



Camillians Launch *Lingap Batangas*



To better serve our fellowmen who were affected and displaced by Taal Volcano's phreatic eruption last January 12, 2020, the Camillians, through the Camillian Task Force (CTF) and Camillian Philanthropic and Health Development Office (CPHDO), and in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Health Care (CBCP-ECHC) launched *Lingap Batangas*.

Last January 16 and 18, 2020, they held relief operations by delivering goods to the Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission (LASAC), ensuring that all donations reach the evacuees. Land Radio Communication Assistance (LARCOM), one of the Camillians' collaborators, transported the donated goods.

On January 24, 2020, *Lingap Batangas* formed its Core Group that will spearhead the series of health interventions in the different evacuation centers. The group will also facilitate and coordinate with different helping agencies to have a common health intervention package for all evacuation centers.

Simultaneous medical missions with spiritual accompaniment, psychological intervention, and food and non-food provisions were given on January 30, 2020 to three least served evacuation centers in Barangays Dao, Santol and Gimalas in the town of Balayan, Batangas.

The *Lingap Batangas* team and volunteers served more than 400 individuals (medically) and more than 100 children were given psychological first-aid (PFA).





Lent: A Call to Repentance

“Yet even now—oracle of the Lord—return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God. For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment” (Joel 2:12–13).

This particular passage from the book of the prophet Joel is known by many as a call to repentance. On this holy season of Lent, it is important that each one of us take time to look back and reflect on the thoughts and actions of time passed. Let us allow ourselves the opportunity to feel the impact of pain caused by negative words, ideas, and deeds with the strong desire for goodness that God asks of every person. In our reflection, let us be honest about the feelings and emotions that accompany the thought because honesty with one's self allows us for openness to God.

Repentance is not only about pain and sorrow. It also brings joy because repentance is a commitment to change for the future. This commitment looks forward to somebody becoming a better person for one's self, the community, and most importantly, God. When people build a more honest relationship with themselves, they build a closer relationship to God and can provide truth, compassion, and justice to a world desperate for conversion and repentance.



“Repentance is a commitment to change for the future.”

POSTCARDS FROM TAIWAN

Fr. Giuseppe Didonè, MI



January 23–29, 2020:
Chinese New Year holidays. This year is the Year of the Rat.

February 4, 2020:
Fr. Marcelino Digal came back from the Philippines and celebrated his thanksgiving Mass at St. Camillus Shrine with the disabled and the elderly.



January 24, 2020:
Eve of Chinese New Year. It is customary for all family members to return for family reunion (a sign of family unity) and enjoy the most sumptuous meal of the year. On the 25th, the first day of the New Year, a solemn Mass was celebrated in all the churches followed by the ceremony for the veneration of the ancestors.



February 2 and 11, 2020:
In the parish of Lotung and at St. Camillus Shrine, the World Day of the Sick was celebrated with the anointing of the sick to several elderly and sick people.



February 12, 2020:
Religious ceremony to pray for blessings for the new year, as is the custom of the Chinese. There were prayers, songs and dances.

February 1, 2020:
Ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Marcelino Digal, who belongs to the Delegation of Taiwan (see related story on page 6).

KUMPULAN '20 IN BAGUIO CITY

Sch. Paul Austin A. Echavez, MI



“How good and how pleasant it is, brothers dwelling in unity!” PS 133:1

On February 14–16, 2020 all Camillian formands, namely the college seminarians, novices, and scholastics together with their formators, headed for Baguio City for a gathering dubbed as KUMPULAN '20 (or KUMustahang PULong Pang-CamilliAN 2020). This three-day get-together is celebrated once every two years, and its purpose is for all formands to come to know more each other, to strengthen their bond, brotherhood and support, and to nurture and deepen their vocation to Camillian life.

The activity started with a Holy Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady Health of the Sick and St. Camillus de Lellis in St. Camillus Novitiate presided by Fr. Ruben Mandin, seminary rector, and concelebrated by Fr. Almar Roman, formator and vocation director. The mass was followed by lunch prepared by the Novitiate Community. In the afternoon, everybody proceeded to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Montessori campsite in Longlong Road, La Trinidad, Benguet where the accommodation and the rest of the activities would be held. After settling down, the program started in the campsite hall with the welcome address of Sch. Benjie Ang, KUMPULAN coordinator and Scholasticate beadle. It was followed by the main talk given by Fr. Michael Gimena, superior of the Scholasticate Community. He shared about “The Joy of Following the Lord” or the thoughts of Pope Francis on seminary formation. After the talk, the assembly grouped themselves into four to share about their formation experiences and reflection based on the guide questions provided by Fr. Gimena. A warm dinner followed shortly. Then capping the first day was the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led solemnly by Fr. Almar Roman.

