



# APOSTLE



## SSPX ASIA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023 - ISSUE NO. 59



### ROSA MYSTICA MISSION

Evangelizing and helping  
the poor in Mindanao

### DISTRICT PRIEST MEETING

Celebrating the 50th anniversary  
of the SSPX

# CONTENTS



**16**

## **DISTRICT PRIEST MEETING**

with our Superior General.



**04**

## **ROSA MYSTICA MISSION**

with volunteers from all over the world.



**31**

## **SUPPORT OUR WORKS**

Thank you very much for your generosity!

## **03 EDITORIAL**

Fr. Patrick Summers,  
District Superior of Asia

## **04 ROSA MYSTICA MISSION**

11-18 September 2022  
Island of Mindanao, Philippines

## **16 DISTRICT PRIEST MEETING**

5-8 December 2022  
Manila, Philippines

## **28 SUPERIOR GENERAL AND SECRETARY GENERAL IN ASIA**

Fr. Davide Pagliarani and Fr. Foucauld  
le Roux visiting our District

## **30 PHILIPPINES APOSTOLATE UPDATE**

Fr. Emerson Salvador in action  
in the Philippines

## **31 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ONGOING PROJECTS**

India, Philippines, Singapore



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# EDITORIAL



Dear Friends and Benefactors,

We are pleased to present you with our first APOSTLE magazine of 2023. Inside these pages you can find a sampling of the events in our District of Asia over the past six months.

The first public Rosa Mystica Medical Mission was organized after several years of lockdowns and was a great success. There is infinite amount of work that remains to be done by the generous volunteers in the Philippines, both on the physical and spiritual side. If it were possible, there could be a perpetual medical mission running 365 days a year in every island of the Philippines.

Then he saith to his disciples, The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth labourers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:37)

Another beautiful event was the first priest meeting to be held in several years. Happily, this meeting coincided with the visit of the Superior General and the Secretary General. Due to the lockdowns across the world, many of the priests had not seen each other for years and had been forced to meet “virtually” online - a miserable substitute for being together in person.

We were finally able to offer a Solemn High Requiem Mass for our dear confere, Fr Yagan RIP, who died not long after the beginning of the pandemic.

As well as having many good conferences, the priests were able to visit with all the SSPX Brothers and Oblate Sisters who made the praiseworthy efforts to attend. We were finally able to celebrate (two years delayed) the 50th Anniversary of the SSPX altogether on the Feast of the Our Lady's Immaculate Conception.

These events and the multitudinous other activities that are ongoing in this vast region keep us constantly busy. We must pray and offer sacrifices so that the Lord of the Harvest will indeed send more labourers to this eastern vineyard.

Rest assured of our prayers for all our readers and please continue to pray for us.

Fr. Patrick Summers  
District Superior of Asia



# Rosa Mystica Mission

September 11-18, 2022 ♦ Mindanao, Philippines

## ♦ WHEN DID THE MISSION START?

The Rosa Mystica Mission was founded in 2007 by ACIM (Association Catholique des Infirmières et des Médecins) President Dr. Jean-Pierre Dickès and Fr. Daniel Couture, Superior of the SSPX Asian District at the time.

## ♦ WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION?

The purpose of the mission is outreach to the impoverished people by providing medical and spiritual assistance. Every year for a duration of one week, volunteers, doctors, surgeons, nurses, nursing aides, opticians, and pharmacists from all over the world come together with the same aim. The travelling mission covers three remote places located north of the island of Mindanao, the greatest southernmost island of the Philippine Archipelago.

## ♦ WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SSPX IN THE MISSION?

The SSPX provides the necessary spiritual help through the presence of its priests and by promoting Rosa Mystica.

## ♦ HAS IT BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Since 2007, tens of thousands of patients have received medical attention and spiritual help!

Two years after having been forced to stop, the volunteers of the Rosa Mystica Mission were finally able to return to the Philippines to continue their work.

The Apostle Magazine would like to thank FSSPX News and Mrs. Fabienne de Geofroy for the use of their articles for this issue of our newsletter.

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11

The mission began in the Santa Lucia district of Butuan, a major city on the island of Mindanao. The morning started with a High Mass celebrated by Fr. Jean-Michel Gomis from Singapore who came to assist the French-speaking volunteers.



