



## Humanizing Healthcare in the Time of a Pandemic

By Anne Ruth Dela Cruz

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In the next few weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases are expected to increase. Asymptomatic or relatively mild cases will be advised to stay at home or proceed to quarantine facilities. Those who have more serious cases will have to be admitted to the hospital.

While at the hospital, the patient expects to receive the best medical care possible. However, what would make a difference to the patient—and perhaps even contribute to their speedy recovery—is if they receive what is called humanized healthcare.

According to the St. Camillus Center for Humanization of Health (SCCHH), the humanization of healthcare is defined as “a state of well-being, involving affection, dedication, respect for the other, that is, to consider the person as a dignified, complete and complex being.”

“We believe in its importance because we recognize that when we are sick, injured or facing an existential life crisis, our greatest human need is loving kindness and compassion in response to our vulnerability and suffering,” explained Fr. John Jay C. Magpusao, MI, SCCHH Executive Director.

Prior to the creation of the SCCHH, which is located in Loyola Heights in Quezon City, the Camillians put up a pastoral center which offered courses on pastoral care for the sick and other pastoral training and formation programs for healthcare workers and providers. The center also served as a venue for retreats, recollections, seminars and conferences.

### LIMITED OPERATIONS

When the pandemic struck, operations of the pastoral center became very limited and it was during this time that Fr. John Jay and his team started thinking of transforming the pastoral center into SCCHH. It was officially launched virtually last April 9.

As part of its efforts to promote humanized healthcare, SCCHH offers pastoral training and formation programs for medical and allied medical healthcare workers and providers (doctors, nurses, caregivers, etc.) and collaborators (those in government, civil society, and other faith-based organizations,



institutions, and congregations in health) to become more effective ministers in the world of health.

“We likewise advocate for the promotion of integral health and wellness especially in the area of mental health which has become more relevant in our present time due to the multidimensional challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Father John Jay said.

### CENTER FOR LISTENING

The SCCHH also houses the St. Camillus Center for Listening, which is part of the Center’s Health and Wellness Program.

“We believe in the healing power of listening. Preparing ourselves to listen to those who suffer, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, is an exercise of responsibility, which is born from the identity of our Camillian charism of mercy towards those who suffer. Listening is an active service; it is a form of commitment to people’s health,” he said.

The service is offered by appointment online, phone and face-to-face counselling with self-care and wellness activities. It also has a mobile counterpart, the Mobile Unit St. Camillus Center for Listening which is a van modified into a counseling room.

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Fr. Jose P. Eloja, MI



## **BUILDING RESILIENCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**W**herever we are in the world at this moment, we are plunged in uncertainty and change. At the same time, each one of us confronts our individual difficulties due to the pandemic. However, we go on with life no matter what. As the saying goes, struggles and trials are especially designed for us, and no trial is more than we can handle. Reflecting on this, we realize our potential to bring out a better version of ourselves. Let us use these challenging times to inspire or motivate us rather than pull us down.

Being resilient is such an important attitude in going through this difficult period of pandemic and even in other difficulties that life presents to us. With resilience, we are enabled to transform setbacks in life into new opportunities. However, it takes time to develop the essential skills to be resilient, although for some people, it seems that such characteristic is natural.

In her article, *How to Build Resilience During the Pandemic*, Dr. Leslie M. Gutman suggests five evidence-based strategies to help us develop resilience. I will not explain each of them, but I just thought they are worth mentioning. First, develop a positive mindset. Second, be self-compassionate. Third, don't forget to laugh. Fourth, build social connections. Fifth, reflect and (re)assess. I suppose our religious communities and healthcare institutions have already been using these strategies consciously or subconsciously even before the pandemic. It can be seen in the photos and news articles in this issue of Camillian Update how resilient the Philippine Province is, especially in the areas of formation and ministry.

Let us continue to pray to the Lord that we may stand the test of this pandemic. May we be constantly aware that God has given each of us the capacity for resilience and that God is always with us in this trying period of our history. Let us always remember, as what Dr. Gutman wrote to end her article, *"Our Creator has given us everything we need in order to withstand whatever life presents us."*

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order to withstand whatever life presents us.

”  
– Dr. Leslie M. Gutman

## CAMILLUS MEDHAVEN NURSING HOME VACCINATION DAY

As the COVID-19 crisis evolves and the risk of social isolation and loneliness due to governmental regulations raises concerns for the mental health and well-being of older and vulnerable population, we, at Camillus MedHaven Nursing Home, ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and residents by working closely with the Local Government Unit and City Health Office of Marikina in implementing strict quarantine protocols, bubble setup, and COVID-19 sanitation process.