The second day started with a Liturgy of the Hour and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Angel Crisostomo, scholastic director, with Fr. Gimena as concelebrant. After breakfast, the group started their Baguio Tour. The first destination was the nearby Strawberry Farm in La Trinidad, Benguet. Then, they visited Camp Dangwa (Cordillera Police Regional Office) with their gracious host Ms. Dona Digna Rosario, the owner and directress of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Montessori. They had a short tour around the camp that included an audience with the newly installed PNP regional commander BGen. Rwin Pagkalinawan and his wife Mrs. Pia Hontiveros-Pagkalinawan. Fr. Mandin met also his batchmate in Theology, Fr. Heintje Cañete, the current Cordillera PNP regional chaplain, at St. Paul Church inside Camp Dangwa. Afterwards, the group visited The Mansion, Wright Park and had lunch at Camp John Hay grounds. Next, the group went up to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at the Dominican Hill and the Mirador Jesuit Villa where they waited for the sunset. They concluded the day back at the campsite with an evening program and socialization facilitated by Sem. John Lloyd Rombo and Nov. Yonel Abragan.

On the third day, the group left the campsite for St. Camillus Novitiate. They celebrated the Holy Eucharist with some benefactors and regular mass goers at the chapel and presided by Fr. Ivo Anselmi, novice director, Fr. Anthony Ongcal and the rest of the formators. After the Mass, Sch. Yeongmin Kang facilitated the KUMPULAN evaluation. The assembly was divided into smaller groups and everybody shared their honest opinion and observation of the event. Afterwards, lunch was provided by the Novitiate Community before the formands bade goodbye to one another as the Scholasticate and Seminary Communities headed back for Manila full of KUMPULAN memories to be grateful for and to cherish.

Indeed, KUMPULAN may happen only once every two years for three short eventful days but, like the Galilee experience of the first disciples of the Lord, it would certainly sustain the formands in their vocation itinerary knowing that they have their brothers journeying with them. They are reassured of the call the Lord has for them, and they fathom the joy of following the Lord in their lives.

CFI AND CDMC SIGNS MOU



On January 28, 2020 The Camillian Fathers, Inc. (CFI) and Cariño Development & Management Corporation (CDMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), strengthening their collaboration in providing care and shelter to the elderly especially those with dementia.



CFI gratefully acknowledges Mr. Noel Toti Cariño, CDMC Owner/President, for the kindness and generosity in supporting the advocacy for the Care of the Elderly of the Camillians through the construction of St. Camillus Medhaven Dementia Village.

The Camillians are thankful also to Dr. Glenda Miro Antonio, Spring Rain Global President and CEO for all the guidance and support and for making this partnership possible and to Mr. Carlo Sorra, CDMC Vice-President of Corporate Services, and Mr. Andrew Baltazar, SRG Marketing and Events Executive.

CALBAYOG OUTREACH PROGRAM



The St. Camillus Hospital Calbayog City is promoting an Outreach Program that would augment the very common problem in our community which is malnutrition. Barangay Basud is one of the poorest barangays here in Calbayog. The program prioritizes area with a high prevalence rate of malnutrition. Based on data gathering, we identified eighty (80) severely malnourished children. The program is implemented in coordination with the Medical Director of the hospital, Social Service Department and Dietary Department and other volunteers.



The main goal of the program is to reduce child hunger, improve child nutrition, enhance school performance and provide socialization opportunities for children.

We launched the program last February 7, 2020 with actual beneficiaries of 114 children age range from 3 months to 10 years old.