In the afternoon, Fr. Timothy Pfeiffer led the traditional procession as everybody followed by praying the rosary on dusty and barely passable roads. ☩







The faithful expressed their gratitude and welcomed the volunteers with a spectacle of songs and dances.

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12-13**

Volunteers began their first two days of a busy schedule having been assigned to their different roles. The Moldovan surgeon Alexandru could practice his art in the excision of some lipoms. Dr. de Geofroy assigned the dental extractions to himself: he had to “give a dream smile” to a 13-year-old girl. The children always have a lollipop in their mouths instead of eating fruits, which are too expensive for these poor people in the slums.

Apart from common diseases in the Philippines such as diabetes and high blood pressure, doctors have diagnosed cases of tuberculosis, scabies, and schistosomiasis – a parasitic disease commonly found in areas with unsanitary waters. A 3-year-old child came in with a cardiac defect that required surgery. The same happened to a 35-year-old widow and the mother of a 5-year-old who has a peritoneal tumor complicated by ascites [excess fluid in the peritoneal cavity].

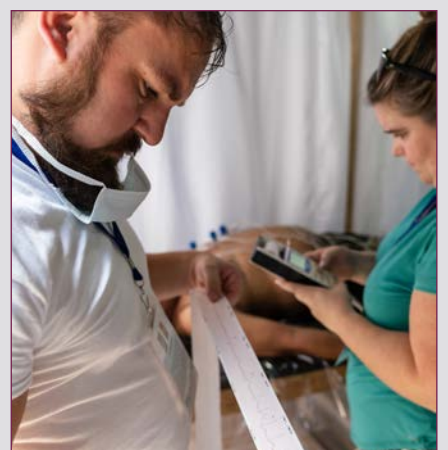


*About the district of Santa Lucia .....*

Santa Lucia is located below the Agusan River. This slum where misery is hidden behind magnificent lush vegetation is usually flooded at the slightest rise in water, several times a year.

It is an extremely poor neighborhood where homeless families who have lost everything during typhoons, floods, and other natural disasters are relocated.

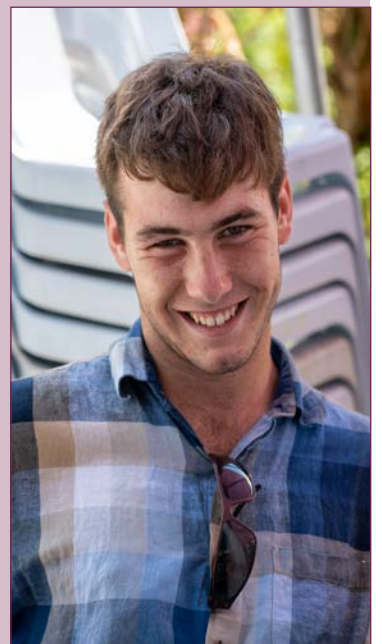
Moral misery meets material misery.







Meet some of the cheerful, diligent and tireless volunteers!







In Santa Lucia, families are often deprived of a father or mother and the eldest find themselves, very young, in charge of their little brothers and sisters. Ten per cent of the Philippines population travel to other countries to find jobs in order to provide for their families.





## WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14-15

On Wednesday morning, the group of volunteers made their two hour journey to Cantugas to reach another forgotten village of the Mamanwas, an aboriginal tribe with whom Fr. Tim launched the mission in 2020.

Some decades ago, this nomadic aboriginal tribe was dispossessed of its ancestral lands and beautiful forested mountains that were rich in all sorts of resources, bordering the splendid Lake Mainit, by the government. The tribe was resettled in hovels made of concrete blocks and given some land on the plain dominated by their ancestors. The government laws have decreed that it was necessary



to “preserve their tribal identity and culture” in order to ease their mind. However, nurse Yolly immediately perceived the contradictory policies to the disadvantage of the poor people as they were kept in ignorance, deprived of proper schooling, and were in spiritual darkness. Since the ecclesiastical authorities complied for many years, all efforts to evangelise were weakened. However, after some long legal battles,

the Mamanwa tribe was finally able to regain the ownership of its ancestral lands.

