



APOSTLE



SSPX ASIA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023 - ISSUE NO. 60



DAVAO SISTERS

A glimpse into
their convent life

AKITA PILGRIMAGE

Celebrating the 50th anniversary
of Our Lady's apparitions

INDIA ORPHANAGE

Behind the scene
of their work

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Brother Ignatius harvesting
fruits of his labour in Iloilo.



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EDITORIAL

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory that is far beyond comparison. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4, 16-18)

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Once again, we write to you with news of the Apostolate here in the Far East. You can find inside this APOSTLE magazine the various works we carry out in the Lord's vineyard for the salvation of souls.

One of the greatest temptations that Catholics can encounter in these strange times is that of despair. A Catholic can travel to any country in the world and find so many cases of discouragement and difficulty in the practice of our holy faith. Time and time again we hear the cries of the faithful for more help, more time, more answers to the problems they face in a pagan world. These are loud and desperate cries that cannot be ignored!

It is the supernatural virtue of hope that provides the answers and the resources to face the "impossible" situations that we encounter each day. It is precisely the hope and trust in Divine Providence that give us the strength and perseverance to overcome the temptations of despair and sadness during these perilous times.

However, there are also other "cries" of souls that cannot be heard so easily. These are the "silent cries" of so many millions, nay billions, of souls that are born in the darkness of idolatry and false religions. They spend their entire lives seeking after happiness and some other answers that would make this bizarre world seem more sensible to them. Unfortunately for most of these poor souls, they cannot find the answers and they die in spiritual darkness. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, "How then can they call on the One in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14).



Fr. Stehlin, Fr. Summers and Fr. Couture in Ecône.


We cannot forget these souls, and we cannot pretend that we are to only take care of the Catholics who are already attending our chapels and churches. We are in need of so many more vocations, more priests, more religious brothers and nuns, more laity who are filled with the zeal for the salvation of these souls who live in darkness.

Yes, we must be careful that we do not fall into the common error from our human weakness to be selfish, to think only of our own individual good, to forget that we are all put on this earth to save our souls AND the souls of others.

My dear readers, please continue your generous support of our work out here in Asia. We have the utmost confidence in the Most Holy Trinity that all generosity in spiritual and material goods will be rewarded hundredfold in this life and in the next.

Be assured of our prayers for all of you and please pray for us too!

Thank you.
In Jesus and Mary,


Fr. Patrick Summers
District Superior of Asia

Oblate Sisters' Novitiate

Davao, Philippines



The Oblate Sisters of the SSPX are of invaluable help to the ministry of the priests.

During their novitiate, they learn all the necessary and essential skills in order to fulfil their future duties.

May God give us more vocations!





The Oblate Sisters helping at the Rosa Mystica Health Mission in Mindanao.
 March 6-11, 2023



Cantugas Mamanwas Mission

Mindanao, Philippines



The journey takes 2 hours by road and by river to reach Cantugas, north of Mindanao.



It is still a long way to go!



Burying one of the faithful departed.

This recent work which forms part of the Rosa Mystica Mission was launched in 2020 by Fr. Timothy Pfeiffer. He continues his apostolate to the Mamanwas Tribe, helping them to build their complex, which will house a chapel and catechism room.



The cheerful face of a Mamanwa.



Fr. Tim catechising the local residents.



Processing with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the wilderness.



Labouring tirelessly but in unity!



No problem can't be solved!

St Francis Xavier Priory

Negombo, Sri Lanka

The presence of the Society of St. Pius X in Sri Lanka has undergone notable changes in recent years. In 2015, we opened a new priory on our property in Negombo and then spent the next two years building a modest, yet impressive, new church dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This project has been a boon for increasing awareness about the Society and Catholic Tradition in Sri Lanka. Indeed, some of the local clergy are clearly alarmed and have more than once given warnings from their pulpits about us. Ours is the only church in the country which offers the Traditional Latin Mass exclusively. Moreover, our priory and church are strategically well-placed in Negombo along the main road to Colombo. Many people stop daily at our church to offer a prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe on their way to work or school.



Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

From 2017 to 2020, we had on average only one priest and one religious brother resident in Sri Lanka. This changed in March 2020 as the developing Covid crisis created chaos, stranding an American priest, Fr. Tyler Nelson, in Sri Lanka for the duration of the crisis. He, along with the Sri Lankan prior, Fr. Fabrice Loschi and Br. Isidore Mary hunkered down for the lockdowns that followed until July 2020. In July, things appeared to be opening up and Fr. Loschi traveled home to France but was not able to return. Fr. Nelson and Br. Isidore alone remained in Sri Lanka until April 2021, when another American priest, Fr. John Hattrup, was able to reach Sri Lanka and was appointed the new prior. Since that time, two priests reside in our Sri Lankan priory, working in spite of the difficult economic circumstances, to develop a sense of Catholic Tradition in the country while lending aid to the Society's missions elsewhere in Asia. This effort requires a far-sighted and patient approach, since a majority of the country is Buddhist, and the already existing Catholic population tends to remain doggedly attached to their local parishes. In Sri Lanka, cultural, family and parish ties run deep and are not easily severed!



Fr. Nelson blessing a sick child.

Despite that, we have seen some signs of hope and awakening. Souls are searching for solid ground and for more than a superficial "religious experience." One young couple appeared out of nowhere on Christmas 2021 and asked for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage. God is calling souls, and we need to be there to guide them to Him. If only we had more workers in the vineyard! Alas, two priests are not enough to help the 22 million souls in Sri Lanka. O Lord grant us many holy priests and religious vocations! On the material side of things, our situation in Sri Lanka is less than ideal. While we have built a wonderful new church, the side chapel still needs furnishing and the house which the priests reside in is quite old and in need of remodeling. A new roof and kitchen are needed and even new furniture and appliances in order to make the house a more fitting place for the priests to live a balanced life of prayer, recollection, and efficient work. Even new offices are needed for the priests. Added to that, the economic crisis has dramatically increased our expenses. Food prices have doubled in many respects and our monthly electricity bill has gone up 600% since September 2022, despite the many power outages that we have been subjected to. Thus, we humbly appeal to your generosity in these matters and gladly pray for all who come to our aid. 🙏



Fr. Hattrup baptizing, confirming and marrying a young couple.

The Economic Crisis of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has seen its worst economic crisis in 70 years of mass proportions. It has led to unprecedented levels of inflation, near-depletion of foreign exchange reserves, rampant shortages of fuel, food and medical supplies. The inability to purchase imports has driven up the prices of basic commodities. This crisis has sparked mass protests and violence across the country.



When the fuel shortage hit in June 2022, drivers can be seen pushing their auto rickshaws in a line to buy petrol from a fuel station. The wait can be as long as 14 hours. Sri Lanka's economic turmoil is still ongoing.



17th SSPX Japan Pilgrimage to Akita

May 3-6, 2023

The Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Sr. Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa

On June 12, 1973, in the remote area of Yuzawadai, near the city of Akita in Japan, Sr. Agnes Sasagawa was praying in the chapel of her convent when she suddenly saw bright rays emanating from the wooden statue of Our Lady. This was the beginning of the apparitions of Our Lady to Sr. Agnes on 3 occasions with grave messages for the whole of mankind. 🕯️



An hour long procession of Our Lady of Fatima through the woods of Akita.

First Message

On July 6, 1973, the Blessed Virgin Mary gave Sr. Agnes the first message calling for more prayers in reparation for the sins of men, and to pray very much for the Pope, Bishops and Priests.

Second Message

On August 3, 1973, Our Lady gave another crucial message calling for more souls to make reparation on behalf of sinners through sufferings and poverty. Prayers, penance, poverty and courageous acts of sacrifice can soften the wrath of the Divine Father.

