



Congregazione Clericale

MISSIONARI DELLA FEDE

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From the Editorial Desk ...

With joy we bring out the 23th 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.

Mary
Queen of
Confessors
of Faith

Pray for us



Maria
Regina
Confessorum
Fidei

Ora pro nobis



MESSAGE FROM SUPERIOR GENERAL

SIMPLICITY

Let Us Stay Simple

“Live simply so others may simply live.”

This quote does not mean living without. It does not mean being poor or deprived. It simply means thinking about HOW you live and WHAT you live with or without.

According to our charism “we are born, and we live in faith and therefore we ought to be living simply” (Cfr. CA-MF. Art. 33).

Simplicity (in the Modern Catholic Dictionary) is defined as:

“A character trait, the quality of not being affected, therefore, unassuming and unpretentious. A simple person is honest, sincere and straightforward. Simplicity is single-mindedness.”

As a supernatural virtue, it seeks only to do the will of God without regard to self-sacrifice or self-advantage. This definition says we should not try to make ourselves seem special.

Simplicity is very important to our apostolic efficacy because if one is in communion with God and trust in him alone, one is more open to receive the blessings that render the mission fruitful.

I pray we can all embrace the virtue of simplicity in our everyday thoughts and actions.

Rome, 29.06.2021



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

ONGOING FORMATION CORNER

A MEANS OF RESOLVING VOCATIONAL DISCREPANCIES

-Fr. Jaison Kalathiparambil mf

Entrance, perseverance and effectiveness in vocation continue to be of great concern today. Ongoing formation can address these issues to a certain extent. We have seen in the past issues of our MF NEWS the theoretical aspects of it, so as to prepare in every Major Organism an efficient and appealing project of the same. Approached with an open mind and a desire to achieve vocational growth and maturity, it is an effective instrument to resolve many discrepancies and inconsistencies of our religious life. The ultimate aim of it is to provide for fidelity to one's vocational commitment.¹ Experts like L.M. Rulla and his followers, availing themselves of valuable insights from depth psychology obtained from long years of experience in formation, suggested that the motivational factors of the person are to *be understood, purified and reorganized* for an effective vocational behavior.² A religious, thus enters a continuous process of conversion and a constant effort to keep alive the flame of the gift of vocation.³

Gregory of Nyssa, one of the Cappadocian fathers, reminds us that our *thoughts, words and deeds* have to be controlled by the divine ideal of our life so that they will not fall short of the nobility of their implications.⁴ As time goes by, the divine ideal could fade, allowing discrepancies and related crisis creep into our priestly life. Every missionary of faith, aware of such inconsistencies of life, has to identify and address them constantly for maintaining integrity of life. Being open to ongoing formation one can successfully handle this difficulty. It makes one to access regularly the sacrament of reconciliation, seek periodically the assistance of the spiritual director, spend more time in personal prayer, constant in reading the Word of God etc. Hence, a missionary of faith, conscious of his personal responsibility in attaining integrity of life and effectiveness in vocation, must avail himself of ongoing formation. The superiors, on their part, aware of their responsibility for the faithful life of each individual member, are to provide for it. This issue deals with some of the possible vocational discrepancies, offers diagnostic practices and suggests remedial programs.

Vocational discrepancies and inconsistencies

A missionary of faith is called to be a faithful pastor, an effective evangelizer and efficient unifier. Above all, he is a brother priest who is called to assist other priests and religious in their difficulties. Guiding by example is the best way to actualize this mission. The reputation of being a community of joyful missionaries with integrity and fidelity of life would inspire a superior or bishop to entrust his priest or religious in difficulty to it. Gaining credibility is fundamental to carry out our mission and ongoing formation becomes fundamental to it. Such credible community is the fruit of an efficient initial formation which helps the formees to internalize the corresponding value system.

Inconsistencies arise when thoughts, words and actions defer from the internalized value system. For example, an affective problem is the result of lack of pastoral value of universal and disinterested love; or it could be repercussions of some repressed past experiences. Refusing to go to a mission land is not coherent with the missionary value of the Congregation itself. Disregard for ecumenical activities denounces his commitment to the reconciliatory values. These are all expressions of values not imbibed and internalized causing discrepancy between personal internalized ideals and the reality.

In such cases ongoing formation should be sought by two parties: *the individual missionary*, - aware of the conflict of ideals within himself and being sincere to his own self, should seek assistance; *the authorities* - driven by fraternal charity, strive zealously to provide the best opportunities, occasions and events to him. In this article we see some common inconsistencies found at individual level.

