the New Year employers invite their employees as gratitude for their service. On Feb. 2, 2018, the Camillians invited all 1,200 employees of St. Mary's Hospital to this customary event.

The Chinese New Year was celebrated on Feb. 16, 2018. There were Thanksgiving Masses in all the churches and the veneration of ancestors, following their tradition.

When the holidays for the New Year were over, there was a ceremony for welcoming back the workers with dragon and lion dances as symbol of prosperity as well as the distribution of red envelopes to everyone as symbol of joy.



On Feb. 8, 2018, the Lay Camillian Family of Lotung gathered together for lunch in preparation for the Chinese New Year.



On Feb. 24, 2018 there was a benefit concert and all the proceeds were given to St. Mary's Hospital.

## IDENTITY, SERVICE AND SECURITY: 3 Keys to Live out Priestly Life

Three heavy words but very important aspects in the life of a priest that Bishop Isabelo Abarquez, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Calbayog delivered during his homily on the day of the ordination of Fr. Anthony Ongcal, MI. I was moved to reflect on these three words as I am trying my best to live out these three important aspects of priestly life.

The word *Identity* struck me as the Bishop was telling Fr. Anthony these words, "You are now a representative of God. People should see God in you... You will now become an *Alter Christus* or another Christ." Whenever I attend an ordination to priesthood, I think about the feelings of the candidate to priesthood. I wonder what is in his mind during the whole rite of ordination especially when he becomes a priest after the rite of ordination.

Russell Shaw's article, "The Priest's Confused Identity," gives us a very clear understanding on the identity of a priest. He quoted St. Pope John Paul II saying that priests are configured to Christ. "The configuring enables them to act in *persona Christi* (in the person of Christ), which means acting with Jesus' salvific love and taking up His cross. In *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (I Will Give You Shepherds), the pope said, as he has done many times, that a priest's commitment to serve his people should be modeled on Christ, whose service to humanity reached fullest expression in 'his death on the Cross ...his total gift of self in humility and love.'"

Be modeled on Christ. I think this is a very important aspect in priestly life when the people see Christ and feel Christ to an ordained minister. The center of his life must be configured to the life of Jesus Christ. Every vocation to the priesthood is a grace and blessing from God. Every priest is encouraged to have intimate and personal relationship with Jesus. And as a future priest, I am more aware now of this priestly identity because this is my vocation and my goal.

Another aspect that the Bishop told Fr. Anthony is the importance of service. The Bishop told Fr. Anthony that "priesthood is never a position of power. It is always a ministry of service..." We have been saying that to follow God entails sacrifices and trials. In my semi-

nary formation, I am tested and I believe that it is not easy to follow Christ. I have to carry my own cross and follow him with courage and humility. I think this is the key to overcome these trials and that is to be open in God's loving providence with courage and humble heart. There is a saying that if you want to achieve your dreams you have to bear the consequences because it will help you to become strong and faithful in your commitment. It is a *sequela Christi* or following Christ's footsteps, striving to imitate Jesus as model of love and service.

Lastly, he stressed the importance of security in following the Lord in this kind of vocation. We, human beings, are always searching for security. We want to be always secure with our own wants and needs. We usually settle everything that would benefit us and will bring us to safety. We lean on to others' shoulders so as not to put ourselves in any danger. As future priest, I like the words of Bishop Isabelo saying to Fr. Anthony that God alone is enough. No need to look and search for security from others. God can grant everything we need. God can satisfy our thirst and hunger. What we need to do is to participate and persevere in his call with love and commitment.

These words from the Bishop helped me to ponder my own response to the call of Jesus in this holy vocation. I firmly believe that this is not just only applicable to Fr. Anthony's vocation of saying yes to God as a priest but also, it is an invitation especially to those who are responding to the call of priestly and religious life.

