



Occasions Filled with Grace and Blessings

– CamUp



Coinciding with the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 31, 2019, the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians-Philippine Province) gathered together in the Holy Eucharist at Sts. Camillus de Lellis and Lorenzo de Ruiz Chapel as they celebrated four important events.

Fr. Jose P. Eloja, Provincial Superior, administered the Admission to the Novitiate of Vianney Chou Ka Wa, a Chinese-Macau national. Fr. Anthony Ongcal, the assistant Novice Master, assisted him in putting on the cassock. He then knelt before the Provincial as he said the Prayer of Commitment.

Fr. Ivo Anselmi, the Novice Master, presented the candidates for the First Profession of Vows: Novices Paul Austin Añana Echavez, Ruel Tesoro Fernandez, Vengie Atriz Ibañez and Fr. Dong Sheng Ping. The Father Provincial asked them questions and they answered in unison. Each then took turn and knelt before the Father Provincial and read the formula of profession. A big Red Cross was pinned on their cassocks and a crucifix was given to each newly professed.

Fr. Angel Crisostomo, Director of Scholastics, presented Scholastics Benjie Mortillero Ang, Dennis Ebol Morales and Yeongmin Andrew Kang for the Renewal of Vows. In front of Fr. Eloja, they recited the formula of profession.

Last but not the least was the Solemn Profession of Vows of Scholastic Almar Samaniego Roman. As the Litany of the Saints was sung, he laid prostrate on the floor. He then knelt before the Father Provincial and recited

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We feel nervous about things that are not going as we hoped. We need to get used to it because that feeling will come up many times in our lives. But we must remember that that's not where our joy falls because joy does not depend on things going well. Joy depends on keeping God in our community, on remembering we are His servants. God works His blessings in the most ordinary of circumstances and that grace comes from living in the presence of God within our community.

"Grace is a participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life..." (CCC 1996). "In such a way, grace conveys a special power to deal with the routine trials of life. We grow and are able to persevere because we meet trials not so much with our own power, but rather are participating in the source of eternal life. This statement also has a great deal to teach us about God's blessing as well. God's blessing is not so much about a subjective experience of good circumstances. Rather, it is an experience of intimacy." (Sara and Justin Kraft, *How We Found God's Blessings and Grace in the Most Unexpected Places*, blog post). When community life is approached with a sense of service to God, one finds that intimacy can be experienced both in living the religious vows and in serving the sick even at the risk of one's life.

In the past months of May and June, we had in our Province joyful occasions filled with grace and blessings as we keep God in our different communities and remembering that we are His servants. We had the admission to the novitiate, the first profession of vows, the renewal of vows, the solemn profession of vows, the ordination to the diaconate, the blessings of new structures, the anniversary celebrations of our institutions, etc. as you can see in this issue of the Camillian Update.

Each day we have the option to choose to be a better person. Let us always ask for God's grace to help us get through each day and to recognize His blessings.

LCF-Calbayog City Chapter

The Friends of the Sick of the Lay Camillian Family Calbayog Chapter (FOTS LCF-Calbayog) was established in the year 1997 at the St. Camillus Hospital of Calbayog City. Fr. Salvador Cariño (Fr. Buddy), the hospital chaplain at that time, visited our parish, St. Vincent Ferrer Parish after he heard from our assistant priest, Fr. Melvin Ojeda that we have a small group serving the sick. Our group of five people (Fr. Melvin, Angelito Pelotos, Jose Aropo, Marvin Muñoz and I) regularly visit the sick to talk to them. We sometimes give them a bath and cook food for them especially the elderly who have no children or family member to take care of them. We assist and care also for those who are dying. Fr. Melvin also taught us to always include them in our prayers.