Positive approach to the vocational discrepancies

Vocational discrepancies or inconsistencies that a religious demonstrate often surprise the superiors and confreres. A formee with optimum reports during the initial formation is expected to lead a vibrant religious life with due apostolic commitments. Instead, sometimes such persons disappoint the superiors and the formators by their attitudinal and behavioural change. It happens in the context of more freedom and less controls. The true personality of the person slowly emerges, revealing the lack of a true identity formation. It can be explained by the three dynamics at work in attitudinal and behavioural change, pointed out by Herbert C. Kelman, a social psychologist: *compliance, identification and internalization*.⁵

The seminary formation intends to operationalize the process of internalization, so that the formee conforms himself to the person of Christ (cfr. *PdV* 15, *VC* 65). However, in some cases the formee activates only the process of compliance – by merely adopting the induced behaviours and attitudes for gaining rewards or for fear of punishments – with blind obedience so as to conform to the group. The end result is seen after the ordination by rebellious attitudes and disobedient behaviours. When the formee operationalize the dynamic of *identification*, the aim is merely attaining a desired role or relationship. He identifies himself with the group with the induced behaviours and attitudes so as to remain part of the group. In both these cases the induced behaviour is accepted just because it rewards his needs, and not because they are congruent with his value system.⁶ So it is quite natural that a formee who “acted” well during the initial formation disappoints when he has to elicit concrete responses basing on his value system and personal convictions. It necessitates a purification and reorganization of basic motivations.

The five-year period proposed in our General Order of Formation (GOF) (nn. 602 – 607) could function as an «inconsistency diagnostic period». Once identified, corrective guidance is to be offered regarding the faulty elements of his value system. Approached with a positive attitude, it will function as a means of vocational maturity. The religious in question has to be helped to understand the presence of vocational inconsistencies and be motivated to receive corrections with docility. The progress could be verified by the effectiveness of his apostolic activity and community life. Thus, gaining self-esteem and deeper convictions, he will be able to offer assistance to priests and religious in difficulty, the specific mission of a MF.

SOME DISCREPANCIES At personal level

Our General Order of Formation envisions a *personal project of ongoing formation* for each member. It has a holistic approach, touching every aspect of his life: «(spiritual, physical, psychological, intellectual and apostolic-ministerial dimensions)» (GOF 579). It strongly recommends a wide range of activities to keep alive the spirit of the missionary of faith: «physical exercise and sports, diet, the harmonious distribution of the day, the type and frequency of reading and study, and the means and dynamics of the spiritual and apostolic life» (*ibidem*). All these helps keep alive the flame of faith and the gift of religious vocation, while discrepancies and inconsistencies arise due to incongruities in the internalized value system. They are indicative of faulty motivational factors still present in the individual even after a long period of initial formation.

A missionary of faith is to attain a certain level of vocational maturity during the initial formation. Traditionally it is examined and verified on the basis of his virtuous life. Modern techniques of evaluation

like questionnaires and tests can verify one's emotional and affective maturity. However, there could still be repressed feelings and emotions that would emerge to rattle the serenity of life. Some problematic experiences and some possible solutions are described here.

Problem: *Loss of interest in seeking transcendental values, remaining satisfied with the natural values.* It is a serious discrepancy that can lead to a resigned religious life. It is marked by loss of interest in personal prayer, disregard for ascetic practices, while doing good for others or doing nothing becomes the norm of life. As a result, the person appears to be happy but lacks the inner depth and meaning of life. Lack of appreciation or any kind of criticism or correction can lead him to discouragement and disappointment. It could be attributed to a conformism during the initial formation without due internalization of values.

Solution: *Accompaniment by a matured religious with integrity of life,* capable of demonstrating the joy of living by the transcendental values. The aforesaid conformism is the product of a great deficiency in the initial formation: the inconsistent life of formators, not corresponding with the values they teach. This lack of personal testimony of formators has to be supplemented by the testimony of a mature and humble religious, helping him to develop fidelity to the vocational values with docility.⁷

Problem: *Inability of renunciation with style of life, «no sufferings and no challenges».* Many superiors often identify the young religious with such characteristics, which to some extent can be true. It is often the fruit of a liberal initial formation without confronting the young seminarians with objective transcendental values. These are taught theoretically without adequate practices and so, not transformed into concrete behavioural patterns resulting out of strong personal convictions. It can lead to an ambiguous personal identity without adequate character formation. Here the religious develops an aversion towards higher values considering them as threat to their liberty, subsequently seeking freedom without responsibility, preferring an easy life. Sometimes it could lead also to seeking compensatory values or surrogate addictions like alcoholism, use of drugs, sexual adventures etc. Such a religious becomes a thorn in the flesh for the Congregation itself.⁸

Solution: *Introducing the person to religious practices that help rediscover transcendental values.* Transcendental retreats, special courses or even a period of monastic life could redeem the religious in such difficulty. The religious has to form the right attitudes towards the realities of life which naturally contains sufferings as well as joys. He should progressively learn to accept responsibilities of life, discovering the joy of true freedom of the children of God (Gal). Any program destined to such a religious should also inculcate in him a strong trust in God based on the conviction that God's grace comes to sustain His children in difficulties.⁹ This is the basic conviction that a MF should be helped to develop right from the first day in seminary, failing which ongoing formation should come to his aid.