On June 8, 2021, Camillus MedHaven Nursing Home in collaboration with the Marikina City Health Office provided vaccines to our frontliners. We are glad to announce that Camillus Medhaven staff and residents are fully vaccinated.

“Together forward in the fight against COVID19!”



## GRAND OPENING OF CAMILLUS MEDHAVEN NURSING HOME ANTIPOLO

Camillus MedHaven Nursing Home Antipolo opened its door to the public on June 15, 2021. Spearheaded by Fr. Rodel R. Enriquez, MI, Executive Director of Camillus Medhaven, the newest branch was inaugurated

The grand opening included the blessing led by Fr. Gabriel Garcia, MI, followed by a series of fun-filled activities hosted by Ms. Bela Batillan, Events Supervisor of Camillus MedHaven.

Camillus MedHaven Nursing Home Antipolo is the first private nursing home in Antipolo City that provides comprehensive care to elderly residents with our Vision to provide a home, a nurturing community, and a center for excellence for wholistic care of the elderly and persons in need of palliative and convalescent care. With health and daily care catered by our qualified geriatric staff, caregivers, and in-house physician, it offers the lowest care packages with the same Camillian way of caring.



## WORLD SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY



The celebration of World Senior Citizens Day on August 21, 2021 took place at the events hall of Camillus MedHaven Nursing Home. Our residents from the Main and Annex branches participated in the event headed by Ms. Kim Lorenzo and Ms. Leslie Garcia, Events Coordinators at Camillus MedHaven. This day provided an opportunity to show appreciation for the dedication, accomplishments, and services that our elderly residents have given throughout their lives.

Our residents celebrated this day by participating in a Zumba Fitness Class which allowed them to socialize and have fun while improving their mobility.

## CAMILLUS MEDHAVEN NURSING HOME

# FEAST OF CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

In honor of the revered founder of the Order of the Ministers to the Infirm, Camillus MedHaven celebrated St. Camillus de Lellis Feast through various activities with the Theme: "Strengthening our Faith and Love of Christ amidst all adversity." The activities included a 9-day Novena Prayer to commemorate the Patron Saint, team building activities, Fun Fair, The Voice "MedHaven Edition", Mobile Legends Tournament and Mr. Camillus MedHaven 2021. The activities were participated in by the residents and staff.



## The Dream of St Camillus continues to enfold in Pakistan

The Camillian dream began in 2001 with the arrival of the late Fr. Rino Metrini, MI in Pakistan. Since then small seeds of Camillian faith are sown here and there. One such seed fell on a fertile ground in Chak 49, Okara. The community and the parish priest Fr. Khalid Mukhtar dreamt too of a beautiful sanctuary. God works in mysterious ways. To accomplish his works, God sends his people. On September 16, 2018, Fr. Luigi Galvani, MI laid the foundation stone of St. Camillus Church, in the presence of the late Fr. Amato Aldino, OP, Fr. Mushtaq Anjum, MI, Fr. Khalid Mukhtar, FTL and the Holy Family Sisters with a huge number of the faithful.

With great help from various local and international sources, the construction of St Camillus Church was completed.

On the eve of the Feast of the Birthday of Mother Mary, September 7, 2021, in the presence of a great number of the clergy, religious and faithful, his excellency Dr Bishop Indrias Rehmat, Bishop of Faisalabad blessed and consecrated the first St. Camillus Church in Pakistan.

On this occasion, Bishop Rehmat conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to more than a hundred children.

Fr. Mushtaq expressed his gratitude to God, to Fr. Khalid, to the faithful and to the Bishop for such a privilege and honor given to the Camillians as he declared the name of the Church. He prayed that all those who would come with faith seeking healing through the intercession of St Camillus may be healed. Viva San Camillo!!!



### Humanizing Healthcare in the Time... from Page 1

"We can collaborate with hospitals, local government units, and companies where we will be the ones going to their areas to deliver their services. We will also utilize the mobile unit in going to disaster-affected communities to conduct psychosocial and psychospiritual intervention activities," Fr. John Jay said.

To prepare for this, 10 Camillian religious and one lay collaborator completed a four-month (60 hours) Online Intensive Certificate Course on "Counselling and Grief Training for Social Intervention in Listening Centers" from Pere Tarres Faculty of Social Education and Social Work of the Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain in collaboration with the Camillians' Centro de Humanizacion de la Salud in Madrid, Spain.

### HUMANIZED CARE

When asked about what advice he could offer to frontline healthcare workers, Fr. John Jay said he expected them to be

"the main agents in spreading the virus of humanized care in the world of health."