Fr. Buddy was inspired because he found people with the same charism of caring for the sick just like the Camillians. He asked me if I was willing to help him organize a group called Friends of the Sick (FOTS) and I immediately agreed to his proposal. Despite being a single mom and

having been entrusted with a big responsibility, I took the challenge as this mission of serving the sick is important for me. So, I called the attention of the youth in our parish and about 30 people willingly joined the group. We went to visit the sick in four barangays (Bante, Malajog, Danao 1, and San Joaquin). Others were inspired in what we do and after some time, our group membership doubled to 60 and we were able to cover four more barangays in our city (Oquendo, Trinidad, Calbayog City proper and Sta. Margarita). We also organized many activities during the time of Fr. Buddy as our spiritual adviser.

Over the years the Camillian priest assignment to the parish also changed. Some members also became busy including me because of personal reasons. (However, I continue to serve the sick in my own way including participating in the World Day of the Sick celebration in our parish every February 11).

The group continues to serve the sick in our community. We have health care activities. We also organize gath-

POSTCARDS FROM TAIWAN

Fr. Giuseppe Didonè, MI



May 18, 2019. At the center of Saint Mary's Hospital Luodong, there is a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother Mary made of Carrara marble. During the month of May, the Rosary is recited near the statue and flowers are offered to her by hospital personnel.

May 16, 2019. When the Camillians set foot in Taiwan in 1952, they took special care of the aborigines who were the poorest in Taiwan. Today in the Church of Hanshi, an aboriginal church, a new center of physiotherapy organized by St. Mary's Hospital was inaugurated to help the elderly aborigines.

erings for our scholars and special children during special occasions like Christmas, New Year and Valentine's Day. Eventually, the Friends of the Sick became part of the Lay Camillian Family. At present we have 36 active members from different areas in our community. We happily serve our sick brothers and sisters at St. Camillus Hospital. We also regularly visit the sick and elderly in our own areas and those residing at Missionaries of Charity. We also have a regular apostolate with a program and Mass in Calbayog City Jail two to three times a year and every Christmas where we give them food and gifts.

Our group would not have lasted if it were not for the support of all the Camillian priests who were assigned to us. We thank Fr. John Jay Magpusao, our spiritual adviser during our renewal last 2015. We also thank the LCF National Spiritual Adviser, Fr. Renato Maliwat. We are very fortunate since he is assigned here in Calbayog. Despite some difficulties, he patiently guides us always. Lastly, we extend our gratitude to Fr. Jec Cabarles, our current spiritual adviser. More power to the FOTS-LCF Calbayog and to the whole Lay Camillian Family. – *Ludivina S. Lentejas, Secretary, FOTS LCF-Calbayog Chapter*



LCF-Calbayog City current members



Camillian Spirituality in a Workplace seminar with Sch. Dennis Morales (June 15, 2019)

(Occasions filled... continued from page 1)

the formula of perpetual profession of vows. As a gesture of acceptance by the Camillian Community, the newly perpetually professed was approached and embraced by the Perpetually Professed Camillians who were present during the Mass.

The celebration continued the next day, June 1, 2019 as it was the Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons of Br. Almar S. Roman and Br. Marcelino S. Digal. The ordaining prelate was Most Rev. Nolly C. Bucu, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Antipolo.

New Deacons

Rev. Almar S. Roman was born on June 21, 1990 in Bataan to Jose Alen Roman and Marilet Samaniego. He finished his elementary education at Hermosa Elementary School (1997–2003) and secondary education at Saint Peter of Verona Academy (2003–2007) in Hermosa, Bataan.

He entered the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan and took Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (2007–2011). He transferred to Saint Camillus College Seminary in Marikina City and finished his AB Philosophy course (2011–2013).

After his Philosophical Studies, he underwent the Integration Formation or the Postulancy Program at Saint Camillus Formation Center in Antipolo, Rizal (Jan–May 2013) and the Novitiate Formation in Baguio City (June 2013–May 2014). He made his First Profession on May 31, 2014. He continued his Scholasticate Formation at Casa d' Onofrio Community in Quezon City and finished his General Theology Program and Masters in Theology



Major in Pastoral Ministry at the CICM Maryhill School of Theology (2014–2018). He spent his Pastoral Year Formation at Saint Camillus College Seminary (May 2018–June 2019).