Now, the Catholic Church in the Philippines is celebrating the Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons with the theme "Renewed Servant—Leaders for the New Evangelization." They are pivotal for the promotion of integral evangelization in our own country. The goal is to become model servant-leaders configuring to the Good Shepherd, living with the missionary spirit by patterning to the Holy Spirit and being authentic prophets of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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# Sacerdotal Ordination and World Day of the Sick Sunday in Calbayog

Sch. Juegene R. Cafe, MI

The most-awaited day of the Calbayognons and all the Camillians had finally come last Feb. 10, 2018 at 9 o'clock in the morning. Deacon Anthony Ongcal was ordained to the priesthood by His Most Reverend Isabelo C. Abarquez, DD, at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Calbayog, Samar. The cathedral was filled with the family and relatives of Rev. Anthony, the lay people of Calbayog and friends from Luzon, seminarians from the Diocese of Calbayog, Calabrians and Camillians, consecrated persons like the Franciscans and Missionaries of Charity sisters, Camillian priests representing their respective communities, and the diocesan clergy. The ordination was also witnessed by the Camillian Superior General, Fr. Leocir Pessini, together with one of his consultors, Fr. Aristelo Miranda.

After the Eucharistic celebration and ordination at the cathedral, people flocked to Christ the King College covered court for the reception. The Calbayognons welcomed the visitors of Fr. Anthony from across the country and prepared a short program for all. They presented a short video on the life of Fr. Anthony and asked for messages from Frs. Leocir and Aristelo to the first Calbayognon Camillian priest. Towards the end of the reception, the Calbayognons rendered the people present with some songs they prepared.

On the same day at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Fr. Anthony had his Thanksgiving Mass in his parish at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Tinambacan District, Calbayog City. The church was again filled with the parishioners and the relatives of Fr. Anthony. The mass was concelebrated by the Camillian and Calabrian priests and the parish priest, Fr. Uy. The homily was given by the former Provincial Superior of the Camillian Province, Fr. Ivo Anselmi. Towards the end of the mass, Fr. Anthony, just like what he did in the Cathedral during the ordination, told all the people present that he was grateful for their presence, support and help in his ordination. After the Mass, another celebration was prepared at the basketball court of Tinambacan District. While having dinner, a group of singers serenaded the people with cultural songs. Fr. Rodel Enriquez, Provincial Vicar, Fr. James Roa, and the mother of Fr. Anthony gave their messages to all the people present.

The following day, February 11, St. Vincent Ferrer Parish of Tinambacan was filled again with people. This time for the celebration of the 26th World Day of the Sick.

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# INDONESIAN DELEGATION: Camillian Seminarians in Action

Fr. Luigi Galvani, MI

The activity of the Camillian seminarians in Maumere, island of Flores, is not only spent in the academic studies but is also integrated with different pastoral activities.

Every week, the 40 Philosophy students (postulants), the 9 novices and the 3 scholastics are committed in pastoral activities which reflect the spirit of St. Camillus and the charism of the Order.

On Sundays, the postulants together with the group of scholastics go to the government hospital in the city of Maumere to animate the Holy Mass and to visit the sick in the different units. They are welcomed not only by the Catholic patients, but also by those of other religions. They are like "little missionaries" of the Gospel and "true disciples" of the great love of St. Camillus for the sick.

strengthen their vocation and offer a better preparation for their future pastoral ministry.

Other novices, at the same time, go to visit the old and sick in some villages of the parish. They bring Holy Communion, pray with them and listen to their painful stories.



Bringing Holy Communion to the elderly

Some of these stories are really touching, like the one of Batra, a paralyzed man who has been lying on his bed for 34 years. Needless to say, he waits for them with great joy and he is grateful to them for the old newspapers that they bring to him that he can read during his long sleepless hours of day and night.



Spending precious time with Batra



Some novices do pastoral service three times a week to the old and sick SVD missionaries in the nursing home of Ledalero. They assist them in all their personal needs, but most significantly, they listen to their missionary stories and experiences. Loneliness, in fact, is an old sickness of human life and their listening could become the best medicine for the old missionaries. The service and encounter with them is certainly an opportunity that can

Other sad stories that they encountered are the ones of Ambrogio and Yohanes who for more than two years were lying on a bamboo bed with a foot blocked between two big pieces of wood. The visit of the good Camillian Samaritans was providential because, thanks to the generosity of some benefactors, it was possible to liberate them and build a special house for them with the basic facilities (toilet, bed, chair, etc.)





Seminarians giving Ambrogio a free haircut



Building good relations with the villagers

Our seminarians during summer vacation have had meaningful and interesting experience in mountainous villages. There they are hosted in different families with whom they live the moments and activities of the day, sharing their food and farming in the rice field and cultivating vegetables.