A providential encounter (see sidebar) with some members of the tribe led Fr. Tim to understand that the villagers were facing a complex situation. The village’s tribal chief, Datu, explained their deep desire to receive teaching, but the fear of displeasing the government would inevitably result in the loss of any support from the authorities. The Covid crisis aggravated the situation which brought on a very severe confinement, because the local authorities were frightened by the arrival of “foreigners” constantly requiring and producing travel passes. However, this did not deter Fr. Tim, but instead launched him into this missionary adventure with more zeal and determination for which he is well known.



The Philippine Army was present to protect the volunteers from possible attacks from communist rebels, hidden in the mountains.



Two hours car route from Butuan City to Cantugas

### *What led Fr. Tim to start this new mission in 2020?*

One evening in December 2019, in the capital of Mindanao, 300 kilometers south of Cantugas, Fr. Tim saw some suspicious shadows moving at the back of his church in Davao. He discovered some beggars who were seeking asylum. They were being pursued by the police because begging was forbidden. They were Mamanwas who came down from their village of Cantugas to seek help during this Christmas season. Fr. Tim listened to their story, gave them food, and talked to them about the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He gave them miraculous medals and promised that he would go and visit them.



Taking with him his catechists from Butuan, and the faithful and indefatigable Yolly, a permanent member of ACIM-Asia, nurse, and catechist, Fr. Tim could honor his promise he made to the tribe. In February 2020, Yolly finally settled in the village and started her outreach. Despite many obstacles, particularly the untrust by the Mamanwas of the “City people”, Yolly persevered and managed to gain their trust through her patience, conforming to their simple and poor standard of living, and helping to solve their daily problems. So without delay, she prepared them for baptism.

Two years later, Fr. Tim was able to baptize twenty adults and children during Easter 2020. His evangelisation mission was both challenging and difficult. He had to face paganism and its virulent followers who forbade him access to the communal courtyard after the first Mass he celebrated there. Protestant sects did a lot of proselytizing and their financial means attracted

people away from his efforts. But the village’s tribal chief, Datu, and his wife kept their promise they made to Fr. Tim to pray the Rosary faithfully on Sundays.

Two years ago, the children and many adults in the village did not know how to kneel nor put their hands together to pray. But now, walking behind the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows through the village paths, the children were singing the Ave Maria at the top of their voices, in Latin and in Visaya. While listening to them singing the Ave Maria in their local language, which was translated by their catechists, the volunteers understood that for them, a golden light was finally shining!

In the evening, at the little welcome vigil, these “forgotten kids” of the world, with eyes glowing with gratitude, simply asked us to “give them a hand to lead them to other tomorrows.”



Catechists in action in Butuan City.



The children learned to sing Ave Maria in Latin and in Visaya, their local language.



The catechists taught the children to pray the Rosary.



On Wednesday morning, Mass was celebrated under the roof of the first building of a complex that Fr. Tim plans to build and which will include a chapel, the first foundations of which can already be seen, as well as a catechism room.



More than 150 patients showed up at the reception table for consultation that morning. The consultations took place in a school, which was closed for the mission. For the occasion, the children were given leave by the school director.

During the routine checkups, a 3-year-old child was found to have an acute asthma attack, and two pregnant women were diagnosed for pre-eclampsia.

Two home visits were made: one to a school mistress's daughter, 27, who was born prematurely. She was having regular convulsions without treatment, and was referred to a neurologist. The second was to a man in his sixties, with heart failure and difficulty breathing. Through the consultations, the doctors discovered that the vast majority of women had received free contraceptives, and some

had undergone tubal ligation. What Fr. Couture and Dr. Dickès feared 20 years ago is unfortunately coming true that the "reproductive health" of these women was being compromised. At Fr. Couture's request in 2004, Dr. Dickès made a tour of the medical facilities in order to alert health professionals to this great danger. The tour was at the origin of the Rosa Mystica Mission. 🇵🇭





**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16-17**

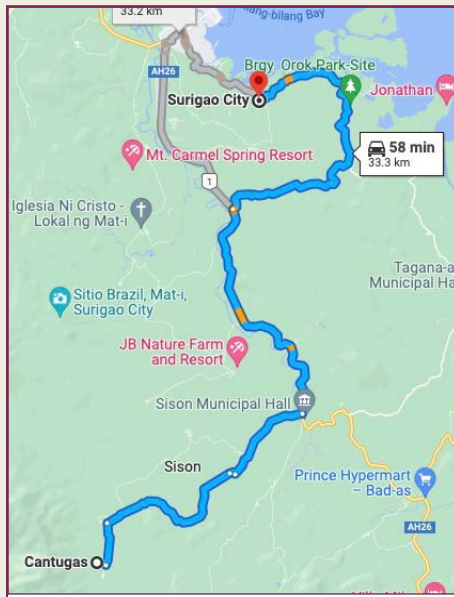
The last two days of the mission were spent in Surigao City at the northern tip of the island of Mindanao.