"On the other hand, let us always remember that they are humans too. They are persons who also need our love and support. Humanization is about respect, caring, and empathy. Humanization in health will never be complete without also providing humanized care for our healthcare workers," he said.

He added that during these trying times, it is also his fervent wish that humanized systems and settings be put in place so that our modern day heroes will feel valued and important. "Let us care for our carers," he stressed.

"To our healthcare workers, our community is better because you are part of it. We support you and our heartfelt appreciation for all you do. We are deeply grateful to you for all the sacrifices that you and your families are making. Words are not enough to thank you for your strength, courage and dedication," Fr. John Jay said.



## 5th Spring Rain Global Asian Philanthropic Development Conference

The whole TCFF-PDO team attended Spring Rain Global's 5th Asian Philanthropic Development Conference, with the theme "Resiliency & Beyond" last July 28-30. Just like last year, due to the pandemic, it was held online via Zoom. As with the face-to-face version, the conference was a 3-day event encompassing a variety of topics on philanthropy focusing on different advocacies

TCFF-PDO Executive Director, Fr. John Paul Alvarado, MI was one of the panel speakers on the Advocacy on Health. The panel discussed the resiliency of the health care system in this time of pandemic. Fr. John Paul shared the Camillians' interventions and initiatives as response to the health issues we are currently facing.

Also part of the conference, The Donor-Donee night was held on the 2nd night. It featured the PDOs awarded with the rookie of the year award for the past 5 years. As TCFF-PDO had the honor of receiving the award in 2018, they were one of the featured PDOs. The goal of the night was to introduce exemplary PDOs to donors and organizations for potential funding partnerships.



## Feast Day of St. Camillus: Distribution of Hygiene Kits to Patients

As part of the Feast Day celebrations, TCFF-PDO assembled hygiene kits (inside are a box of masks, alcohol, faceshields and a Camillian red cross) which were distributed to OPD clients at St. Camillus Medical Center. The challenge of the pandemic is still present but despite this, the TCFF-PDO team is still committed to its mission to serve the sick.



## Heart in Hands Donors' Circle Mass



Last July 26, TCFF-PDO launched the HHDC Mass, a monthly (every last Monday of the month) mass specially catered to the Heart in Hands Donors' Circle members. Through this, we are giving back to the donors who have supported The Camillians throughout the years. It is also an avenue to gather and catch-up while still keeping safe in this time of pandemic.

## Spring Rain Global Bootcamp

TCFF-PDO joined the SRG Bootcamp, a weekly intense training on the 6-pillar capacitation model, crafted by the Spring Rain Global Team. It was an 8-week camp with day-long sessions every Thursday. TCFF-PDO was joined by at least 14 other PDOs in this challenge. The bootcamp culminated last May 27 with a competition wherein the PDOs are to pitch a project or their organization as whole to the panel of judges comprised of different donor organizations. TCFF-PDO won 1st place for their Mobile Health Clinic Proposal and was awarded P30,000.00.

## Covid-19 Management in SCHs

March 22

Continuous support is given to the different Camillian communities and St. Camillus Healthcare Institutions during the pandemic through the distribution of PPE and other essentials to ensure the safety of our frontliners as they continuously battle the deadly virus.

Supplies were distributed to Our Lady of La Paz Parish and the St. Camillus Polyclinic in Makati, last March 22, 2021.

March 24

The St. Camillus Medical Center received PPE and UV lamps for disinfection through TCFE-PDO's COVID-19 Response. To our brave front liners, we say "Walang Iwanan!" we will support you until this fight is over!

May 21

Continuous support is given to the different Camillian communities and St. Camillus Healthcare Institutions during the pandemic through the distribution of PPE and other essentials to ensure the safety of our front liners as they continuously battle the deadly virus.

Supplies were distributed to St. Camillus Medical Center and Nuestra Señora dela Annunciata Parish.

June 24

TCFF-PDO provided St Camillus Medical Center, 6 units of air purifiers with HEPA filters, huge enough to cover the different areas of the institution to better serve their clients during the ongoing pandemic.



## SCH-Calbayog's Mobile Health Clinic

Through the financial assistance of Cadis Taiwan, TCFE-PDO was able to purchase a Mobile Health Clinic for St. Camillus Hospital of Calbayog. The unit was blessed and turned over to Fr. Renato Maliwat, MI, last April 19, 2021. The Mobile Health Clinic will make the Medical Missions, which SCH-Calbayog regularly holds, more efficient and will be able to reach more far-flung areas.



## Care Packages for Camillian Front Liners

Care packs were distributed to our beloved front liners at St. Camillus Medical Center last April 9, as we continue to value our collaborators especially this time of pandemic through the Care for the Carers program.