There, they also become builders of good relationships—with the children whom they teach catechism; with the young people by organizing formation and sports meetings; and with the old and the sick people by bringing the gospel's message.

This apostolate is really becoming a precious moment for them to practice what they have learned during

their academic studies and, at the same time, is helping them to deepen their human formation and vocational dream.

All these pastoral initiatives, done by our young Camillians, are also very much appreciated by the local Church who sees in the Camilian ministry an example to be imitated both by the clergy and the people of God.

The Camillian presence and mission in Flores, which was established only eight years ago, is certainly fulfilling the dream of St. Camillus who wish to multiply more arms, hands and hearts in reaching all the sick and suffering people of the world.

*(Identity, Service and Security... continued from page 4)*

As a Camillian religious I am so privileged because this year enables me to reflect and put more importance in my own consecration to God. It enables me to be more responsive and reenergize my own consecration to God. In this moment I can say that I am also challenged to live out the three important aspects that the Bishop shared during the ordination. I will continue to commit myself to this holy vocation and allow the Holy Spirit to mold and form me configured to Jesus.

I am very thankful to God to witness the ordination of our confrere Fr. Anthony because it gives me courage and joy that someday I will be ordained and committedly give myself to consecrated life. I am proud to have a new priest in the Church and it is a sign that the Church is still producing priests that would shepherd the people bringing to his Son Jesus Christ.

*(Sacerdotal Ordination... continued from page 5)*

Parishioners together with their sick family members and friends attended the mass presided over by the newly ordained Fr. Anthony. Fr. Leocir gave the homily to the people. The anointing of the sick, administered by the Camillian priests, was flocked by many faithful. Through the help of the Lay Camillian Family of Calbayog, the World Day of the Sick event with the people of Calbayog was realized. Before the end of the mass, Fr. Uy expressed his gratitude to the Camillians for organizing the big event in his parish. As a sign of gratitude also, the Superior General gave his own red cross to the parish priest at the reception.

It was a meaningful and grace-filled second weekend of February in Calbayog City, Samar to have the priestly ordination of Fr. Anthony and the celebration of the World Day of the Sick in his home parish.



# Camillian Philo Health Developme

## ADVO

*One of the strategic directions of the Secretariat of Finance is to ensure the implementation of bolder and coordinated strategies towards financial sustainability of the Philippines. With this direction the Provincial Council approved the establishment of CPHDO as one of the strategies.*



Heart in our Hands



# Anthropic and ent Office (CPHDO)

## CACIES



### COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

Camillian ministry includes Socio-Health Institutions (hospitals, polyclinics, nursing homes, chaplaincies) and community-based health care education and promotion programs. We provide surgical, medical and dental missions in geographically isolated and depressed areas, disaster-stricken communities. It is our mission to respect human dignity by providing holistic care of the human person through preventive, curative and palliative health care programs.



### PHYSICAL STRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT UPGRADING

In providing quality health care services in an ever demanding and competitive world of health it requires the improvement of the physical structures of our Socio-health institutions and acquisition of state-of-the-art machines and equipments. These are vital in making our institutions into more reliable and conducive place of healing and wellness.



### CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE: PERSONS & CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, ELDERLY, & PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

We give special attention to the vulnerable by providing programs of care and housing to persons and children with disabilities, elderly and PLHIV/AIDS. In partnership with their families and other organizations, we draft a continuum of care aimed at improving the quality of life. We advocate programs for awareness, prevention and care that have received recognitions and citations by different entities.



### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We value and recognize our employees as indispensable collaborators and our greatest assets in fulfilling our mission of serving the poor sick. We offer continuing education and training that would uplift their skills and competencies. This is support of personal and professional growth incarnating the same charism shared by St. Camillus of manifesting mercy and compassion to the poor sick by serving with more heart in their hands.



### PASTORAL CARE IN HEALTH

Camillian ministry responds to the totality of the sick (corporal, spiritual, emotional, psychological), attending to their families and their carers. It provides formation and accompaniment giving meaning to sickness and loss; providing hope and consolation through the sacraments and counseling.



### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We share in the dream of St. Camillus of "having a hundred arms" in order to serve more the sick. We provide scholarship program to students of poor families and formation to future Camillian priests and brothers. In this way, we guarantee the growth and continuation of our mission of serving the poor sick with heart in our hands.

# 26TH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

MAUMERE, FLORES, INDONESIA

Fr. Suparman Andi, MI



Joining the whole Church, the Camillians in Indonesia celebrated the 26th World Day of the Sick in the local government hospital of Maumere and in one of the parishes of the Diocese of Maumere—Flores.

The local government hospital of Maumere conducted a healing mass for the sick on Feb. 11, 2018. The mass was held in the chapel of the hospital, the St. Camillus de Lellis chapel. It was presided by Fr. Suparman Andi, the hospital chaplain and concelebrated by Fr. Luigi Galvani, Fr. Donato from the Stigmatine Fathers, Fr. Seraphim from the Somaskan Fathers. The mass was well attended by the health professionals, hospital directress and the management, as well as the vice mayor of the town, aside from patients and other faithful. There were many patients receiving the sacrament of anointing. In his remarks, the vice mayor expressed his gratitude on behalf of the local government to the Camillians for their spiri-

tual assistance to the patients and the staff of the hospital.

On the other hand, two days prior to the celebration, the Camillian seminarians and scholastics together with the formators conducted an immersion program in Watu Bala parish, located around 40 km from the town of Maumere. They were hosted in the houses of the parishioners. They gave catechism focusing on the theme of HIV/AIDS to increase their knowledge and awareness on the issue; they also visited, prayed, and consoled the sick parishioners in their homes. On Feb. 11, Fr. Alfons Oles, presided the healing mass for the sick in the parish church with the parish priest as the concelebrant. Many sick people received anointing during the mass. This immersion activity was well appreciated by the parishioners and the parish priest as well as by our seminarians and religious.





Together with the Universal Church, the Lay Camillian Family Pakistan celebrated the 26th World of the Sick by undertaking two main activities in two districts of Okara and Sahiwal.

1. Free medical mission in Chak 45, Okara District
2. House visitation of the sick in Chak 65, Sahiwal District

The LCF held free medical mission in a far-flung village (Chak 45/3R, Okara) where medical facilities are not so easily accessible to the community. The medical team of the LCF made available basic tests such as sugar test, Hepatitis B and C tests and other blood tests. They provided the necessary medical attention to those who were suffering in the cold weather.



Total number of patients checked and medicated was 55. Of those who were administered Hepatitis B and C tests, 15 patients were found to be positive.

Ten patients discovered that they have diabetes.

"The patients who discovered their sickness were shocked and became worried as to how to get the treatment. It was hard for them," said Ms. Asia Aslam. The LCF in the future will help facilitate the process in finding some sources to help.

The LCF adheres to the message of the Holy Father so they do not forget one of the most beautiful initiatives



of the Church, i.e., the charism bestowed to St. Camillus for more than 400 years ago.

In his message on the 26th World Day of the Sick 2018, His Holiness Pope Francis states that "the Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. This history of dedication must not be forgotten. The *memory of this long history of service to the sick* is cause for rejoicing on the part of the Christian community, and especially those presently engaged in this ministry."

The LCF in Pakistan continues in becoming one of the hundred hands of St. Camillus while practicing "the Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick" through visitation, serving the sick as a mother whose only child is sick. The group conducts prayer services in



the house of the sick. It is something very new for the people as they most often are unaware of the beautiful celebration of the World Day of the Sick. Fruits were distributed among the sick people on this special day through the generosity of Mr. Aslam.

Together with Pope Francis, the LCF in Pakistan prays, "May the Virgin Mary intercede ... [and] help the sick to

experience their suffering in communion with the Lord Jesus; and may she support all those who care for them."

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## DIOCESE OF MALOLOS

Fr. Rodolfo “Dan” Cancino, Jr., MI



**T**he relic of St. Camillus de Lellis, patron of the sick, nurses and doctors visited the Diocese of Malolos' World Day of the Sick celebration, increasing the devotion to St. Camillus as he continues to be a great intercessor and inspiration of hope and faith because his life is a life of hope and faith amidst suffering and pain.