Total Project Cost: P248,510.00

Date Covered: February 7, 2020 – July 14, 2020

– Ms. Sarah C. Rizabal

BATAAN CHAPLAINCY



The Camillians, represented by Fr. Jose E. Eloja, provincial superior of the Camillian Philippine Province, finally signed a contract (Memorandum of Agreement) on February 12, 2020 with the administrators/ owners of the three hospitals in Balanga, Bataan wherein two Camillian priests will work as hospital chaplains. Since July 2019, Fr. Wilson Peñaranda and Fr. Bon Arimbutan have been ministering to the pastoral care needs of the patients and staff of Bataan Doctors' Hospital and Medical Center, Bataan St. Joseph Hospital & Medical Center, and Centro Medico de Santissimo Rosario.



28TH FOUNDATION DAY OF CARING



Camillus Medhaven Senior Living Community celebrated its 28th foundation day of caring with "heart in our hands" on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2020.

The celebration started with Mass at the chapel for our residents presided over by Fr. Gabriel Garcia and concelebrated by Frs. Manny Tamayo, Joseph Dong and Buddy Cariño.

After the Mass, the Fair was opened at Camillus Medhaven's grounds and participated by residents and their carers.

There were fun booths where the residents can play and win prizes. Some residents had their hands painted with their favorite drawings at the Face Painting booth, while others enjoyed the color games where they can place their bets on one color and win a prize!

Residents and their carers had fun on Hugot wheel, ball toss and target while some enjoyed on a clown show.

At 6:00 in the evening, the employees' Mass was held at the dining hall of Camillus Medhaven and was presided by Fr. Jojo Eloja and concelebrated by Frs. Rodel Enriquez, John Jay Magpusao, Anthoni Kunnel, Joseph Dong and Buddy Cariño.

Special awards were given to Employees of the Month and employees who rendered their services at Camillus Medhaven for 15 years.

As part of the foundation day celebration, staff from different departments (Administration, Dietary, Project-based, Caregivers, Care Assistants and Nurses) showcased their talent, intelligence and looks as they joined the search for Ms. Camillus Medhaven 2020.

Ms. Andrea Gayda from Project-based section won as Ms. Camillus Medhaven 2020.



I felt so excited when my Community Superior, Fr. Michael Gimena, asked me if my birthday is on February 15, 1994 because birthdate is one information needed to book a plane ticket. In fact, he just wanted a confirmation from me about my birthdate since he had already booked a plane ticket for me going to Bohol with him as representatives of our Community to witness the presbyteral ordination of Rev. Marcelino “Mars” Digal. I felt that certain excitement because that would be my first time to go to the island, which is one of the most picturesque provinces of the Philippines for its intriguing array of attractions.

Our going to Bohol to attend Rev. Mars’ ordination indeed gave us an opportunity to explore its splendid tourists’ spots. Together with the Taiwanese visitors of Rev. Marcelino, the first destination in Bohol that we went to was the place of Loboc, where the famous Loboc River Cruise is known. There, we saw the rural terrain that surrounds the area where we leisurely glided through the

cruise. We also enjoyed the folk and love songs that were rendered while we were taking our lunch in the cruise boat. After our beautiful cruise in Loboc River, we went straight to Chocolate Hills, the iconic attraction of Bohol. I first saw the Chocolate Hills back in a “Sibika at Kultura” textbook when I was an elementary student. Now, I finally confirmed that they are indeed a marvelous creation of God. I wondered when I saw the unique geological formation which is comprised of cone-shaped hills that almost all look identical. After savoring every moment in the place, it would be hard to miss the two-kilometer man-made forest with its carpet of trees that cover every side of the highway; so, we passed by there, took some photos, and went on our way to another tourist attraction which is the Hanging Bridge of Sevilla. Before, it was just an ordinary bridge according to a tourist guide. But now, it became popular because of some tourists who discovered the place and found the bridge enthralling and amazingly built. Definitely, I could say that my first day in

the island of Bohol, with all these beautiful creations that nature reveals to us, was simply awesome!