Rev. Marcelino S. Digal was born in Lagtangan, Sevilla, Bohol to Roque Samon Digal and Benita Dano Sayud (both deceased). He is the 5th among six siblings.

He completed his elementary and high school education in Sevilla, Bohol, while he finished his AB Philosophy and Bachelor of Science in Nursing courses in Metro Manila. He recently completed the General Theology Program at CICM-Maryhill School of Theology.

He is fondly called "Brother Mars" because he is a Camillian solemn professed brother; so far, he is the only Filipino who had chosen to solemnly profess the Camillian religious vows.

After his solemn profession in 2000 during the celebration of the 25th year of Camillian presence in the Philippines, he was assigned for two years as a co-journeyer of the Indonesian seminarians at St. Camillus Asian Formation Center in Marikina. Then he was sent to study Medicine in Baguio City and stayed at St. Camillus Novitiate.

In 2003 he was assigned to St. Camillus Hospital-Mati in Davao Oriental. For five years he was able to practice his profession as a registered nurse in various positions and responsibilities at the hospital. Unfortunately, in November 2008 he left the Order.

After eight years of being away from the Order, he came back to the fold of St. Camillus in 2016 with new aspiration to serve the Lord and His church as an ordained



SCH-CALBAYOG MARKS 23RD ANNIVERSARY

Ms. Nezy Joie T. Valenzuela, *HR-in-Charge*



St. Camillus Hospital-Calbayog celebrated its 23rd founding anniversary and opened its annual Sportsfest last May 25, 2019. This day marked also the blessing of the new CT scan by Fr. Gabriel V. Garcia.

Donning the fuchsia, orange, and white/golden yellow colors, the teams of Conquistadores, Naruto, and Templars, respectively, together with the sports committee had a motorcade around the City of Calbayog after the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr. Garcia.

Meanwhile, back at the SCH, select judges examined the paintings of the three competing teams illustrating this year's theme: "23 Years of Growing Stronger, Conquering Challenges, and Reaching Higher."

Upon return, everyone got ready for the opening of Sportsfest 2019, putting final touches here and there and feeling an array of emotions—pressure, anxiety, excitement with lots of adrenaline.

The lighting of the torch marked the beginning of Sportsfest 2019. The three sports teams wore their colors with pride, raised their flags, and sang their chants loud and proud to pump up the crowd as they battled for the cheer dance crown.

In the evening, the guest speaker Dr. Hildegardes C. Dineros, PhilHealth Board Member, gave an informative speech on PhilHealth's healthcare advocacies. It was followed by the presentation of each teams' classic comedy take on "Dalagang Pilipina" challenge that filled the whole community with laughter.

Still teary-eyed from the good laughs, the Camillians and their respective guests had dinner while the performers got ready for their much awaited OPM song and dance performances. The crowd cheered with much joy as the performers went all out to sing passionately and dance rhythmically to OPM.

Up next was the awarding ceremony where SCH acknowledged the tireless commitment of the few exceptional employees for their 10 and 15 years of service.

More so, this evening the SCH officially retired two of its most committed employees, namely, Ms. Rebecca M. Quemada and Mr. Jose C. Natural, Jr. for their truly inspiring 21 and 15 years of respective service.

To cap off the night was the announcement of winners. The Team Conquistadores won the painting contest while the Team Naruto bested the cheer dance and OPM singing competition. Lastly, the Team Templars won the "Dalagang Pilipina" challenge and OPM modern dance competition.

In the spirit of sportsmanship, everyone celebrated each other's victory. All participants congratulated each other and heaved sighs of relief after days of hard work had finally paid off. But then again, this is only the beginning. A lot is still in store for them in this monthlong activity that closes on July 14, 2019, feast day of St. Camillus de Lellis.

Although not perfect, the community as a whole has still a lot to work on, but together, they will continue to grow stronger, conquer challenges, and reach higher.