The healing ministry and the health care ministry in particular is a living and concrete sharing of the gospel. Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power: "These signs will accompany those who believe... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (Mk 16:17–18). In the Acts of the Apostles, we read accounts of the healings worked by Peter (cf. Acts 3:4–8) and Paul (cf. Acts 14:8–11).

The Church's mission is a response to Jesus' gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord's own

gaze, full of tenderness and compassion. Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried out with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the largest healthcare institutions.

We cannot forget the tender love and perseverance of many families in caring for their chronically sick or severely disabled children, parents and relatives. The care given within families is an extraordinary witness of love for the human person; it needs to be fittingly acknowledged and supported by suitable policies. Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.

St. Camillus, pray for us.

## LUODONG, TAIWAN

Fr. Giovanni Rizzi, MI

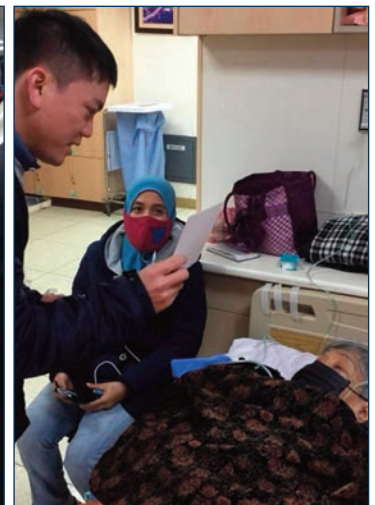
**F**r. Giovanni Rizzi with Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai held a prayer service in observance of the World Day of the Sick at St. Mary's Hospital. They prayed for the patients, their families, health care personnel and for the victims and survivors of the recent earthquake in Hualien and other disaster-stricken areas. Later Fr. Rizzi and other Camillian religious visited and prayed over the patients in the hospital.



Fr. Giovanni Rizzi



Fr. David Lee



Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE NEW RATIO

Fr. Angel Crisostomo, MI

The CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Seminaries organized the National Conference for the Promotion of the New Ratio Fundamental Institutionis Sacerdotalis (RFIS). It was held at the IEC Convention Center hosted by the Archdiocese of Cebu on Jan. 22–26, 2018. It was attended by 564 participants from 76 ecclesiastical territories. The 497 delegates were vocation directors, spiritual directors, seminary formators, and observers; while there were around 67 bishops. The MI-Phil Province Secretariat on Formation endorsed two of our formators, Fr. Ruben J. Mandin and Fr. Angel V. Crisostomo to attend the Conference.

The goals and objectives of the conference were as follows: 1) to familiarize ourselves with the content of the new Ratio and its implication on our approaches to formation; 2) to provide venue for exchange of best practices drawn from the wealth of experiences of seminary formators; and 3) to organize concurrent sessions that will generate ideas, materials and resources that will aid the Commission in the task of coming up with an updated Ratio Nationalis.

The major contents of the New Ratio were presented and given a commentary by different speakers in the following days. On the first day, Most Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Seminaries presided over the Opening Mass. Then, he gave a preliminary talk on the profile of formation in the Philippines and explained the programme. The keynote address was given by Most Rev. Jorge Carlos Patron Wong, D.D., Secretary for Seminaries of the Congregation for the Clergy in the Vatican.

On the second day, Most Rev. Pablo Virgilio David, D.D. explained the Initial Formation and Ongoing Formation. Most Rev. Patricio Buzon, SDB, D.D. discussed the Dimensions of Formation. Most Rev. Mylo Hubert Vergara, D.D. presented a background of the Updated Program for

Priestly Formation in the Philippines. A group workshop was done with a guide question, “How does the program of Ongoing Formation in your Diocese address the areas of concern in the different dimensions?” Then, Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, D.D. presided over the Eucharist.

On the third day, His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, D. D. discussed the Criteria and Norms of Priestly Formation. His Eminence Orlando B. Cardinal Quevedo, OMI, D. D. talked on the Ongoing Formation of the Clergy. After the talk, the delegates were grouped to discuss and to learn addressing the subcultures in their respective seminary and presbyterium. Arch. Wong presided over the Eucharist.