## St. Camillus Hospital of Mati Opens New Chapel



To give way to new structural changes of the hospital, SCH-Mati has opened a new chapel named St. Camillus de Lellis and Camillian Martyrs of Charity Chapel

Separate from the hospital building, the new chapel is now safer for everyone to attend the daily morning Mass following the IATF's health and safety protocols. Whilst those who are unable to attend the Mass are encouraged to write their prayer intentions on the forms provided at the entrance of the chapel.

This COVID-19 pandemic has brought about bankruptcies, increasing unemployment, financial issues, relational problems in the family, as well as mental health issues to many. But this global crisis is also an opportunity to spend one's time in prayer and reflection, to gather as a family during community lockdowns, and to prioritize the essentials in life. The new chapel serves then as a solemn place for personal and communal prayers, and for discernment for those who are faced with difficulties caused by the pandemic.

During this prolonged crisis, the need to constantly approach God is all the more needed. Safe places of worship are also essential in strengthening the morale and spirituality of the faithful especially the frontliners, our modern-day heroes. The hospital's new chapel provides a religious atmosphere wherein patients and their watchers, doctors, hospital staff and personnel can visit anytime to pray and strengthen their faith. The light at the end of this long, dark tunnel is still uncertain. Statistics on COVID-19 are not promising. But that does not mean giving up on seeing the positive side of life.

While the political and medical experts are collectively seeking a better solution to this global problem, churches are also safely filled with people who believe in the God-given gifts of all directly in-charge of the crisis. Thus, the new hospital chapel is not just a new building, it is where God and His people meet and a place where hope is uttered by sincere lips.

by Fr. Anthony Ongcal, MI



## St. Camillus Medical Center - Pasig



The St. Camillus Medical Center in Pasig has been catering to the healthcare needs of the surrounding communities, parishes and industrial companies for over 26 years to date. As we live with the global pandemic, SCMC continues to offer variety of services. We expand and continue to innovate and adapt to our current situation required by our patients needs.

Last May 2021, SCMC launched its first teleconsultation to fully cater our patients from the comfort of their home. On the same month, SCMC opens its COVID-19 swabbing station, "Swab and GO". This can be scheduled through online appointment or phone inquiry. Through this, SCMC entered into corporate relations for partnership for on-site Swab Testing and for Pre-employment Examination and Annual Physical Exam. SCMC also provided in-house training and seminars for their employees for the efficiency and effectivity in handling customer and patient complaints.

SCMC has upgraded its facility together with their private rooms and added executive rooms designed comfortably for patients. We also installed state-of-the-art Air Purifiers with HEPA filters to ensure the safety and protection of our patients and employees.

Institutions, individuals and organizations have also shown their support and appreciation to our front liners and

health workers by donating food packs and care packages. We give thanks to the Camillian Fathers' Foundation, Ms. Delia Castillo from Gabriela, May Puso Foundation and the Rotary Club of Pasig South. SCMC has also taken its part in celebrating the Feast Day of St. Camillus de Lellis last July 14th 2021 with the blessing of the Triage and newly renovated Pharmacy and Offices. We would like to thank the Camillian Provincial Council and members of the Board for the continuous support.

SCMC has also been part of the creation of the music video of G Diaries Season 9 Theme: "Stronger Together" performed by Martin Nievera, with the help of the Camillian Father's Foundation – Philanthropic Development Office. The Participation of our front liners is seen in the music video puzzled as various organizations from all over the world contributed to it.

Indeed, SCMC has been fully committed to provide quality service and continues to deliver humanized care through "Serving with Heart in our Hands".



## St. Camillus Polyclinic - Makati in time of Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact in the Philippines and across the world. The threat to health, livelihood and well being has massively increased during this crisis. The unprecedented struggles brought by the spread of the virus therefore call for acts of bravery, generosity and resilience among us.

We at SCP-Makati not only provide learning and development opportunities for our staff, but also constantly improve our facilities to provide quality care to our sick brothers and sisters. Driven by our commitment to social responsibility, we have taken the initiative to help improve the health and lives of Filipinos disadvantaged by poverty, sickness and calamity. It is also our goal to serve our community where the poorest of the poor are and where the heart of our dear patron saint belongs.

In commemoration of the 407th death anniversary of St. Camillus de Lellis, the SCP-Makati embarked on a mission to help the less fortunate in the community.



On July 13, 2021, St. Camillus Polyclinic Makati, in partnership with the Our Lady of La Paz Parish led by Fr. Rey Sentillas and Sr. Glenda Monroy, ASP respectively, distributed a total of 200 bottles of Multivitamins for kids and 200 sets of Vitamin B-complex and Ascorbic Acid for adults, to families who are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) at Barangay La Paz, Makati. This aims to help boost their immune system and ensure their good health amidst the pandemic.