INDONESIA: The Heart Relic of St. Camillus de Lellis in Indonesia

Fr. Luigi Galvani, MI

On the occasion of the ten-year anniversary of the Camillian Delegation (2009–2019), the heart relic of St. Camillus was brought to Indonesia to mark the historical and important event of the mission. After two long months spent in the Philippines (February and March), the heart relic of St. Camillus arrived in Jakarta on April 2, 2019 and remained in the country until April 30, 2019. Three dioceses were visited, namely: Ruteng, Maumere and Jakarta.

On April 4, 2019 the relic was brought to the Diocese of Ruteng, where the Camillians have a formation house with 20 aspirants. In the 12 days spent there, the relic reached several parishes and hospitals. Many people were attracted and touched by the healing power of the Patron Saint of the Sick.

On April 13 the relic was transferred by plane to the diocese of Maumere where the bigger Camillian community is located with 40 seminarians in Philosophy, 6 novices and 15 religious.

The people of Maumere were really excited to see for the first time the loving heart of the Patron of the Sick,

Health Care Personnel and Hospitals. On its arrival the relic was welcomed by hundreds of people at the airport. Then, a 10-km motorcade was organized to accompany it to the Camillian Seminary in Nita where it was welcomed by our seminarians, people, and children with traditional local dances.

The presence of the relic in the Diocese of Maumere was a blessing especially for the sick who prayed a lot in front of it with great devotion. The places visited were the Cathedral of Maumere, St. Elisabeth Hospital of Lela, St. Gabriel Hospital of Kewapante, General Hospital of Maumere and two parishes. Hundreds of people were really attracted and touched upon hearing the story of the life of St. Camillus.

But the most touching moments of the visit were in the hospitals when the heart relic passed in front of the bed of each patient. Tears of joy were falling down from the eyes of many patients. They seemed to receive from our Saint new trust and hope in life.

The pilgrimage of the relic in Maumere ended on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, at 5:00pm with a concelebrated thanksgiving Holy Mass presided over by the





bishop of the diocese, Msgr. Edwaldus Sedu, in the chapel of our seminary. The chapel was really fully packed with hundreds of people. In his message the bishop said: "On behalf of the faithful of the Diocese of Maumere, I would like to say many thanks to the Camillians for bringing the relic of the heart of St. Camillus in our diocese. May the presence of this relic inspire many more people in our diocese."

On April 22, 2019 the relic was brought to Jakarta where it remained for more than a week visiting two big Catholic hospitals and two parishes. Impressive also was the participation of the people who went to honor and venerate the precious heart of St. Camillus.

In almost one month of presence of the relic in Indonesia, touching were also the comments of some doctors and nurses who learned for the first time about the life and the work of charity of St. Camillus. "Our encounter with the life of St. Camillus," they said, "made us feel in love with the charism and spirituality of the saint who saw the presence of Jesus in the sick. Now, we understand better that our medical profession can become a 'mission' every time we are caring for the sick with his vision." They concluded, "We hope that this precious relic can come back again and soon to Indonesia to inspire us more."

NEWSBITS

DIOCESAN HEALTH CARE COMMISSION NEW APPOINTEES



Fr. Rolly



Fr. Ivo

Bp. Abel Apigo, DD, of the Diocese of Mati designated Fr. Rolando Fernandez, MI, as Diocesan Health Care Director, while Bp. Victor Bendico, DD, of the Diocese of Baguio assigned Fr. Ivo Anselmi, MI, to handle the Health Care Commission of the Diocese.

KALINGA (KAAGAPAY SA PAG-ALAGA)



the Crown Regency Hotel and Towers in Cebu City.

On May 24, 2019, more than 55 priests, religious brothers and nuns from 21 congregations and societies of apostolic life participated in

The Camillians (Philippines) and CBCP-EHC in collaboration with UNILAB and in partnership with Daughters of St. Camillus launched a major program in the Visayas called Kalinga, with the primary objective of caring for carers at

Kalinga. The next day, more than 247 participants from various patient support groups, NGOs and FBOs pooled themselves together to care for one another.

These two days started in spiritual nourishment led by the Camillian Fathers (Frs. Dan Cancino, Evan Paul Villanueva, and Bryan Rances) followed by group sharing and pampering session. It was indeed a good start to highlight our silent heroes for the sick.