On the fourth day, a pep talk on the role of parents in the formation of seminarians was given by a couple from the Commission on Family and Life of the Archdiocese of Cebu namely, Bobby Canete, M.D. and Corazon Canete, M.D. Then, Rev. Fr. Augusto Jesus Angeles, former Exec. Sec. of CBCP Episcopal Commission on Seminaries, directed the participants on the drafting of their respective Formation Itinerary. Most Rev. William Antonio, D. D., CBCP Episcopal Commission on Vocations, presided over the Eucharist.

On the last day, Bp. Alminaza gave a Synthesis towards an updated Ratio Nationalis. Some of the points mentioned were the formation of formators, importance of formation itinerary, renewal of the seminary as the renewal of presbyterium, priestly fraternity as integral to Ongoing Formation, discernment, vocation synthesis as a response to the need for transition to assist the seminarian in the life and ministry of a priest, propaedeutic stage as supposed to be non-academic stage and a full year of just knowing Jesus, and the other things to consider for the drafting of the Ratio Nationalis. Most Rev. Romulo Valles, D. D. presided over the Eucharist where the New Ratio Nationalis Board of Drafters was commissioned. The conference ended after lunch.



Fr. Ruben with the Formators in the Discipleship Stage



Fr. Angel with the Formators assigned in the Configuration Stage

In spite of a cold and rainy weather forecast in Taiwan on Jan. 8, 2018, we left NAIA-2 with great anticipation, ready to face the Luodong winter as we looked forward to meeting the Camillian missionaries in Taiwan, whom we only read in news items.

As the plane began its descent approaching the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, the wind was so strong we felt the plane being pushed to the left and to the right as we and the rest of the passengers were strapped to our seats shaking convulsively. It was raining as the plane was landing and skidded on the slippery runway until it went to a full stop. After two hours, we heaved a sigh of relief because we arrived in Taiwan safe and sound at 10pm! After the long queue at the Immigration for Non-Citizens, we went out of the airport and spotted Fr. Jose Eloja, who had been waiting for us for two hours already. And yes, the night wind was cold and chilly.

We traveled by land for another hour and a half passing through the Hsueshan Tunnel, the longest tunnel in Taiwan. Ultimately at 1:30am we reached our final destination: Luodong. We stayed at the Camillian House, which is inside the compound of St. Mary's Hospital.

## A brief history

One has to trace back the Camillian Mission in China to appreciate more how the Camillian mission in Taiwan particularly in Luodong came about.

After all foreign religious were expelled from Communist China in February 1952, the early Camillian missionaries went to Hong Kong. Then "six religious, four sisters and Dr. [John] Janez were sent to Taiwan," while four religious went to Thailand.

Then Archbishop of Taipei, Msgr. Joseph Kuo, allocated to the Camillians part of Luodong, Tungshan, Sanhsing, Tatung and Wuchieh of Yilan County as their mission areas on two conditions: "evangelize the zone according to their charism and at the same time take pastoral care of the zone, aboriginal area included."

On June 15, 1952 the Camillians rented a clinic named "Po-Ai" where on July 17, Dr. Janez, a surgeon from Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, performed his first surgery. Months later, they bought the small clinic and renamed it St. Mary's Hospital. In 1955, they were able to add more wards totaling to 100 beds.

It was not an easy task for the Camillians but St. Mary's Hospital slowly transformed and expanded over the years to what it is today, a 700-bed capacity medical complex that caters to the medical care as well as pastoral care of the people of Luodong and neighboring areas.

## The Delegation

Fr. Giuseppe Didone is presently the Delegation Superior of the Taiwan Delegation with Fr. Robert Chua, Jr., the Delegation Secretary and Fr. Jacob Haw Ran Wong, the Delegation Financial Administrator. The delegation is composed of two communities: the Sacred Heart of Jesus Community and the Taipei Community. During our brief stay, we came to learn the different ministries they diligently and tirelessly established and maintained.

The Sacred Heart Community is composed of 15 Camillian religious. Aside from Fr. Giuseppe, it includes Fr. Giovanni Rizzi; Fr. Giancarlo Michelini; Fr. Celestino Rizzi; Br. Davide Angelo Cattaneo; Fr. Felice Chech; Fr. Davide Maria Tai Chuen Lee; Fr. Raimondo Chia Men Yang; Fr. Matteo Kuo Chien Kao; and Fr. Jose Eloja, the Provincial Superior. Fr. Antonio Didone is bedridden for some years now, while Frs. Francis Zhirong Zhang and Joseph Gao Chao Yang are both in China. The two Vietnamese who were ordained last year, Frs. Paul Tran To Hoai and Joseph Pham Van Dong are the newest addition to the community.