In addition, detainees of the Makati City Jail Extension in Barangay La Paz celebrated the feast day of St. Camillus when the polyclinic visited them to donate a total of 30 trays of eggs, 204 packs of soap and shampoo, 420 pieces of bread, 210 pieces of bananas and 210 pieces of boiled eggs on July 14, 2021. The said activity was held at the Makati City Jail covered court Vito Cruz Extension in Barangay La Paz. The detainees though they may have been temporarily deprived of their liberty are, nonetheless, children of God deserving help and love from us. They are entitled to services and provisions with which they can reform and rejoin their communities as renewed individuals.

We are fortunate enough to have passionate staff that stand behind our mission. These activities would not have been successful if not for their utmost support. We also would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mrs. Ruby Lontoc and Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Comaling for their generous contribution. Their support encourages our continued commitment in reaching our goal.

We hope that as children of God we continue to seek good as God has been good to us. Let us all recover from this pandemic without leaving the most vulnerable behind.





## Pinning of the Red Cross

by: Sem. Junilo Arma

The St. Camillus Seminary Community welcomed its new members on the 14th of September 2021, the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross, by pinning the Camillian Red Cross as a sign of the beginning of their journey as a Camillian seminarian. The Camillian Red Cross is a symbol of Christ's mercy, charity, and compassion for the sick. Every Camillian formand who enters the seminary is conferred a tiny Camillian Red Cross.

The new Seminarians are:

1. Lance Mathew Javier of San Mateo, Rizal
2. Emmanuel Oguing Jr. of Salcedo, Eastern Samar
3. John Dave Sumono of Mercedes, Eastern Samar
4. Charvic Andre Cabugawan of Salcedo, Eastern Samar
5. Jorylle Caseñas of Jagna, Bohol
6. Niño Faustino Capones of Salcedo, Eastern Samar
7. Julius Daniel of Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental
8. Chicce Equiel Gahoy of Salcedo, Eastern Samar
9. Jorge Quiminales Jr of Salcedo, Eastern Samar
10. Marvin Ambe of Calbayog, Western Samar

The Mass was presided over by the seminary rector, Rev. Fr. Ruben Mandin, MI, and the homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Almar Roman, MI, Formator and Vocation Director. In his homily, Fr. Almar told the new seminarians that whenever they face difficulties and problems in seminary, they should recall the day of pinning when they got the Camillian Red Cross, which served as a reminder of the day they decided to enter the seminary. "Always glance at the cross to remind yourself why you started," he added.

## Reflection: The Camillian Red Cross for Me

by: Sem. Lance Mathew Javier

For many, having a red cross placed in someone's chest, near the heart, is an indication of one's fidelity to the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, also known as Camillians. The Red Cross is a long standing symbol of the aforementioned religious order. It was personally chosen by our Holy Father, St. Camillus de Lellis himself as a sign of commitment and service to the sick. Later, this symbol was also adopted by medical practitioners as a universal symbol for healthcare. As an aspiring Camillian, I'm looking forward to having the red cross planted near my heart too. However, it is still a long way to go in order to receive fully this red cross. It will take time for me to be a professed Camillian.

All seminarians upon admission to the seminary receive a small red cross as a sign of being part of the Camillian community. This is done in a Pinning of the Red Cross ceremony that is guaranteed to live on in the memory of every Camillian seminarian and is surely one of the highlights of his formation. Normally, it takes about two weeks for the newly admitted formands to be successfully pinned. But, in our case, it took more than two months to have the imposition. This was due to different reasons such as conflicts in schedule, quarantine protocols, and others alike which delayed the memorable event from occurring. However, it is better late than never, right? We were informed that we are about to receive the red cross pin a day before the ceremony. We all got excited knowing we are near to being officially part of our desired community. Our pinning took place on the very day of the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross. All of us got ready early, way before the scheduled time. I could see the excitement in my fellow brothers and in myself. This was the day we are looking forward to, that's why we couldn't hide our emotions.