The following day, February 1, 2020, was the day of the presbyteral ordination of Rev. Marcelino Digal. We were brought to his simple and humble hometown, the Municipality of Sevilla, where we saw people with cheerful faces as, certainly, their expression of their warm welcome to us. I did not expect that this little hometown of Rev. Mars produced two bishops namely, Most Rev. Crispin B. Varquez, DD, Bishop of Borongan, Eastern Samar and Most Rev. Socrates Mesiona, MSP, DD, Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

At 9 o'clock in the morning, the assembly led by the choir began to sing the entrance song and the majestic church bells of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish loudly rang, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the ordination began. The "sons of Sevilla," as the locals referred to them, led the rites; Most Rev. Mesiona presided over the Holy Eucharist while Most Rev. Varquez administered the rite of ordination to the Holy Orders of Rev. Mars. Some Camillian and Diocesan priests concelebrated the Mass. After the Gospel reading, Fr. Jose Eloja, provincial superior of the Camillian Philippine Province, gave the homily.

The rite of ordination followed after the homily. While the Litany of the Saints was sung, Rev. Mars prostrated on the floor and all the people in the Church knelt, asking the intercession of all the saints in heaven. Afterwards, the ordaining Bishop laid his hands upon his head and the other bishop and priests followed to lay their hands unto him. The laying of the Bishop's hand to the candidate is the most essential part of the ritual. Afterwards, he was finally vested with the priestly vestments, the chasuble

and the stole and then, his hands were anointed with the Holy Oil that signifies its consecration to do the priestly ministry in the Catholic Church.

After the rite of ordination, all the priests and the two bishops embraced Fr. Mars as a gesture of welcome to the Order of Presbyters. After the Holy Eucharist, Fr. Mars celebrated his first Mass at 11:00 O'clock as his thanksgiving to God, who is the source of this noble vocation, and to the people who helped and supported him to make this day a meaningful and remarkable one. After the thanksgiving Mass, all were invited to partake in the lunch with variety of Boholano delicacies served. Moreover, various group of performers entertained the people during the program with cultural dances to singing performances, which revealed the beautiful hidden talents of the people of Sevilla. Furthermore, the Society of Ex-Camillian Seminarians gave their tireless service to us in an organized manner especially in the transportation.

After the ordination and the celebration in Sevilla, Fr. Almar Roman and I went to Elijah Spirituality Center in Tagbilaran City to facilitate the Camillian Get-together. Six applicants from the different places of Bohol joined the activity to gain knowledge about seminary life and the Camillian religious life to help them in their discernment. Some ex-Camillian seminarians also helped in facilitating. We stayed overnight and on the following day, the applicants took their entrance examination.

Indeed, I had such a wonderful time in Bohol, especially in seeing and experiencing its magnificent beauty of nature. But I also realized that Bohol is not only about the sightseeing of its stunning beauty. It is also the lovely, generous, and hospitable locals that made my first time experience in Bohol worth remembering.



Another medical mission was held last February 8, 2020 in collaboration with LASAC in Barangays Magahis and Lumbagan in Tuy, Batangas. The following services were given to the evacuees: medical assessment and free medicines; PFA and other mental health activities; feeding program; relief goods; and spiritual enhancement through the Holy Eucharist and counseling. More than 200 adults, more than 130 children and more than 150 families availed of these services.

Inspired by the Good Samaritan, Jesus Christ, even in their own little way and limited capacity, the *Lingap Batangas* team conveys the message of hope and love to our disaster-affected sisters and brothers. Through these simple acts of caring, the team members make the less fortunate feel that today's Church is alive and relevant in journeying with them towards healing. They may not be able to totally eliminate sufferings but at least they can diminish them.

These medical missions will not be successful and possible without the help of all the people of goodwill who shared their love in so many ways.

The *Lingap Batangas* team thanks all donors who willingly shared their blessings to our sisters and brothers in need. It is committed that donations reach the rightful beneficiaries.

Lingap Batangas continues to accept donations in cash and in kind.



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

JANUARY

Birthdays

Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai 02/01/1981
Sch. Bonifonsius B. Lolan 08/01/1990
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. Raimondo Chia Men Yang 10/02/1950
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
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
Sch. Dionisius Juang 10/03/1993
Fr. Anthony A. Ongcal 18/03/1981
Sch. Ardianus Guga 18/03/1992
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. 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. Remegio E. Jamorabon 25/03/1986

APRIL

Birthdays

Fr. Alfons Oles 01/04/1977
Sch. Dennis Morales 01/04/1980
Sch. Engelbertus F.A. Klau 05/04/1994
Br. Marcelino S. Dugal 13/04/1971
Br. Davide Angelo Cattaneo 21/04/1939

Perpetual Professions

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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