The above two are classic difficulties that a religious face as a result of deficiency in the initial formation. It can be true of missionaries of faith as well. Diagnosing the underlying cause of a defective behaviour is important to propose the right means of ongoing formation. It may require different sessions of dialogue and accompaniment to arrive at the vocational discrepancies.

Conclusion

Vocational discrepancies arise due to the internal conflict of the religious because the internalized value system is not in consonance with the vocational choice. The motivations were not purified and reorganized during the initial formation. Such a religious life becomes a suffering for the individual and a scandal in the community. Availing of ongoing formation in a spirit of docility and sincerity, one can rectify the faulty

elements in the value system. The GOF of the Missionaries of Faith proposes the first five-year period after the ordination as a peak moment of ongoing formation. In the new experience of autonomy, he learns to harmonize various dimensions of life. This period could function as an observatory and diagnostic period of possible vocational discrepancies and inconsistencies. Once diagnosed, such elements should be rectified, with competent personal guidance and encouraging accompaniment. Approached positively, discrepancy of life becomes a powerful means of vocational growth. Constant attention and periodic intervention lead to better internalization of the right value system pertaining to the charismatic identity of MF. Thus, growing in vocational maturity and credibility of life, proved by personal integrity, he will be able to offer assistance to priests and religious in difficulty.

End Notes

1. Cfr. CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY, *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, n. 81, in <http://www.clerus.va/content/dam/clerus/Ratio%20Fundamentalis/The%20Gift%20of%20the%20Priestly%20Vocation.pdf> (Accessed: 14 June, 2021).
2. Cfr. L. M. RULLA, *Depth Psychology and Vocation: A Psycho-Social Perspective*, Gregorian Biblical BookShop, 2003, 8.
3. Cfr. CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY, *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, 81.
4. Cfr. Gregory of Nyssa, *Treatise on Christian Perfection*, in «https://www.ibreviary.com/m2/breviario.php?s=ufficio_delle_letture», (Accessed: 22 June, 2021).
5. Cfr. H. C. KELMAN, *Compliance, identification, and internalization three processes of attitude change*, in "Journal of Conflict Resolution" 2 (1958) 1, 51–60: 53.
6. Cfr. *Ibid.*
7. Cfr. L. M. RULLA, *Antropologia della vocazione cristiana. Basi interdisciplinari*, Bologna, Edizioni Dehoniane, 1997, 342–347.
8. Cfr. *Ibid.*, 348.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CURIA

New Administrative teams for the Major Organisms

Province of the Philippines

Fr. Benjamin ANDES Jr.	– <i>Provincial Superior</i>
Fr. Renato C. BRON	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Vicar</i>
Fr. Loretto A. SOTTO II	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Secretary</i>
Fr. Ricardo B. BASQUINEZ	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Finance Officer</i>
Fr. Michelangelo R. COSTA	– <i>Councillor</i>

Province of St. Paul (IND)

Fr. Martin ALUKAPUTHUSSERY	– <i>Provincial Superior</i>
Fr. Saji VELLARAMKALAYIL	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Vicar</i>
Fr. Joseph VELIKKATH	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Secretary</i>
Fr. Bosco ARULDAS	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Finance Officer</i>
Fr. Thomas THEKKANATH	– <i>Councillor</i>

Province of St. Peter (IND)

Fr. Maria Joji RAI	– <i>Provincial Superior</i>
Fr. Anand Babu GANTEDI	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Vicar</i>
Fr. Paul PALIPE	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Secretary</i>
Fr. Raju PALLETI	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Finance Officer</i>
Fr. Rajendra Prasad MADDA	– <i>Councillor</i>

Province of Viet Nam

Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc LOC	– <i>Provincial Superior</i>
Fr. Dominic Nguyễn Công KHUÔNG	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Finance Officer</i>
Fr. Peter Nguyễn Hùng HẢI	– <i>Councillor and Provincial Secretary</i>
Fr. Joseph Ngô Đức TÀI	– <i>Councillor</i>
Fr. Joseph Nguyễn Văn THÀNH	– <i>Councillor</i>
Fr. Joseph Trịnh Văn CUNG	– <i>Provincial Secretary</i>