After the solemn ceremony, everyone seemed energetic and full of adrenaline but not me. I was happy but I felt really emotional. I did not show to my brothers that I was already teary-eyed, not because I was downhearted but because my realizations started to kick in; knowing that I am now officially a seminarian of the Camillians I once dreamed to be part of. This red cross pinned on my chest made me realize that I'm only at the starting point of my vocation journey. This pinning is where everything starts. This is the beginning of my peculiar life, different from other people. Despite knowing that I'm only about to start, I'm grateful for the progress I have made. It is not that easy to decide to enter the seminary. I'm proud of myself with how far I have been through. Imagine, several months ago, I was still dreaming and conceptualizing being a seminarian and

now I am already here. Also, this event made me realize the responsibilities I have to comply with. Bringing the red cross near my chest also means bearing the sick on my back. Now that we are already full-fledged seminarians of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, we are also expected to perform the charism the Camillians vowed to do — to be ministers of the sick. Lastly, after this occasion as I was scrolling through the documentation pictures, I saw how happy I am. I noticed how delighted I am with the path I chose to walk on. I can see the contentment in my face knowing that I am already at the track I really yearned for. Looking at my pictures, I thought of my late grandmother. To be a priest is a shared dream between me and my grandmother. I'm sure if she is present here, she would be sobbing for I have already started the vocation we both want for me.

This Pinning of the Red Cross is not only about the bearing of the mere red cross on my chest, this ceremony is also the start of the much bigger cross I have to bear.

## It all began here

by: Sem. Chicce Equiel Gahoy

**I**t all began here. Our vocation journey began when we all gathered at St. Camillus Seminary in Loyola Heights Quezon City on July 15, 2021. Coming from different provinces, we are gathered for the same reason that is to mold our spiritual life and to shape us as future ministers of the Church.

I am one of the 11 seminarians for priestly formation. My vocation journey started dull. I am weary with all my confusions, questions and financial concerns. A year ago also, I was disappointed to learn that the seminary would no longer accept me because of the problems. I am torn with disappointment. I am lost. Where am I really called to? Where do I go?

As days passed, nature found its way to answer my query and thus, found my sense of purpose in life. A couple of months ago, I was given a call from my vocation director, Fr. Almar Roman, recruiting me again to enter the seminary. My conviction to enter the seminary revived. I decided to pursue priestly vocation again.

Seminary life changes certain areas in my life. Silent prayer becomes my daily routine and reading books becomes my new hobby. We begin sharing our life stories to one another. We start showing our vulnerabilities and appreciate each person. It was hard for me to open up but the assurance of my brothers in the seminary comforted me. The affirmation that all of my insecurities would be respected and trust is guaranteed.

The seminary also have been great in cultivating my spirituality. I have grown deeper in my understanding of God and his love for us. It gives me greater conviction to offer my life to him. I am fascinated that the seminary is molding me in the different pillars of formation - spiritual, psycho-social, academic, community and apostolate. We are cultivated to be a man ready for the world and the church that await us. We are refined to be a man ready to be a bridge to God. Indeed my commitment to respond to his call is the best decision I have made in my life.

## Batch Metanoia Graduates

by: Sem. Mark Craig P. Oguing

**J**une 4, 2021 is the date the batch Metanoia graduates their study as senior high school students at St. Joseph College of Quezon City. Metanoia is the name chosen by the seminarians Mark Craig P. Oguing, Anthony J. Lagramada Jr., Ken Dante P. Delista, Tristan Jurie B. Martin, Alejandro V. Sasan and Kenneth P. Cabugawan to represent the bond that holds them together as a batch. Metanoia means 'change of heart' and it is change that became their pillar as they lived their lives in the seminary change that aims for self-improvement, change driven to have a closer relationship with God.

As the batch graduation progresses, they are filled with a mixture of emotions. They feel joy, sadness, anxiety and excitement. Joy, because they were able to cross the boundary of senior high as one. Sadness, because half of them would now walk on a different path that would separate them from one another. Anxiety, because of the new stage that they would tread is something foreign in their life; And excitement, because of the infinite possibility that the future could give each of them as they continue their lives.

Let us pray for them that God guide and direct them to continue on their journey and that their life may not just cause metanoia within themselves but to the world as well.



## HOLY WEEK 2021



Due to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the apostolate commitments of the scholastics varied. Some went to Our Lady of La Paz Parish, Makati City, to serve while others joined the Holy Week celebrations of the St. Camillus Seminary community. On March 26, before the Semana Santa, the Scholasticate Community reenacted the Passover Seder to commemorate the biblical story of Yahweh freeing the Israelites from slavery. During Holy Week, March 28 – April 4, while some scholastics actively served in the parish, the rest of the community fulfilled their tasks in various liturgical practices in the seminary. They carried their palaspas (decorated palm fronds) during Palm Sunday, commemorated the Last Supper and reenacted the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday, prayed the Station of the Cross, and shared their reflections on the seven last words of Jesus on Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, and Solemn Mass on Easter Sunday. Indeed, the Holy Week celebration is about commemorating Jesus' words and deeds which brought humanity freedom from the slavery of sin and death gaining for us our salvation.