On Friday, morning Mass was held on the esplanade of the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help located at the top of a hill. It was a splendid place overlooking the city of Surigao and offering a 180 degree view of the sea but exposed to all the winds that blow hard these days, accompanied by intermittent torrential rains.

On Saturday, the last day of the mission, volunteers visited the neighbourhood of Canlanipa, one of the poorest places in the city. Its location by the sea could have made it a nice residential area, but its inhabitants are very low-wage dock workers at the port of Surigao, the large cargo ships of which can be seen on the opposite shore.

The volunteers followed Fr. Tim through the maze of alleys in the slum that are so familiar to him. The inhabitants have built a charming oratory dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary where children and adults gather regularly for catechism and the recitation of the rosary. 🕯️



One hour car route from Cantugas to Surigao City





*Dental Education and Treatment*



*Surgeries*



*Pharmacy*





*Optical Corrections*



*Consultations*



*SSPX Priests provide for the spiritual needs of the Mission.*





The mission finished with a procession which, following Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, led the group to the city center. It ended in the dining room of a large hotel, after crossing the hall singing Ave Maria, to the great astonishment of the new volunteers, not accustomed to this very natural cohabitation of civil and religious, still customary in the Philippines.



### *How to help the Rosa Mystica Mission?*

You can send your  
donations to:

**Bernadette Dickès, 2 route  
d'Equihen, 62360 Saint-  
Etienne-au-Mont. France.**

Checks should be made  
payable to **ACIM-Asia.**

Or by PayPal:

<https://fr.rosamystica-mission.com/>

Email:

[missionrosamystica@gmail.com](mailto:missionrosamystica@gmail.com)

A tax receipt is available  
upon request.



Under the maternal and benevolent gaze of Our Lady, in the place of honour on the podium of the dining room, the volunteers were generously thanked by a gala dinner, folk dances, popular nursery rhymes sung by the catechism school children, the farewell song *Con te partiro* by the catechists and, of course, the traditional “certificates of appreciation.” 🙏





# District Priest Meeting

December 5-8, 2022 ♦ Manila, Philippines

*Thou shalt rejoice in thy children because they shall all be blessed  
and shall be gathered to the Lord (Tob. 13:17)*

They are over now, those three days, so eagerly desired, so anxiously prepared for, so thoroughly lived and enjoyed – the three days when the entire District of Asia, was “en fête” for the golden jubilee of the Society of St. Pius X.

It was a beautiful evening, calm and peaceful, as the last glimmerings of the setting sun were fading out in the Bay of Manila. Perhaps the ‘broad sun is sinking down in its tranquillity’, but not everything along with it. In fact, the long line of priests ‘began’ to rise and wend its way to the chapel to begin their annual priest meeting. We were twenty-four priests assembled under the feet of Our Lady of Rosaries in her “own country”, the Philippines. The District Superior formally opened the annual priest meeting with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour with the recitation of the Rosary.

## MONDAY DECEMBER 5TH (ARRIVALS)

This year is very special (but then when was it not? for all our lonely missionaries otherwise dispersed, every gathering is special...) It was December 5th of 2022 and we were gathered to celebrate the belated 50th anniversary of our beloved Society. And for this occasion, we had the greatest honour of having in our presence the Superior General Don Davide Pagliarani. Father General has graciously agreed to celebrate this triduum of study and prayer with us along with Abbé Foucauld le Roux, the Secretary General of the Society (see picture on the right).