Vice-Province of Myanmar

Fr. Phillip HLA PHONE	– <i>Superior of the Vice Province</i>
Fr. Louis GABRIEL	– <i>Councillor and Vice-Provincial Secretary</i>
Fr. Alexander DE DE	– <i>Councillor</i>
Fr. Stephen AYE MIN THU	– <i>Vice-Provincial Finance Officer</i>

Vice-Province of Oceania

Fr. Andrea ATONIO	– <i>Superior of the Vice Province</i>
Fr. Tuli PAULO	– <i>Councillor and Vice-Provincial Secretary</i>
Fr. Iosefo TIMU	– <i>Councillor and Vice-Provincial Finance Officer</i>

NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION

Province of St. Paul (India)

Ordination to Priesthood and Thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Arun Kumar Lawrence

It was a historical day for the Province of St. Paul, India. Rev. Fr. Arun Kumar Lawrence, the first priest of the Province after its erection in 2015, was ordained by Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, Bishop of the diocese of Sultanpet, on 24 June 2021 at St. Sebastian's Cathedral, Sultanpet, Palakad, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Martin Alukaputhussery, the Provincial Superior and his parents. It was a private ceremony. Rev. Fr. Arun Kumar celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass on the same day, attended by the priests of the Province, Brothers and his Family Members. Rev. Fr. Arun Kumar has expressed his heartfelt thanks to Superior General and Councilors, Provincial Superior and Councillors and all the confreres of the Congregation, specially the Province of St. Paul.



Installation of the new Provincial Team of Administration

The new Provincial team of Administration took charge on 29th June 2021, in the presence of Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Abir Anthony Sami, the Ordinary of the diocese of Sulthanpet, in the Cathedral church of diocese, due to covid-19 restrictions. Let us pray that the new team may guide the Province and its members with a real spirit of service and love.



Entrance to the novitiate

With immense joy and gratitude to God, the Provinces of St. Peter and St. Paul together have resumed the Novitiate formation under the guidance of the Novice Master, Rev.Fr. Sagayaraj Augustine, m.f., on 1 May 2021, with the solemn Eucharistic celebration, in the newly erected Novitiate house, located in the Diocese of Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India. By the benevolence and providence of God, for the academic year 2021-2022, there are five novices, four of them from the Province of St. Peter and one from the Province of St. Paul.



Renewal of Vows

Ten of our brothers renewed their religious vows and two of them received the ministry of Acolyte on 1 May 2021. Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr Martin Alukaputhussery, presided over the Holy Eucharist.



Silver jubilee of St. Mary's Church, Longo

On 24 April 2021 St. Mary's catholic Church at Longo, Arunachal Pradesh, celebrated its Silver Jubilee. The occasion was officiated by His Excellency, Rt. Rev. George Pallipparambil, Bishop of the diocese of Miao.



On this memorable day seven children received the first Holy Communion and 21 young people received the sacrament of confirmation.



Labour day Celebrations

Labour day was celebrated in St. Joseph Church, Kattakulam, on 01 May 21. Almost all the workers from the parish gathered early in the morning in the church premises, entered in procession to the church with a lighted candle and offered it in front of the statue of St. Joseph. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Parish Priest Fr. Tom Jose, mf. Later on the parish council honoured all the labourers.



Province of St. Peter (India)

Ordination to Priesthood

It is a great joy for the Province of St. Peter that the four deacons were ordained Priests on 29 June 2021 at Amalodbhavi Mary Matha Cathedral, Diocese of Eluru, by Most. Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, the Ordinary of the Diocese. Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, the Provincial Superior congratulated and wished all the best to the newly ordained Priests

Rev. Fr. Naresh Gorremuchu,

Rev. Fr. John Jala,

Rev. Fr. Vinaykumar Kommareddy,

Rev. Fr. Lakkapamu Raja Babu.

We do extend our gratitude for all your prayers and wishes.



The New Provincial Team of Administration

On the Solemnity of the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul, patrons of our province the new Governing Body of the Province was installed. Most. Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, the Bishop of the Diocese of Eluru was present for the oath taking ceremony. It was indeed a prayerful celebration amidst covid 19 restrictions. We thank all the conferrers for the love and prayers.



It is great duty to express our gratitude to the previous Provincial Team members, We thank and wish all the best for their mission endeavours.

Renewal of Religious Vows

On 1 May 2021 five of our temporarily professed brothers renewed their Religious Vows. All the confreres of Province of St. Peter joined in spirit blessing these brothers through their prayers so as to deepen their commitment to the Lord and to the Missionaries of Faith.