## RENEWAL OF VOWS

On May 25, the feast of the Birth of St. Camillus and the Camillian Martyrs of Charity, the temporary professed religious of the Ministers of the Infirm, Philippine Province, renewed their vows before the Lord. Fr. Rodel Enriquez, MI, Vicar Provincial and representative of the Superior General, presided over the Eucharist and accepted the renewal of Schs. Yonel S. Abragan, Paul Austin A. Echavez, Ruel T. Fernandez, Vengie A. Ibañez, Kang Yeongmin, and Dennis E. Morales. Since many guests and family members could not attend the celebration, the renewal of Vows was live-streamed on the Facebook page of the Camillians. At the end of the celebration, Sch. Dennis expressed his gratitude to the perpetually professed religious who attended, the viewers on Facebook live, the family of the Scholastics, and the people who unceasingly prayed for their perseverance and supported their formation.



## LOYOLA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY GRADUATION A.Y. 2020-2021

On May 26, the Loyola School of Theology of Ateneo de Manila University held the Baccalaureate Mass and simple graduation ceremonies at the Church of the Gesù in Ateneo with limited guests. On this day, Sch. Dennis concluded his theological academic endeavor with Latin honors, cum laude. The school administration chose a Camillian to preside the Mass to honor the Camillian frontliners and their noble service in this time of pandemic. Hence, Fr. Angel V. Crisostomo, MI officiated the Mass and inspired the graduates on how the Camillians vowed to serve the sick even at the risk of their lives.

## My Realizations During the Pandemic by: Sch. Paul Austin A. Echavez, MI

The Covid19 pandemic greatly affected the social sphere. It forced people to practice "social distancing" to keep the virus from spreading. The lifestyle of a few people did not dramatically change, but majority of the population experienced a tremendous change. For a while, social distancing was unbearable, especially for the outgoing and extroverted. But, after a year of social distancing, everybody was forced to adapt and settle with the social change. This social change taught me some positive lessons that I want to share.

### Human beings are more CONNECTED than I thought.

Social distancing 'physically' prevents people from interacting. This is damaging for people in general because participating in a social structure is a fundamental reality of human beings. However, despite the restrictions of

physical space, there is a space that humans can still interact with without being physically near to one another – the cyberspace. Internet has become indispensable in the current situation. This is the lifeline of many companies, schools, and even religious institutions. I believe that if we remove internet today, human society will not function properly, especially the modern cities. In my case, I am more connected to my family during the pandemic compared before. I am frequently calling now my mother and brothers to check their situation. I rarely do this before the pandemic. Social distancing and the constant threat of sickness and death made people become more aware of their relationships. Ironically, it is during the pandemic that I become closer to my family. Thus, the threat of social distancing does not diminish relationship. Care and love can always be present even if people are apart.

# SCHOLASTICATE CHRONICLES

## Human beings are more RESILIENT than I thought.

Hobbies are very important in human life. It keeps people preoccupied during their free time and it gives them enjoyment. People pick few hobbies throughout their lives and stick to it. It is very seldom that adults change their hobbies unless it is something very interesting for them. During the pandemic, so many people are drawn to create their own video logs (vlogs) in different social media platform such as YouTube and Tiktok. Filming oneself and posting it on the internet for the world to see become unbelievably popular. This practice may never become a trend if the pandemic did not happen. People find ways to express themselves and make social noise even if they are forced to stay at home. This to me is a form of resiliency. There are negative effects to one's personality if self-expression is prevented, for it is a fundamental reality that humans are social beings. People changes their hobbies and interests that best fulfill their needs according to the situation. I believe that the explosion of Tiktok and YouTube vloggers is not simply out of boredom, but primarily out of the need of

individuals for self-expression – to present themselves into the social sphere despite of the confinement and restrictions.

## Human beings are more ADAPTIVE that I thought.

I know some old people who had accepted the fact that the current technology is beyond them, thus they tend to avoid social media because they don't understand it, and their utility is not obvious to them. However, because of the pandemic, many elderly population tried social media platforms and involved themselves in online discussions. Sometimes, people don't explore the unknown because it requires a lot of effort for them to do so. They simply give up and retreat back to their comfort zone believing that it is BEYOND them. However, if there is a compulsion from external forces, people can be more adaptive than we thought. There is a saying that goes, "You cannot teach old dogs with new tricks." I don't believe that this is entirely true. Maybe it is better to say, "It is hard for dogs to learn new tricks, but when it is necessary, they can manage." This is what I observed during the pandemic.