After so many years, most of them are still very active in their ministries. Unlike working in private or public institutions, we can say that there is no retirement in being a missionary, in being called to serve.

Meanwhile, the Taipei Community is composed of Fr. Jacob Haw Ran Wong, Fr. Robert Chua Jr., Fr. Henry Angupa



SACRED HEART OF JESUS community with CamUp



TAIPEI community



Il, who at 29 is the youngest in the Delegation, Br. Paolo Kuo Chien Han (the religious-in-charge of St. Camillus Hospital in Makung) and Br. Joseph Luu Ngoc Khahn, who is on his last year of Theological studies.

## The Sacred Heart Community



At 90, Fr. Giovanni Rizzi, is the oldest missionary among the Camillians in Luodong. He arrived 64 years ago on March 14, 1954 in the Pescadores Islands (Penghu). It was a very poor area, completely agricultural with poor means of communication and there was no industry at all. They had to go to Hong Kong to buy things. But everybody was going to primary school then. In his four years' stay he learned the Taiwanese language. Later he also learned Mandarin.

At present he is the Local Superior of the Sacred Heart Community and at the same time a chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital.

**St. Mary's Hospital** is located at Zhongzheng South Road, Luodong Township in Yilan, Taiwan. Standing today are four buildings: the Medical Building (M), constructed in 1982; Surgical Building (S), constructed in 1989; Dr. John Janez Memorial Building (A), completed in 2007; and the Br. Marinello Renato Building, which was inaugurated last January 2017.

The Medical Building has seven floors. At the first floor we got to see the Historic Museum where the early mission-

aries are featured in one section and a timeline showing the evolution of St. Mary's Hospital. Another section is dedicated to Br. Renato Marinello, including his early musical instruments. The second floor is mostly where the administrative offices are located that include the Public Relations Department, the Camillian Foundations Office and the Health Care Pastoral Department, where we met Camilo and Lifen. At the 3rd floor is the Nursing Home where we joined them visit a female cancer patient who was with her husband at that time. They talked and later prayed over her.

We crossed over to the Janez Memorial Building and went up straight to the 11th floor where the Hospice Care Center is found. Some of the elderly that we saw were in their rooms lying on their beds, while some were being fed in the pantry. One old woman was having a tantrum but the nurse was patiently tending to her. As we walked along, we saw a room where there was a bathtub specifically made for disabled persons. There is a terrace in the 11th floor where there are potted herbs and plants (even plants with flowers that smell just like our *ilang-ilang*), where one can also go out to and breathe in fresh air, but winter time was not the right time as the wind was freezing cold.

We went down to the Hemodialysis Center at the 9th floor. According to the nurse-in-charge, there are 60 hemodialysis units/beds and the Center accommodates around 100 people a day or 1,000–2,000 per month.

There was also a Health Management Center at the 7th floor where one can get a comprehensive medical checkup. It is also worthy to note that there are prayer rooms/chapels that are scattered in some floors of the Janez Memorial.

Then we proceeded to the Br. Marinello Renato Building. Consisting of seven floors, this building is intended for geriatric cases and rehabilitation medicine. It is not operational yet pending clearance from the government.

The **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church** is located in the compound where St. Mary's Hospital is. Mass is concelebrated daily at 6:45am. We were able to hear mass in Chinese



The Surgical (left) and Dr. John Janez Memorial (right) buildings



The Medical (left) and Br. Marinello Renato (right) buildings

presided by Fr. Joseph, Fr. Raimond and Fr. Giovanni on three different occasions. Most of the attendees were Camillian Sisters.