Special Prayer for the conferrers of Myanmar

By following this greatest method of prayer, we stood for the conferrers of Myanmar through our prayers. We too express our solidarity in their moments of suffering and continue our prayerful support.



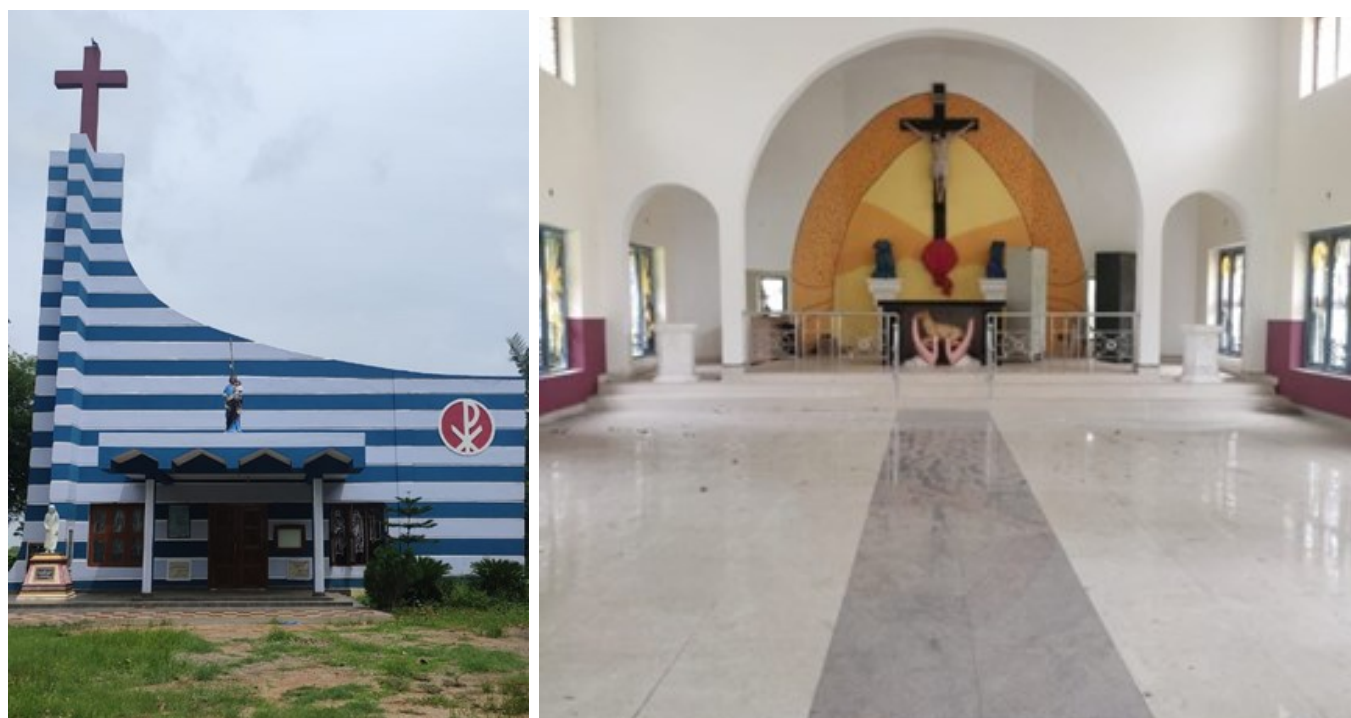
The Feast of Corpus Christi

The Solemn Eucharistic Celebration and the Procession was conducted in the campus of Holy Trinity Major Seminary, Nadipalli on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The community presented the whole the family of Missionaries of Faith to the Eucharistic Lord to strengthen and protect it in this difficult situation caused by the Covid-19.



Renovation of the Parish Church

The renovated parish church at Peddakorukondi is ready for the blessing. It is delayed because of the bad situation of the Pandemic in India. Let us congratulate Fr. Pushpa Rao Vara and thank all the donors for the support to the Mission.



Province of Philippines

First Religious Profession

Mass Presided by Rev. Fr. Benjamin Andes Jr., MF



The Profession of Vows of Bro. Adriane Aragon in the hands of Rev. Fr. Benjamin Andes Jr., MF



The signing of documents.



The newly professed seminarian and the priests after the Mass.



Graduation rites

The Graduates of Theology with Most. Rev. Mel Rey Uy, Bishop of Lucena and the Priests Formators.



The Missionaries of
Faith Theological
Formation House
Community.

Inaugural Mass

Inaugural Mass Presided by Rev. Fr. Ricardo Basquinez, MF together with the newly appointed Provincial Council and Missionaries of Faith Priests.