Pope Francis said, "The care that you give to the sick, so demanding and engaging, requires that you also take care of yourself. In fact, in an environment where the patient becomes a number, you too risk becoming one too, and being 'burned out' by work shifts that are too hard, by the stress of emergencies, or by the emotional impact. It is therefore important that healthcare professionals have adequate safeguards in their work, receive proper recognition for the tasks they perform, and can use the right tools to be always motivated and trained."

BLESSING OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HEALING SAINTS



The Our Lady of La Paz Parish in Makati celebrated their feast day on May 5, 2019 and held the blessing of the new Chapel of the Healing Saints.

ST. CAMILLUS POLYCLINIC-MAKATI



St. Camillus Polyclinic-Makati celebrated its 39th foundation anniversary last April 30, 2019, continuously “serving the sick with heart in our hands.”

CAMILLIAN PHILANTHROPIC & HEALTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



The CPHDO supports the Feeding Program spearheaded by St. Camillus Hospital-Mati in partnership with Virgen de la Guia Parish and Hapag-Asa Integrated Nutrition Program.

The Feeding Program was held in Barangay Dawan, City of

Mati, Davao Oriental. It was launched on Nov. 3, 2018 and culminated last May 9, 2019.

The program catered to the needs of 150 malnourished children in the four GKKs (*Gagmay ng Kristohanong Katilingban* or Basic Ecclesial Communities) of Virgen De Guia Parish (from Bigue, Tagamot, Subay and Centro).

Many thanks to all our donors, partners and collaborators in helping this noble cause and in making a difference in the lives of these children and their families!

INCREASING AWARENESS ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS



St. Camillus saw the vulnerability of the patients thought as the most unwanted in society. Often, this led to depression and lonely deaths of the patients. It was then that Camillus' heart took care of the vulnerable letting

them feel that they are not forgotten and aiming to bring back their dignity from being outcasts.

For more than one year now, the Home of Hope of St. Camillus caring for those with high risk behavior increased its efforts to uphold health and human rights issues.

Series of outreaches have been done and are scheduled in different barangays of Cebu City and nearby urban areas in Metro Cebu to promulgate health (testing, referral to treatment centers, treatment adherence, case management, psychospiritual support and others) and human rights (legal literacy and health rights).

More than 230 clients since May 2019 have been served.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Sr. Fe Santos, SMI, has passed away on June 19, 2019 at age 67 after battling with cancer. She served as director at Camillian Sisters Maria Domenica Clinic and Rehabilitation Center.

She earned her BS and MS degrees in Chemistry at the University of Santo Tomas and Master's degree in Religious Studies at Pontificia Universita Gregoriana (2000–2003).