We were also able to attend mass one Saturday evening at the **Our Lady of the Assumption Church** (Beiching Road, Luodong Township) where Fr. Felice Chech is the parish priest with Fr. Robert Chua and Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai as assistant priests. But the mass that Saturday was celebrated by Fr. Jojo attended mostly by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The following Sunday, we attended mass at the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church** located in the mountains, in Hanxi Ln, Datong Township where the attendees were mostly aborigines. Fr. Jojo celebrated the mass with Fr. Henry Angupa as the homilist. After the mass, all of us gathered together for a simple meal of hot noodle soup.



After one of our dinners, we had a chat with Fr. David Lee. He was born in Canton, China. His father was a doctor and his family migrated to Europe where he stayed for 40 years and was ordained in Italy. Of seven siblings, only two are alive.

He has been living in Taiwan for 20 years now and according to him, he went to the Philippines only three times. One time he was here, he concelebrated mass with Fr. Salvador "Buddy" Cariño at Sto. Domingo Church during Pres. Cory Aquino's time.

When Fr. David was in Korea, Fr. Juya Seo (who was in his teens then) admired him greatly for his "simplicity and holiness." Eventually, Fr. David became his spiritual adviser (see Fr. Juya's My Vocation Story, *Camillian Update*, Sep-Oct 2016).

Fr. David serves as the parish priest of St. Elizabeth Church (Sungluo Datong Township, Yilan). He is the priest-in-charge of other churches, among them the St. Joseph Church (Malun Rd., Datong Township), St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Church (Lunpi, Datong Township), Our Lady of Sorrows Church (Niutou Rd., Sanxing Township).



(To be continued in next issue)

## A N N I V E R S A R I E S

### JANUARY

#### Birthdays

Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai	02/01/1981
Fr. Jacob Haw Ran Wong	14/01/1972
Fr. Placido B. De Jose	19/01/1980

### FEBRUARY

#### Birthdays

Fr. Ruben J. Mandin	02/02/1972
Fr. Jose P. Eloja	13/02/1966
Sch. Benjie Ang	15/02/1994
Fr. Samuel A. Cuarto	16/02/1968
Fr. Joseph Yang Gaochao	20/02/1965
Fr. Evan Paul A. Villanueva	29/02/1968

#### Perpetual Professions

Fr. Renato P. Sales	02/02/1990
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Fr. Manuel M. Tamayo	02/02/1991
Fr. Jose P. Eloja	05/02/1994
Fr. Aristelo D. Miranda	05/02/1994
Fr. Davide Maria Tai Chuen Lee	10/02/1996

#### Presbyterate Ordinations

Fr. Matteo Kuo Ching Kao	03/02/1980
Fr. Anthony A. Ongcal	10/02/2018
Fr. Rodel R. Enriquez	11/02/2005
Fr. Marcelo L. Pamintuan, Jr.	24/02/1996
Fr. Evan Paul A. Villanueva	24/02/1996
Fr. Henry B. Angupa II	27/02/2016

### MARCH

#### Birthdays

Fr. Renato D. Maliwat	07/03/1977
Fr. Anthony A. Ongcal	18/03/1981

Fr. Tex Rico V. Buntol	24/03/1971
Fr. Gabriel V. Garcia	24/03/1974
Fr. Rolando J. Fernandez	28/03/1957

#### Perpetual Professions

Fr. Giuseppe Didone	19/03/1962
Fr. Felice Chech	19/03/1966
Fr. Luigi Galvani	19/03/1966
Fr. Evan Paul A. Villanueva	25/03/1995
Fr. Jacob Haw Ran Wong	25/03/2006

#### Presbyterate Ordinations

Fr. Ivo Z. Anselmi	02/03/1975
Fr. Ruben J. Mandin	11/03/2000
Fr. Jung Ju Seo	19/03/2016
Fr. Remigio E. Jamarabon	25/03/1986

### APRIL

#### Birthdays

Fr. Alfons Oles	01/04/1977
Sch. Dennis Morales	01/04/1980
Fr. Raimondo Chia Men Yang	04/04/1947
Br. Marcelino Digal	13/04/1971
Br. Davide Angelo Cattaneo	21/04/1939

#### Perpetual Professions

Fr. Antonio Didone	01/04/1956
Fr. Diosdado C. Haber	17/04/1993
Fr. Marcelo L. Pamintuan Jr.	17/04/1995
Fr. Samuel A. Cuarto	21/04/1996
Fr. Giovanni Rizzi	24/04/1948

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