



Congregazione Clericale

MISSIONARI DELLA FEDE

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M.F. News Bulletin

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2018 CHRISTMAS CRIB AT PETER'S SQUARE, VATICAN

From the Editorial Desk...

With joy we bring out the 13th issue of our *News Letter* aimed at keeping all the members informed of the various activities, undertakings and events that are happening in the various parts of the Congregation. May we kindly remind everyone, especially the Provincial, Vice Provincial and Delegation Governance, to send us on time the news items to be published. Let us, as one family, share among ourselves all our achievements and our endeavours. We always welcome the corrections and suggestions for the betterment. We regret also for the errors and omissions if any. May the God grant us the grace to be courageous and joyful messengers of the Good News and a shining stars that lead others to the feet of the Lord. We wish everyone

*A Very Happy Christmas and Grace filled
New Year 2019*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF BELONGING AND NEIGHBOUR



Dear Confreres,

As Missionaries of Faith in service to Christ, we are here to bring the Good News to His people with joy and the Holy Spirit. Very soon, we will be singing loudly “Joy to the World, the Lord is come” as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago. The story hasn’t changed and although the world of the twenty-first century is very different to the land of Bethlehem at the time of the Nativity, today’s world still has many of the issues that existed then. People

are still marginalised and poverty for many is never more visible all over the world than it is today.

The Christmas story is where God decides to ‘belong’ with humanity especially the ones that feel left out of society. The shepherds were not rich, educated, holy men and the Wise Men were seen as magicians/astrologers and regarded with suspicion by the ordinary Jewish people; they were certainly not considered part of God’s chosen people. Both on the edges of society in different ways and yet God chose to first reveal Himself to them. Those on the edge of society, He did not forget. Jesus’ ministry continued in this way through His life.

We, as followers of Christ, should follow this example. We should be found working with and supporting those who feel ‘forgotten’ by the rest of society. Many people from different groups have lost their sense of belonging and so find themselves ever more lonely and distant from their neighbours. The youth, the elderly, the disabled and those with mental health issues find themselves on the outside and the Christmas season, instead of helping, can bring an even deeper sense of isolation.

A sense of belonging is a human need, just like the need for food and shelter. Feeling that you belong is most important in seeing value in life and in coping with intensely painful emotions. We, the Church, together with friends and family all have a role to play in nurturing a sense of belonging where it is missing.

As we have now begun the season of Advent and the new liturgical year, it is a good time for us to reflect on the year we’ve had and to plan for the new year ahead with a clear focus on nurturing belonging in our neighbour.

Help us to see that it is our job to be there for those people on the margins. Even when they may seem troublesome. Help us to create a sense of belonging. This can sometimes involve taking risks, but that’s exactly what God and Jesus did. God took a risk in sending His only Son with humanity to the world and Jesus’ risks led ultimately to His suffering and death on the cross.

God’s love is found where people take this sort of risk, where they let people living with

suffering and injustice know that they belong to God's family, that they have not been forgotten. This is not easy, but it is the job of the Christian to act in such a way that God's love is credible.

The greatest gift for Christmas is for people to know that God is in the middle of the world that He made and our thanks to Him can be shown by letting everyone know that they matter.

Advent is a time of expectation, preparation and waiting for a new beginning. Let us use this time wisely.

I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2019!

Rome, 08 December 2018
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf
Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf
Superior General

NEWS FROM GENERAL CURIA

MF Jubilarians of the year 2019

The editorial team is happy to inform everyone that

five of our confreres have just entered into the jubilee year of their priestly ordination (June 1994 – June 2019).

Fr. Carlos Camacho
FR. Roderick Ignacio
Fr. Joel Jores
Fr. Javier Prada
Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang



The entire Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith is proud of you and extends the heartfelt congratulations and prayers of thanksgiving for your tireless and dedicated ministry in the service of Christ, his Church and the Congregation.