Eternal rest grant unto her soul and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY		
<i>Birthdays</i>		
Sch. Vengie Ibañez	13/05/1984	
Fr. Manuel M. Tamayo	14/05/1963	
Fr. Francis Zhang Zhirong	15/05/1963	
Fr. John Jay C. Magpusao	20/05/1979	
Fr. Giuseppe Didonè	26/05/1940	
Sch. Rosalino A. Dos Santos	26/05/1982	
<i>Perpetual Professions</i>		
Fr. Renante T. Sentillas	25/05/1997	
Fr. Gabriel V. Garcia	31/05/2002	
Fr. Primitivo S. Gunit	31/05/2002	
Fr. Jaime A. Roa	31/05/2002	
Fr. Angel V. Crisostomo	31/05/2006	
Fr. Renato D. Maliwat	31/05/2006	
Fr. Wilson D. Peñaranda	31/05/2007	
Fr. Francis Zhang Zhirong	31/05/2008	
Fr. Alfons Oles	31/05/2009	
Fr. Marven G. Ruyeras	31/05/2009	
Fr. Cyrelus Suparman Andi	31/05/2010	
Fr. Avensius Harung	31/05/2010	
Fr. Placido B. de Jose	31/05/2010	
Fr. Brian Vincent Q. Rances	31/05/2010	
Fr. Mushtaq Anjum	31/05/2011	
Fr. Rodolfo V. Cancino Jr.	31/05/2011	
Fr. Ignasius Sibar	31/05/2011	
Fr. Roderick R. Tampis	31/05/2011	
Fr. John Paul B. Alvarado	31/05/2012	
Fr. Jayson A. Labrador	31/05/2012	
Fr. John Jay C. Magpusao	31/05/2012	
Fr. Eliseo L. Navarro	31/05/2012	
Rev. Almar S. Roman	31/05/2019	
JUNE		
<i>Birthdays</i>		
Fr. Thomas C. Welu	13/06/1938	
Fr. Eliseo L. Navarro	14/06/1968	
Fr. Roderick R. Tampis	17/06/1980	
Rev. Almar S. Roman	21/06/1990	
Fr. Cyrelus Suparman Andi	26/06/1979	
Fr. Rodel R. Enriquez	27/06/1976	
<i>Perpetual Professions</i>		
Fr. Michael G. Gimena	25/06/2006	
Fr. Jose Emmanuel B. Cabarles	29/06/2018	
<i>Presbyterate Ordinations</i>		
Fr. Amelio Troietto	19/06/1976	
Fr. Salvador G. Cariño	19/06/1993	
Fr. Giovanni Rizzi	22/06/1952	
Fr. Gian Carlo Michelini	23/06/1963	
Fr. Celestino Rizzi	23/06/1963	
Fr. Giuseppe Didonè	23/06/1964	
Fr. Luigi Galvani	23/06/1968	
JULY		
<i>Birthdays</i>		
Fr. Matteo Kuo Ching Kao	01/07/1949	
Sch. Fransiskus Arun	03/07/1992	
Fr. Bon L. Arimbuyutan	05/07/1986	
Fr. Gian Carlo Michelini	07/07/1935	
Fr. Jung Ju Seo	11/07/1985	
Sch. Mensianus Aman	20/07/1990	
Fr. Marven G. Ruyeras	23/07/1981	
Fr. Luigi Galvani	24/07/1941	
Fr. Domingo S. Barawid	25/07/1971	
Fr. Jaime A. Roa	25/07/1956	
<i>Perpetual Professions</i>		
Fr. Rodel R. Enriquez	03/07/2004	
Fr. Henry Angupa II	04/07/2015	
Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai	04/07/2015	
Fr. Tex Rico V. Buntol	11/07/1998	
Fr. Robert S. Chua Jr.	11/07/1998	
Fr. Rolando J. Fernandez	14/07/1984	
Fr. Joseph Yang Gaochao	14/07/2012	
Fr. Thomas C. Welu	18/07/1967	
Fr. Anthony A. Ongcal	29/07/2017	
<i>Presbyterate Ordinations</i>		
Fr. Renato P. Sales	14/07/1990	
Fr. Thomas C. Welu	22/07/1967	
Fr. Joseph Pham Van Dong	22/07/2017	
Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai	22/07/2017	
AUGUST		
<i>Birthdays</i>		
Fr. Mushtaq Anjum	01/08/1974	
Fr. Remegio E. Jamorabon	04/08/1948	
Fr. John Paul B. Alvarado	04/08/1984	
Sch. Ruel Fernandez	04/08/1995	
Fr. Ivo Z. Anselmi	14/08/1947	
Fr. Davide Maria Tai Chuen Lee	16/08/1944	
Fr. Joseph Pham Van Dong	20/08/1983	
Sch. Paul Austin Echavez	26/08/1995	
Fr. Robert S. Chua Jr.	30/08/1967	
<i>Perpetual Professions</i>		
Fr. Ruben J. Mandin	14/08/1999	
Br. Paolo Kuo Chien Han	20/08/2000	
<i>Presbyterate Ordinations</i>		
Fr. Manuel M. Tamayo	10/08/1991	
Fr. Raimondo Chia Men Yang	17/08/1980	
Fr. Joseph Yang Gaochao	28/08/1991	
Fr. Francis Zhang Zhirong	28/08/1991	

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