The Oath taking ceremony of Rev. Fr. Benjamin Andes Jr., MF as Provincial Superior.



Passing of Documents of the Former Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Ricardo Basquñez, MF to the New Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Benjamin Andes Jr., MF.



Missionaries of Faith Philippine Province.

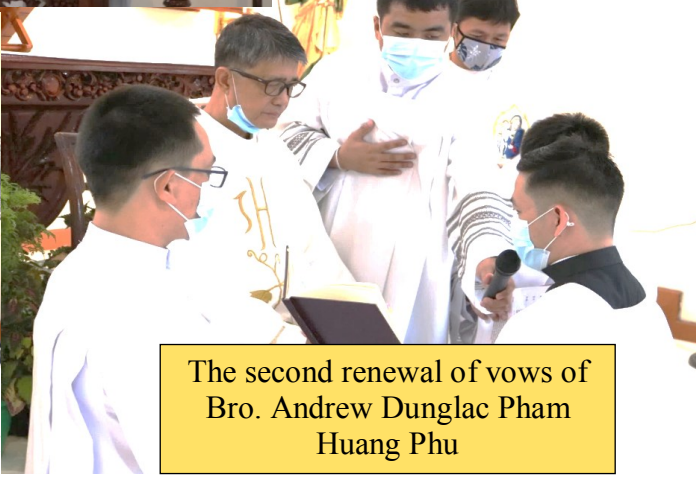
Renewal of vows



The Holy Mass presided by Rev. Fr. Benjamin Andes Jr., MF, Provincial Superior.



The third renewal of vows of
Bro. Cezar James Grimaldo



The second renewal of vows of
Bro. Andrew Dunglac Pham
Huang Phu



Group picture of the seminarians who renewed their vows together
with their formator and the Provincial Superior.

Province of Viet Nam

Holy Week and Easter 2021 Celebrations

In spite of Covid-19 pandemic the community of the God's Word Institute celebrated the Holy Week and Easter 2021 in a special manner. All the members of the community prayed and asked God so that He might protect and help us to overcome this difficult time. The whole Liturgical Celebration went on well in fraternal communion.



Sport Festival on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Titular of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith

On 30 May 2021, the Community of God's Word Institute celebrated the Holy Mass of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, the titular of the Congregation. The eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, mf., the Provincial Superior. In the joy of the feast of the Holy Trinity, the community also held a sport festival with the theme: *"Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8,39).

There were various competitions on the day: football, volleyball, basketball, and tug of war. With the participation of all the members of the community, the event went on well and achieved many spiritual benefits of brotherhood in the community life.



Postulancy: retreat & thanksgiving Holy Mass for the Ending of School Year

The Postulancy of MF Vietnamese province had a retreat on May 31st, with the theme: "Why am I here?" It is also the day when all the members of postulancy express their gratitude to the whole Congregation and their professors at the end of the school year 2020-2021. Fr. Peter Nguyen Hung Hai, mf., Superior of the Word of God Community, presided over the Thanksgiving Mass.



After the Mass there was a fraternal Lunch party during which the postulants expressed their gratitude to the Provincial Governance, all priests of the Formation board, Professors who helped them grow up in their vocation.



Celebration of the Holy Week Hon Tre Sub-parish, Rach Gia Parish, Diocese of Long Xuyen

From 1-3 April 2021, Hon Tre Sub-Parish of Rach Gia Parish, Diocese of Long Xuyen, celebrated the Triduum and Easter Day in a solemn manner and with earnestness. All the members of the parish joined whole heartedly for the hours of Benediction in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Taize and the liturgical celebrations. Serving at the Hon Tre Sub-Parish right now is Fr. Antony Nguyen Vu Truong, mf. and Fr. Joseph Mary Le Xuan Dinh, mf.





Cua Suoi Mission of Doan Nu Parish, Archdiocese of Ha Noi: Thanksgiving Holy Mass, Blessing of the Church and the Pastoral Centre

After more than two years of construction work, with the efforts of the parishioners in Cua Suoi mission, Doan Nu Parish, and the help of many benefactors, the Shrine and Pastoral Centre of Cua Suoi mission, Doan Nu parish, has been completed.



On 6 April 2021, His Excellency Rt. Rev. Joseph Vu Van Thien, the Archbishop of Hanoi Archdiocese, celebrated the blessing rite and the thanksgiving Holy Mass to inaugurate the Church and the pastoral centre of the mission.

The Doan Nu parish has 8 missions and 3000 parishioners. Serving at the Doan Nu Parish right now is Fr. Joseph Vu Duc Phan, mf. (Pastor & Superior), Fr. Peter Nguyen Thanh Vuong, mf. (assistant), and Fr. Joseph Nguyen Van Thuc, mf. (assistant).



Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan Institute: Sport Event Fostering Friendship – and Brotherhood among the various Congregations in Southern Vietnam

With the aim of building spirit of communion, connection, learning, and exchange between Institutes and Seminaries of Southern Vietnam, a sports event with the subject "FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION" (cf. Ep 4, 3-4) was held by Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan Institute of Vietnamese MF at the main house of MF Province - the God's Word Institute.





The competition began at 8.30 A.M., on Sunday, 11 April 2021, with the following sports: Football, Volleyball, Table Tennis. The brothers from St. Joseph's Seminary - Archdiocese of Saigon, Institute of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Poor, and the Domus Dei Clerical of Apostolic Life, participated in this sports event.

Trung Hoa Parish, Diocese of Vinh: Flourishing in Pastoral Activities and Life of Faith

On 14 April 2021, Fr. Joseph Nguyen Van Tu, m.f., the pastor and Fr. John Bt. Nguyen Trong Van, m.f., the parochial vicar, presided over a meeting to elect and select a new Parish Pastoral Council staff for the term 2021-2024. The meeting went on very well in communion and love. The new Parish Pastoral Council is composed of 6 members. The Trung Hoa parish has 8 missions and 1800 parishioners.

On 1 May 2021, the Parish also held the Offering of flowers to Our Lady to open the Flowers Month of Mother Mary with more than 100 cast members with the subject: "The Beautiful Mother of Thousand Flowers is Queen of Families".





Progress of the Construction of the VN Provincial Chapel

After the Ground-breaking Ceremony for the construction of the Provincial Chapel on 23 January 2021, the construction is going on with the initial projects of **site clearance, pile pressing, and laying of foundation.**

Here are some details of the construction process:

On 26 January 2021 the entire Community of the God's Word Institute gathered in front of the statue of Saint Paul to recite prayers for the construction project so that the work might go on well as God desires. The Provincial Superior, Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, m.f., presided over this prayer service.



On 16 March 2021 the first concrete pile was pressed to start the concrete pile pressing for the whole project. It was completed **On 19 April 2021**. The total number of piles, including 2 test piles, are 296.

On 20 April 2021 after the process of pile pressing, the foundation will be constructed. The foundation project is expected to be completed in early July 2021.



All members of MFVN province express our gratitude to all the benefactors who already have helped us with their spirit and material support, and we are also asking for continued prayers and support for us in order to finish our Chapel construction as God wills. May God bless you all.



Vice Province of Italy

Perpetual profession.

In a solemn Eucharist presided over by the Superior General Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf, on 29 April 2021, in the parish of Santa Maria, Madre della Divina Grazia in Rome, Bro. Jesus Yrady, mf, made his perpetual profession as a missionary of the faith.

The celebration took place in an atmosphere of grace and joy in faith, with a large participation



of the faithful, as well as confreres and religious priests from various Congregations. Very Rev. Fr. Carlos Luis Suarez SCJ, the Superior General of the SCJs and a friend of our confrere, also participated as a special guest. The relatives of Jesus followed the celebration from Venezuela via streaming. Witnesses of the profession were Rev. Fr. Domenico Borge, mf, (the Vicar General) and Rev. Fr. Aldo Sperolini, mf, (the Former Superior General).

The Vice-province of Italy is grateful to the Lord for the gift of this our confrere and wishes him infinite blessings in his life of religious consecration.

Diaconate Ordination

The Vice-province of Italy is pleased to announce the diaconate ordination of our confrere Jesus Yrady, mf, of Venezuelan origin. The new deacon was ordained in our parish of Santa Maria Madre della Divina Grazia (Ponte Galeria),

on 3 May by H.E. Mons. Gino Reali, the Bishop of the diocese of Porto Santa Rufina. In his homily, the bishop emphasized the three fundamental tasks of the deacon: the proclamation of the Word of God, the Eucharist and service. The prelate highlighted the proclamation of the Gospel as a central point for the life of the new deacon in relation to the charism of Mission and Faith.

The Superior General, Fr. Jesus Dajac and the members of the general council, the forane vicar of Porto, Don Bernardo Acuna Rincón, other confreres of the Vice-province of Italy and many other religious priests joined in the concelebration.



There was also a large presence of nuns from various institutes and lay faithful of the parish community who lived this moment of grace intensely, praying for the new deacon. The relatives of Jesus followed celebration from Venezuela via streaming. We wish our confrere many blessings from heaven in his diaconal ministry.