Perpetual Profession



The General Curia is happy to inform everyone that the two formees belonging to the Vice Province of Oceania, **Consedine MALAE FUIAVA** and **Peter LAUPAPA V. TAUFAPA' ASAU**, will be making their perpetual profession on 3 January 2019. Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes in advance to the would-be perpetually professed members.

Governing Body of the Delegation of North America

The Superior General and the General Council is happy to inform all the confreres of the Congregation that, after having taken into consideration the result of the consultation ballot conducted in the month of November and also the progress being made in the Delegation during these three years, the present governing body is reconfirmed for another three years.

Fr. Celso YU, mf, - *Superior of the Delegation*

Fr. Arogyaiah BANDANADAM, mf, - *Councillor and Secretary of the Delegation*

Fr. Joy KUMARTHUSSEERIL, mf, - *Councillor and Finance Officer of the Delegation*

Hearty congratulations on their re-nomination and best wishes for their future ministry.

Provincial Chapters and Assemblies of the Major Organisms

It is a happy note that for the first time in the history of our Congregation the Provinces are going to celebrate the Provincial Chapters. The dates of these Chapters and those of the Assemblies of the Vice-provinces and Delegation are as follows:

Provincial Chapters:

Province of the Philippines: 04 – 15 November 2019.

Province of St. Paul (IND): 25 November 2019 – 05 December 2019.

Province of St. Peter (IND): 06 -20 December 2019.

Province of Viet Nam: 01 – 08 October 2019.

General Assemblies:

Vice-province of Italy: 07 – 09 January 2020.

Vice-province of Myanmar: 12 – 13 June 2019.

Vice-province of Oceania: 05 – 07 September 2019.

Delegation of North America: 25 – 31 August 2019.

NEWS FROM MAJOR ORGANISMS

PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Domus Sacerdos Magnus Carollers

“You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at His birth” (Luke 1:14). Christmas is the most joyous festival we celebrate as Christians for it is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This celebration is centered on the love of God that gives joy, peace, and happiness. Our country, Philippines, is known for a long celebration of Christmas which starts on the month of September until the Epiphany of our Lord. As part of this culture, our community, Missionaries of Faith, Province of the Philippines, has a tradition of visiting our friends and benefactors to serenade them Christmas carols. This year, the caroling started on 27 November 2018 and will end on 24 December 2018. During this festive time, we take the opportunity to visit our friends/benefactors in San Pablo City, Sta. Rosa City, Lucena City, Lumban, Sta. Cruz, Liliw, Cabuyao City, City of Biñan, Tayabas City and some benefactors in Metro Manila. It is our way of expressing our gratitude to them and show appreciation for their generosity as our friends/benefactors of the community, and also to make them happy this Christmas season. Seminarians prepare beautiful and heartwarming Christmas carols and as always, it is accompanied by a dance.

Readmission to the Novitiate

Edgar Bele, a former seminarian of the Clerical Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith, from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Polangui, Albay, was re-admitted to the novitiate programme. After years of contemplation and discernment outside the seminary, Kuya Edgar finally decided to come back.

He was accepted and asked to undergo a special programme. Before his re-admission to the novitiate, he spent six months in *Domus Sacerdos Magnus*, together with the students of Philosophy. After which, he was re-admitted to the Novitiate on 26 November 2018. It was a simple celebration. The rite of admission was presided by the Rev. Fr. Ricardo Basquñez, mf, Provincial Superior. It was done outside the eucharistic celebration, which according to Rev. Fr. Basquñez is the proper way of doing it.

Priest formators and seminarians from *Domus Sacerdos Magnus* and *Domus Pastor Bonus* came to witness Bro. Bele's re-admission. Priests from *Domus Providenzia* also attended the celebration. A simple dinner and bonding among the community concluded the celebration.

Installations as Lectors

H. E. Msgr. Mel Rey Uy, Bishop of the Diocese of Lucena, installed 24 seminarians as new lectors in the chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Alphonsus Regional Seminary, Lucena City, Philippines on the 11th of December 2018. 3 of those new lectors are Missionaries of Faith seminarians. Seminarians Trung and Luong belong to the MF province of Vietnam while seminarian Reymar Diares is from the MF Philippines Province.