The Prior of Manila organized a buffet dinner where we had not only warm and delicious food but also warm sentiments. Some of us are meeting after a long time, some of us are meeting for the first time. In the myriad of white cassocks, the ages may vary among the priests, but the heart beneath was throbbing and still as young as our Society. After all,

do we not have the same blood group: *Credimus Caritati*? The prior of Manila must be congratulated warmly for his impeccable planning. As they say, one of the most popular qualities of the Filipinos is that they put a premium on how they serve other people. Combine that Filipino flamboyance with Flemish firmness and super methodical skill, you will get an idea how the whole thing was organized. 🇵🇭





Fr. Novak and Fr. Pfeiffer



Fr. Onoda and Fr. Becher



Fr. Fortin



Fr. Summers



Fr. Hatstrup



Fr. Ghela



Fr. Cacho



Fr. Hora and Fr. Daniels



Fr. Pagliarani and Fr. Rajadurai



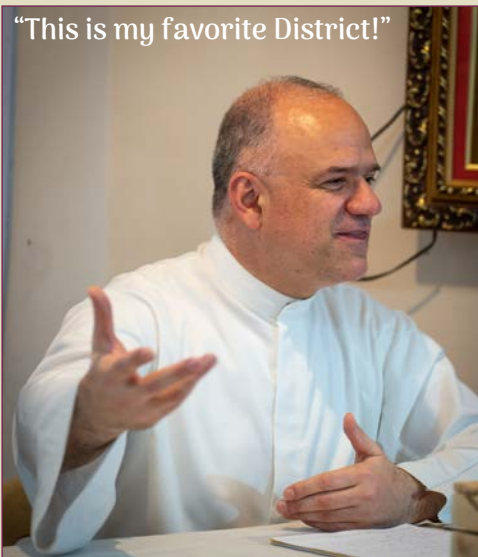
## TUESDAY DECEMBER 6TH (FIRST DAY)

On the 6th of December, Fr. Patrick Summers gave a brief overview of the “status quo” of the District from the perspective of both past and future. Where are we? A good reminder of our priorities in the SSPX as laid out by Archbishop Lefebvre.

At 11 am Fr. Carlo Magno Saa (see picture on the right) presented the newly erected District canonical commission of St. Charles Borromeo. Just as the title is a mouthful, our notes were soon filled with immense data. Luckily, there is no quiz on the subject!

The “pièce de résistance” of the meeting was the instructive and absorbing conference of the Superior General who gave a fascinating talk on various subjects in two one-hour sessions. He touched upon the present state of the Society in the world and a few pastoral directives.

The day ended with a Solemn High Requiem Mass, where we remembered our dear Fr. Daniel Yagan (+2021), who was called by God unexpectedly at the beginning of the pandemic. During the sermon, our Superior General touched upon the subject of the mystery of evil. Death is an evil, but then God who knows how to draw good from it, also knows why he does it. We are called to adore his will and admire but never to question it. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away: as it has pleased the Lord so is it done: blessed be the name of the Lord. 🙏













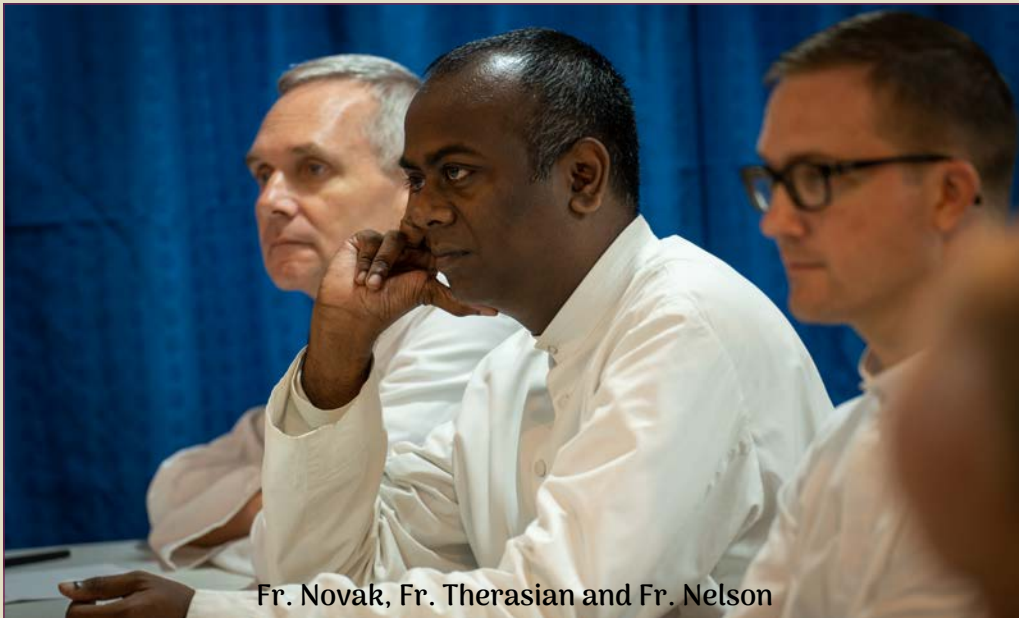
Requiem Mass for our beloved  
Fr. Daniel Yagan, called unexpectedly  
by God in June 2021.





## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7TH (SECOND DAY)

On the 7th December at 9 am, Fr. Etienne Demornex (see picture on the right) gave a frightening talk on the 'extraordinary actions of Devil'. Does the Devil exert such actions that are observable phenomena? Yes, concludes Fr. Demornex, and he even argues that it is not wise to underestimate this enemy. It is stupidity to cultivate an ignorance of the enemy to the point of blindness to his actions on men; for in such blindness, it is impossible to face an enemy, let alone hold him at bay or conquer him. This is to invite defeat, to welcome slavery, to yield supinely to a conquest that in this case is radical, irrevocable, eternal. He invited the priests to be familiar with the 'Handbook of the Exorcists' recently published by the General House. Like a physician, we are called in to an illness that we must first diagnose and then judiciously apply the remedy.



Fr. Novak, Fr. Therasian and Fr. Nelson

Looking at their intense faces, the talk was frightening indeed!



Fr. Gomis



Fr. Salvador



Fr. Fallarcuna



At 11 am, we had the joy of listening to Fr. Foucauld le Roux (see picture on the right). He touched on the most important questions of 'Vocations'. Though a young priest, Fr. le Roux was equally appreciated by both young and old. Everyone who approached him was impressed by his presence. Those who conversed with him were charmed by the warmth of his cordiality, his strength of heart, so sensitive, so kind and good to everybody. Later in the afternoon, Fr. Therasian presented the exciting events and drama at the Council of Ephesus together with the role of St. Cyril of Alexandria.



## THURSDAY DECEMBER 8TH (THIRD DAY)

The third day brought the celebration to a great climax. A Solemn High Mass of thanksgiving, with priests and brothers serving at the altar and singing the chant, was indeed a rare event in the District. The Oblates sisters provided some sublime polyphony as well. At High Mass, Father General received the oblation of one of his priests, Fr. Joseph Rajadurai. He also received the profession of eight tertiaries.