Third Message

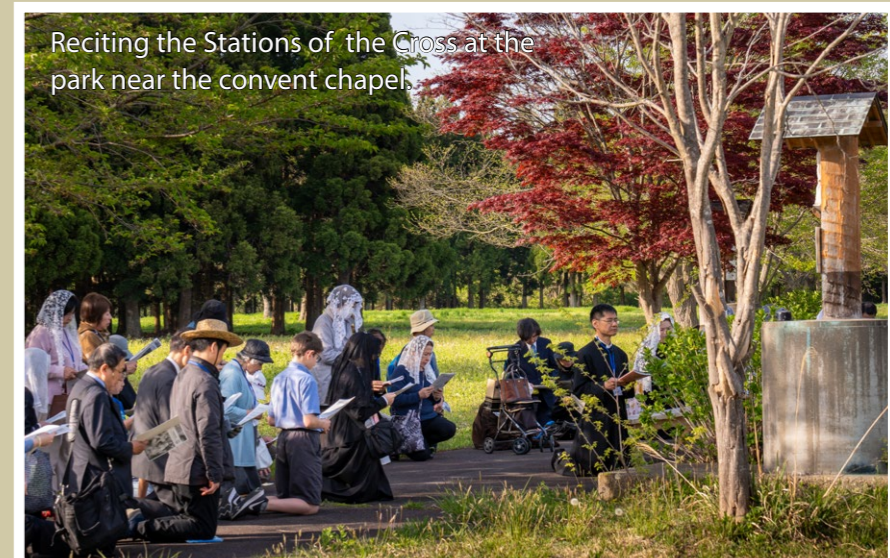
On October 13, 1973, Our Lady gave dire warnings to the world. Part of the message is quoted below:
 "As I told you before, if men do not repent, the Heavenly Father is going to inflict a great chastisement upon humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the wicked, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they would envy the dead. The only weapons which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the sign left by my Son. Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, Bishops and Priests....."

Source: The Tears & Message of Mary in Akita by Teiji Yasuda, O.S.V

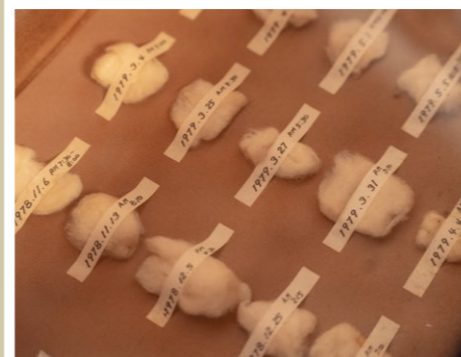
Solemn High Mass celebrated by Fr. Onoda together with Fr. Gomis and Fr. Demornex.



Reciting the Stations of the Cross at the park near the convent chapel.



Fr. Onoda leading the prayers in the chapel where the apparitions took place.



On January 4, 1975, the statue of the Blessed Virgin started to weep. These cotton balls were used to wipe her tears. She wept on 101 occasions over a period of 6 years and 8 months.



A total of 80 participants including children from various countries at this year's pilgrimage (see pictures above).
Gathering outside the hotel compound for a group picture to remember the happy moments (see picture below).



East Asia Apostolate



The procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Akita.

The Hong Kong faithful with Fr. Fortin.



Our Mass center in Hong Kong has resumed operations after almost 3 years without a priest being able to enter, due to the strict lockdown measures.

Difficulties for our small group of faithful to attend Mass began early in 2019, due to protests from the pro-Democratic movement reacting against promulgation of a law of extradition. Due to these demonstrations, public transportation was affected and certain areas where the protests came to a head with the police. The faithful were still able to make an excellent effort, and even though they had many factors against them, they were able to make it for monthly Mass.

When the covid lockdown measures were imposed, it was impossible to travel to Hong Kong from January 2020 to November 2022. A long and difficult time for our faithful to go without the sacraments.

Many of the faithful who were from abroad had either moved back home or to another country and attended Mass on a more regular basis.