PROVINCE OF VIET NAM

New Aspirants

The Office of the Pastoral Care of Vocations organized a Second Vocation Camp, for three days, on 3rd August in order to discern the call of God and to select the candidates who are really worthy to enter the Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith, Province of Vietnam. There were 29 participants in this vocation camp and finally 22 were selected, besides the 11 candidates selected in the First Vocation Camp. The Province has admitted 33 new aspirants this year and they have started their formative period on 15th August 2018, at the Institute of God's Word, M.F Provincial House.

Catechism Training Methodology and Campaign Organized for brothers

The Province of Viet Nam conducted a training course for the Brothers, from 12th to 18th August 2018, with the purpose that brothers may get the fundamental knowledge of the Catholic doctrine and essential teaching skills that will be useful for the year of regency. After that, from 25th to 27th August, they were given training to guide several groups and associations. The resource person was Mr. Martino Tran Tuan Huy, Director of *Young Men's Christian Association* in Viet Nam.

Inauguration of the New Academic Year 2018 – 2019 and conferring of the Ministries

The new academic year 2018-2019 was inaugurated on Wednesday, 05th September 2018, with the solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, mf, The Provincial Superior. During the same celebration, the Provincial Superior conferred the *Ministry of Acolyte* to Dominic Nguyen Thai Binh and Joseph Vo

Minh Tuan and the *Ministry of Lectorate* to Peter Nguyen Van Hien, Joseph Pham Hoang Huynh, Bartholomew Le Thanh Phu, Joseph Dang Xuan Quy, John Le Quynh Thu, Luke Nguyen Thanh Trung Tin and John Nguyen Van Trinh.

Project of pastoral ministry primarily in support of priests in difficulty

The MF Province of Viet Nam is preparing the members to be qualified for missionary activity for priests and faithful who are in need of physical and spiritual support. There are some brothers who are entrusted with the health care of the priests having physical difficulty at retirement house and hospitals in Phu Cuong Diocese and other Dioceses as well.

Pastoral Projects for The Youth during The Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a harvest festival celebrated particularly by the Vietnamese people. The festival is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar with full moon at night (this year it was on the 23rd September). On that occasion in all the parishes entrusted to the Province of Vietnam in different Dioceses, the MF Pastors organized the featured programs for the children, many different gifts were distributed to children beside the efforts to evangelize the culture of the place and the formation of young people.

Announcement of the Provincial Chapter

On Monday, 1 October 2018, feast of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, Rev. Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, mf, the Provincial Superior, after having consulted the Superior General, officially announced the celebration of the Vietnamese Provincial Chapter, from 1 October to 5 October 2019.

The *venue* is Bethania Retreat House, 350 Highway 1A, Ward Binh Hung Hoa B, Binh Tân District, Ho Chi Minh City.

The major *topics* are the following:

1. Directing formation in the Province of Viet Nam according to General Order of Formation
2. Articulating life of community
3. Orienting community mission
4. Promoting and animating the fidelity to the consecrated life and fraternal life in community

The Provincial Superior requests all the members in the Province to give thanks and beseech the Most Holy Trinity, Titular of the Congregation, and invoke Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Confessors of Faith, to grant the Province of Viet Nam the riches of His grace and a share in His blessing during this major event.

New Pastoral Assignments at Ba Tra Parish and Ba Lua Parish

In the year 2015, the parishes of Ba Tra and Ba Lua were entrusted to the Pastoral Care of the Missionaries of Faith, Province of Viet Nam for 25 years.