## BIRTHDAYS

MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
01, 1994	Sch. Yonel S. Abragan	13, 1938	Fr. Thomas C. Welu	01, 1949	Fr. Matteo Kao Kuo-ching	01, 1974	Fr. Mushtaq Anjum
05, 1994	Sch. Gabriel Gere	14, 1968	Fr. Eliseo L. Navarro	05, 1986	Fr. Bon L. Arimbuyutan	04, 1948	Fr. Remegio E. Jamarabon
13, 1984	Sch. Vengie Ibañez	17, 1980	Fr. Roderick R. Tampis	07, 1935	Fr. Gian Carlo Michelini	04, 1984	Fr. John Paul B. Alvarado
14, 1963	Fr. Manuel M. Tamayo	21, 1990	Fr. Almar S. Roman	11, 1985	Fr. Andrea Jung Ju Seo	04, 1995	Sch. Ruel Fernandez
15, 1963	Fr. Francis Zhang Zhi-rong	24, 1995	Sch. Placidus Sufandi	20, 1990	Fr. Mensianus Aman	14, 1947	Fr. Ivo Z. Anselmi
16, 1996	Nov. Kornelis Uspaldo Korason	26, 1979	Fr. Cyrelus Suparman Andi	23, 1981	Fr. Marven G. Ruyeras	16, 1944	Fr. Davide Maria Lee Tai-chuen
20, 1979	Fr. John Jay C. Magpusao	27, 1976	Fr. Rodel R. Enriquez	24, 1941	Fr. Luigi Galvani	16, 1994	Sch. Fabianus Son
26, 1940	Fr. Giuseppe Didonè	30, 1994	Sch. Yolenta Safi Nalut	25, 1956	Fr. Jaime A. Roa	20, 1983	Fr. Joseph Pham Van Dong
26, 1982	Sch. Rosalino A. Dos Santos			25, 1971	Fr. Domingo S. Barawid	26, 1995	Sch. Paul Austin Echavez
29, 1995	Sch. Gema Galgani Galung					30, 1967	Fr. Robert S. Chua Jr.
31, 1993	Sch. Robertus Raflianto Arsan						

## PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
25, 1997	Fr. Renante T. Sentillas	31, 2010	Fr. Cyrelus Suparman Andi	31, 2012	Fr. Eliseo L. Navarro	11, 1998	Fr. Tex Rico V. Buntol
31, 2002	Fr. Gabriel V. Garcia	31, 2010	Fr. Avensius Harung	31, 2019	Fr. Almar S. Roman	11, 1998	Fr. Robert S. Chua Jr.
31, 2002	Fr. Primitivo S. Guinit	31, 2010	Fr. Placido B. de Jose			14, 1984	Fr. Rolando J. Fernandez
31, 2002	Fr. Jaime A. Roa	31, 2010	Fr. Brian Vincent Q. Rances			14, 2012	Fr. Joseph Yang Gao-chao
31, 2006	Fr. Angel V. Crisostomo	31, 2011	Fr. Mushtaq Anjum			14, 2019	Fr. Mensianus Aman
31, 2006	Fr. Renato D. Maliwat	31, 2011	Fr. Rodolfo V. Cancino Jr.	25, 2006	Fr. Michael G. Gimena	18, 1967	Fr. Thomas C. Welu
31, 2007	Fr. Wilson D. Peñaranda	31, 2011	Fr. Ignasius Sibar	29, 2018	Fr. Jose Emmanuel B. Cabarles	29, 2017	Fr. Anthony A. Ongcal
31, 2008	Fr. Francis Zhang Zhi-rong	31, 2011	Fr. Roderick R. Tampis				
31, 2009	Fr. Alfons Oles	31, 2012	Fr. John Paul B. Alvarado				
31, 2009	Fr. Marven G. Ruyeras	31, 2012	Fr. Jayson A. Labrador				
		31, 2012	Fr. John Jay C. Magpusao				

## PRESBYTERAL ORDINATIONS

JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
19, 1976	Fr. Amelio Troietto	14, 1990	Fr. Renato P. Sales	10, 1991	Fr. Manuel M. Tamayo
19, 1993	Fr. Salvador G. Cariño	22, 1967	Fr. Thomas C. Welu	17, 1980	Fr. Raimondo Yang Chia-men
22, 1952	Fr. Giovanni Rizzi	22, 2017	Fr. Joseph Pham Van Dong	17, 2019	Fr. Joseph Luu Ngoc Khanh
23, 1963	Fr. Gian Carlo Michelini	22, 2017	Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai	28, 1991	Fr. Joseph Yang Gao-chao
23, 1963	Fr. Celestino Rizzi			28, 1991	Fr. Francis Zhang Zhi-rong
23, 1964	Fr. Giuseppe Didonè				
23, 1968	Fr. Luigi Galvani				

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