Vice Province of Myanmar

First Profession, Vows Renewal and Vestition of the postulants

On 13 May 2021, the Vice-Province of MF Myanmar held a celebration for the *first profession of the two novices, renewal of vows of one temporarily professed* and the *vestition of four postulants*. The ceremony was held during the Holy Mass celebrated at



Nazareth, the native village of a postulant. In preparation for the spiritual and festival event, all the seminarians took part in the one weeklong *charismatic and formative course* and a seven days *spiritual retreat*.





Political Crisis in MF Myanmar Vice Province

Our country, Myanmar, has been plagued by political crisis after the power takeover by the military government on 1 February 2021. For the country, this has been another hard blow after the Covid 19 pandemic of last year. After four months of demonstrations organized across the country, arm fighting started between the military and some armed groups, militia and *people defence forces* which were formed for the revolution.

The Diocese of Loikaw where the MF Myanmar Vice-Province is situated, has been much affected by the arm conflict. More than one hundred thousand ethnic people fled to the rural mountainous areas. The majority of the refugees are Catholics. The vice-provincial house of MF Myanmar, *Domus Mater Fidei*, initially made available its place for the local refugees for about one week. But as the fighting got intensified, all the refugees and the vice-provincial community were forced to move out on 7 June 2021. Some of our MF Seminarians were sent to their villages and some to MF house in



Naypyitaw for safety. The curia office of vice-province is temporarily closed and important documents were moved to a safe place. The curia house, *Domus Mater Fidei*, has not yet been affected by any damages.



Food Service at Vice-Provincial House_Doungankha



Mass with Refugees at Vice-Provincial House Chapel

Temporary Cease-Fire Agreement

To stop the exodus of the local ethnic people and open a platform for emergency relief service for the refugees, the Church leaders together with some leaders from the ethnic armed groups held a negotiation meeting with the military government. As a result of this effort, a *temporary cease-fire agreement* has been achieved for one month. Though the cease-fire which started on 14 June 2021 is still holding, many local people have no trust for the peace agreement. They just came back to their homes and places to collect food and things. The situation is still rather tense as both sides seem to be preparing for a wider and bigger war in the region and in the whole country.

Formation of Seminarians

Despite the conflict, five MF postulants will begin their philosophical studies at National Institute of Philosophy in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay. As the Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary for Theology in Loikaw is now closed due to the unstable political crisis, three MF seminarians were sent to parishes for the pastoral and social assistance for the refugees.

Request for Prayers

The MF Vice-province would like to express our gratitude for the solidarity and prayer support for our community and for our people. We acknowledge our special thanks to the General House for the appeal made for Myanmar. We would like to request more prayers from you.

Pope Francis asks for prayers for peace in Myanmar

Pope Francis on Sunday invited believers to say a special prayer for strife-ridden Myanmar every day. His appeal comes as Myanmar's security forces reportedly opened fire on some of the biggest protests against military rule in days, killing at least five people. The nation has been plunged into crisis since a military coup on 1 February, since when security forces have allegedly killed at least 759 protesters and detained thousands. Since violence erupted in Myanmar after the coup and military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, Pope Francis has repeatedly called on the nation's leaders to engage in dialogue and prayed for reconciliation.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/pope-rosary-prayer-marathon-myanmar-peace-encounter-reconciliati.html>

Vice Province of Oceania

Pastoral work of the Missionaries of Faith in Oceania with the Young People of the parishes and groups that we serve in Auckland Diocese.

St. Joseph Parish Grey Lynn Auckland: 73 young people received their first Holy Communion and Confirmation from the Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Auckland, Rt. Rev. Michael Gielen. It was a beautiful gathering of families and Parishioners.



A Youth Mass in the Auckland Cathedral was animated by the youth groups the MF Priests follow. They showed great talents of singing and praising. Hopefully one of them, if not some, may heed to the call of the Master in the Religious life.





MF Community Vaitele, Samoa: Fathers Douglas Fido, Filipo Fila, Ioane Anitelea and Peniamina Sitagata, with the postulants, have celebrated the Holy Mass to conclude our retreat.

MF community Vaitele, priests and postulants with our benefactors.



Funeral services of Seila Vito

Requiem Mass of Seila Vito, the mother of Fr. Michael Vito, was held at her parish in Savaii. Fr. Michael could not participate in his mother's funeral because of covid 19 travel restrictions between the two islands of Samoa with different political systems. Fr. Michael is working in American Samoa, a US territory in the Pacific. His father was kneeling down during the Penitential rite and he was covered by a samoan fine mat, a cultural penitential rite of begging for forgiveness. The rite has been enculturated into the Holy Mass by late Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u. We also did that penitential rite at the funeral of Sr. Regina in Italy, and it was very much appreciated by the Bishop, the main celebrant.



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