The installation of the **New Parish Priest of Ba Tra parish**, Rev. Fr. Michael Hoang Do Doc, mf, former Provincial Superior of MF Province of Vietnam, took place on 10th November 2018. The Priests together with the Faithful accorded a warm welcome to His Lordship Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, Bishop of the Diocese of Phu Cong, at his arrival to the parish. The Solemn concelebrated Holy Mass of Installation of the New Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Michael Hoang Do Doc, mf, was presided over by H. E. Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc. 20 Priests joined for the concelebration, including Rev. Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, MF, the Provincial Superior and Rev. Thomas Truong Hoang Phuc, MF, the former Parish Priest of Ba Tra. The community in Ba Tra is composed of three members: Fr. Michael Hoang Do Doc, parish priest and local superior, Fr. Mathew Nguyen Thanh Yen, assistant parish priest, and Deacon Joseph Nguyen Van Thuc.



The installation of the **New Parish Priest of Ba Lua parish**, Rev. Fr. Thomas Truong Hoang Phuc, mf, took place on 16th November 2018. The Solemn concelebrated Holy Mass of Installation of the New Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Thomas Truong Hoang Phuc, mf, was presided over by H. E. Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, Bishop of the Diocese of Phu Cong. This was also the thanksgiving Mass of 24th Ordination





Anniversary of Rev. Fr. Joseph Trong Quang, the former Parish Priest of Ba Lua and General Councillor of Missionaries of Faith. The community in Ba Lua is composed of three members: Fr. Thomas Truong Hoang Phuc, Parish Priest and local superior, Fr. Peter Nguyen Ngoc Trung, assistant parish priest and brother Laurence Vu Van Trinh.

Best wishes and prayerful support to the new parish priests and other members of the community on behalf of the MF Province of Vietnam.

VICE-PROVINCE OF MYANMAR

Visit of Most Rev. Stephen Tje Phe to Our MF Parish

The Parish of Yarhit accorded a grand welcome to H. E. Msgr. Stephen Tje Phe, Bishop of Loikaw, on 19 December 2018, as he came for his Pastoral Visit. On this occasion he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to the children of the Parish, and also exhorted the faithful to grow in their faith and spirituality.



Appointment as Diocesan Chaplain

Fr. Christino Ne Ne, mf, is appointed as Diocesan Chaplain of Association of Daughters of Mary of the diocese of Loikaw.



Appointment of Formator

Rev. Fr. Nicolas Phoe Myint, mf is appointed as the Formator of Domus Mater Fidei Seminary at Dounganka.

New Mission in Kachin State

Fr. John La Sam, Fr. Dominic Saw Shwe and Fr. Alexder Dè De have taken up the new mission of the Vice-province of Myanmar, the parish of Shadau, docese of Myitkyina, in the state of Kachin.



VICE-PROVINCE OF OCEANIA

Opening of New MF Community in the Archdiocese of Wellington

The Vice-Province is happy to announce the opening of new MF community in the Archdiocese of Wellington, the capital of New Zealand early next year 2019. The *Memorandum of Understanding* in this regard was signed by H. E. Cardinal John Atcherly Dew, Archbishop of Wellington and Rev. Fr. Jesus DAJAC, the Superior General, when His Eminence visited our General House in Rome. The installation of the Missionaries of Faith in the Archdiocese will be held on the first Sunday of February (3/2/2019), and it will be led by His Eminence Cardinal John Atcherly Dew.

Cooperation between the Province of St. Peter, India and the Vice-Province

The Vice-Province is also blessed to have two more priests coming from the Province of St. Peter, India to work in the Vice-Province, by early next year 2019. The Vice-Province would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Rai Maria Joji, the Provincial Superior and his Council for their great fraternal love and support. The members of the Vice-province also want to acknowledge in a very special way the good will and a true MF spirit of our Indian priests, who are willing to work with us in our Vice-Province. Thanks for their true spirit of belongingness to our Congregation.

Welcome to Fr. Michael VITO

The Vice-Province is also happy to welcome Fr. Michael Vito who has returned to the Vice-Province after some years of service in the Vice-Province of Italy. He is assigned to work in the diocese of Pago Pago, American Samoa, starting from January 2019.



MF NEWS BULLETIN

Drafting: Via Nulvi, 11 – 00148 Roma

Tel: + 39.06.45493990

e-mail: tomedasserymf@gmail.com

or

missionaridellafede@gmail.com

Visit @ www.missionaridellafede.org