Singing the Divine Office together

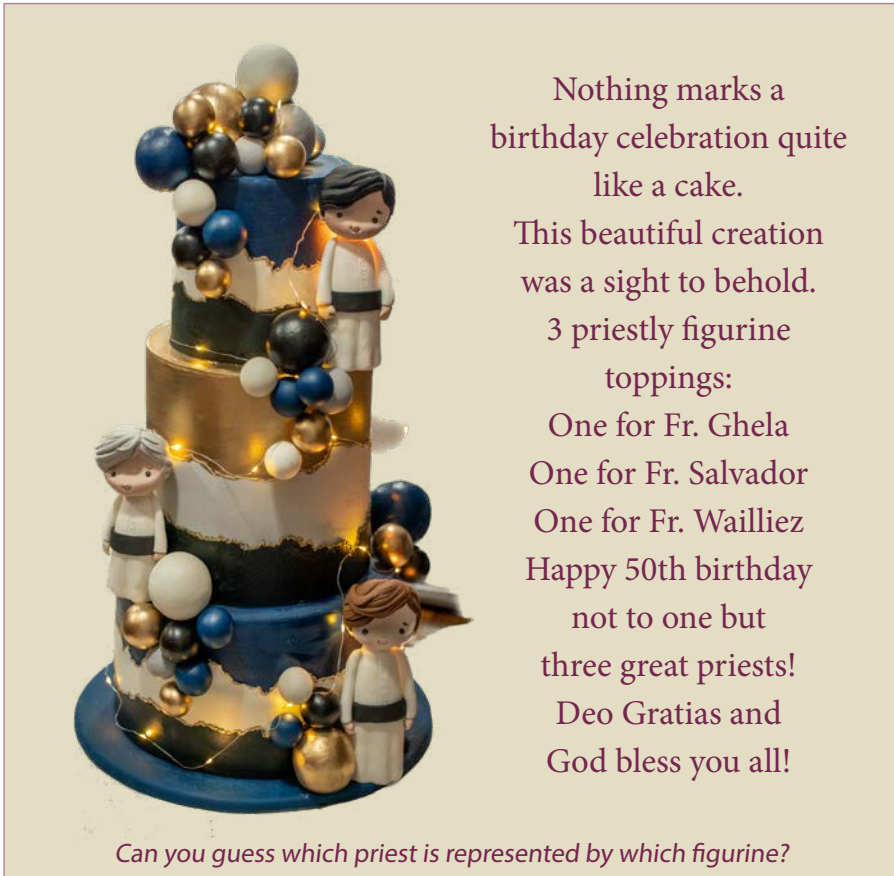




The lunch that followed was a spectacle to behold, carefully planned, deliciously prepared and lovingly served. The sisters of Davao sung a few polyphonic pieces while a few of the faithful sung several Filipino folk songs. The gorgeous costumes and their singing skill will easily produce an unforgettable impression on the audience. Solemn Vespers followed, during which the 'Magnificat' was warmly sung by all present, and it was not only from the "Liber Usualis", but from our hearts. 🙏



All the religious of the District of Asia assembled together on December 8th

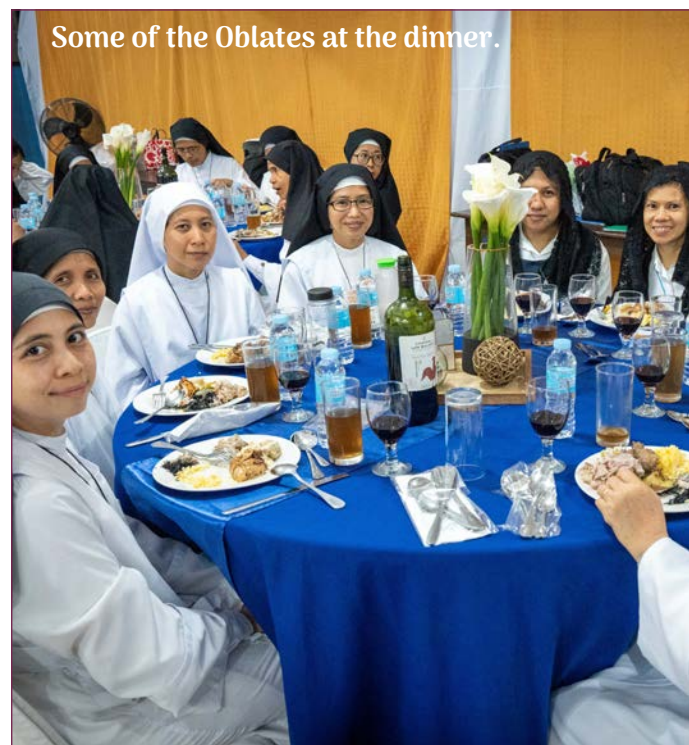


Nothing marks a birthday celebration quite like a cake. This beautiful creation was a sight to behold. 3 priestly figurine toppings:  
 One for Fr. Ghela  
 One for Fr. Salvador  
 One for Fr. Wailliez  
 Happy 50th birthday not to one but three great priests!  
 Deo Gratias and God bless you all!

Can you guess which priest is represented by which figurine?



"The Priest meeting was a piece of cake!"



Some of the Oblates at the dinner.







The next morning, most of the priests tried to print their 'boarding passes' and locate the nearest 'cab' to take them to their usual and familiar destination – the airport. In spite of their nonchalant expressions, there palpitates in the heart of each priest an immense feeling of joy and unfeigned thankfulness to God for the fifty years gone by, and with a firm confidence that His loving care will continue in the years to come. 🙏

*Article contributed by Fr. Therasian Babu*



### The joy of feasting together!



Fr. Wailliez celebrating his 50th birthday



Fr. Pagliarani thanks all the Brothers, Sisters and Priests for their dedication.





# Tour of Superior General & Secretary General

Japan ♦ Philippines ♦ Singapore



Fr. Pagliarani giving a conference in Osaka.



Fr. le Roux indulging in traditional Japanese food. Yummy!



Visiting one of the Japanese attractions.

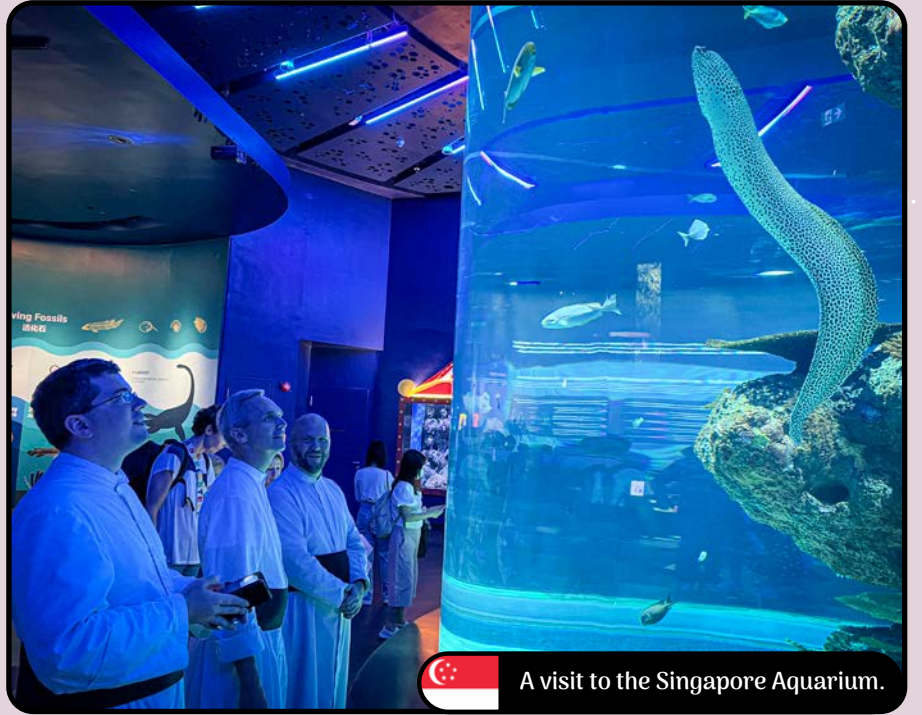


Having fun feeding the deer.





A taste of "Balut" for the first time... and maybe the last!



A visit to the Singapore Aquarium.



No one escapes housework in our priorities...



A short conference to the Singapore faithful.



A peep at his answers. "Are you sure this is correct?" "I hope so!"



"If you buy a bingo ticket from me, you will win!"





Fr. Salvador leading a funeral procession for the father of 5 children who died in Leyte, Philippines.



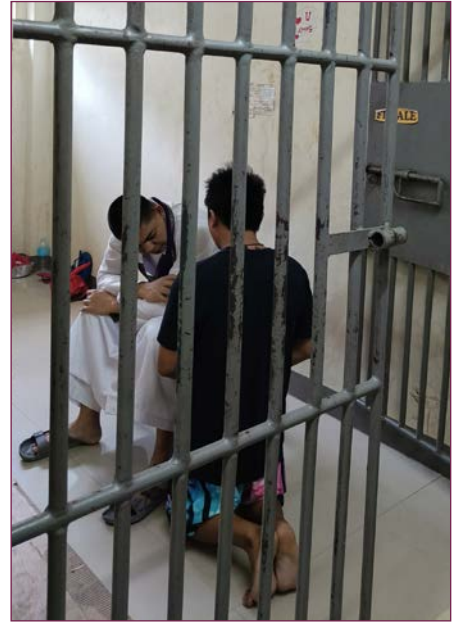
## Update on Fr. Salvador's Apostolate in the Philippines



Giving the Last Sacraments to a gravely ill lady before Christmas.



Trimming the hardwood trees in the yard of St. Bernard Novitiate.



Giving the Sacrament of Penance to one of the prisoners, catechised by the Legion of Mary.

Please continue to support our ongoing projects!

INDIA - Orphanage



PHILIPPINES - Manila School



SINGAPORE - Chapel Expansion





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**Thank you for your generosity!**

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