The faithful who remained in Hong Kong attended the Mass in November as before. Elsewhere in the world, after a much less strict lockdown, the faithful had lost the habit of attending Mass on a regular basis and so had to be reminded by the priests and bishops to start attending again. Whereas for our faithful, it was natural for them to resume at the first available opportunity. It is admirable how they patiently awaited the return of the priests and the sacraments. ☪

Fr. Peter Fortin

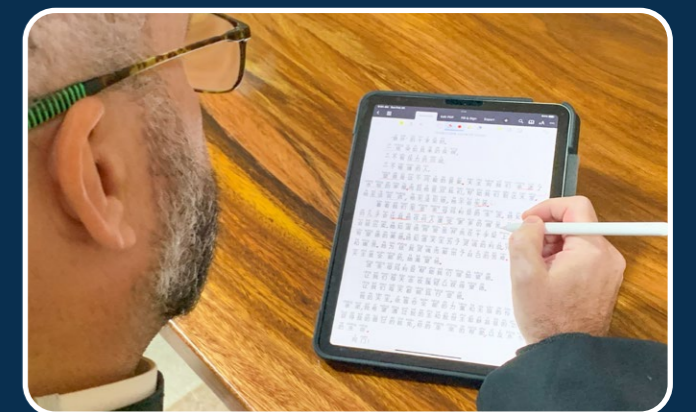
This baby was baptized before the Covid lockdown.



After 3 years of waiting, the faithful were finally given blessed ashes!



Preparing a sermon in the local language.



St. Bernard Novitiate

Iloilo, Philippines

Demonstrating the skill to catch a duck.



Demonstrating the skill to skin a snake.



“... But every one hath his proper gift from God...”

1 Corinthians 7:7



The diverse talents of the Brothers are very important in supporting the priestly ministry!



Demonstrating their musical talents.



Demonstrating their recreational hobby.



The magnificent exterior and interior of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was built with the help of our generous benefactors.



Priory of the Most Sacred Heart

Palayamkottai, India

The Musings of a Missionary

The day began as any other, my mind was engaged in the details of our next vestment project. Suddenly, one of the children rushed towards me. It was a little 6-year-old, Charumathi. Judging by the fear in her eyes, I could tell something was wrong. She grabbed my hand firmly and beckoned me to follow her. I was concerned. "Charumathi...is everything alright?" Her eyes were filled with fear. She placed a finger on her lips. "Shh! Follow me."

We reached the garden outside. Here, a much greater surprise awaited. Twenty-five young girls stood in silence. They were not laughing or talking. They were simply standing there, staring solemnly at a large overgrown bush with great trepidation. I have never seen such a phenomenon in our girls – all silently observing! "What is it?" I whispered. Two of the girls turned their heads in my direction. "Shh!" One of the youngest (5-year-old) in the group grabbed my hand fearfully. I lifted her up and held her in my arms. "What's wrong, Porkodi?" With big eyes, she lisped, "Father, a snake!" I laughed. All this drama for a little snake?

Porkodi made a sign to me to be quiet, and I asked her why? "If you speak, Father, the snake will hear and run away". I asked how a snake could hear my voice. A snake has no ears. Realizing it was useless to reason with Father, Porkodi gave the same answer: "Shh." Now I know why they are all in pin drop silence. "What are you waiting for?" I grinned. "Just let me go and kill it."

The girls cried in unison in a loud whisper, "No! Don't go near. It's really, really big!" "How big?" I was unconvinced. "Six feet, as tall as you!". "So?". "But, Father, it could hurt you..." and it seems the common consensus. Staring into the foliage with wide eyes, I hoped to catch a glimpse of the 6-foot monster. As I looked into the bush, my thoughts began to wander.



It was just a few weeks ago that I was sitting with Fr. Demornex, the district bursar. We were both staring at a screen full of numbers, working together to balance the accounting, when we were interrupted in a similar manner by someone screaming. One of the boys was shouting, "Father! Snake!" Accustomed to such drama, my chair moved faster than Fr. Demornex's. "Father, let us go," I said. Within minutes, we were on the scene. The boys had already finished the inquisition and had initiated the execution. They were well-armed. The dangerous snake, alas! ...had no chance. The boys loved these situations. From discovery to attack – the demise of the serpent was swift.

Father thanked me – and the boys – for saving his life. He also confessed to enjoying the much-needed entertainment in this perilous mission space. It was so much more rewarding than Excel spreadsheets! We walked back slower to the computers than we left them. Perhaps Fr. Demornex was reminiscing on his African days? I was wondering.

Suddenly, I awoke from my daydream. I felt someone tugging on my cassock. It was little Porkodi. "Father!" she cried. "Wake up!" I spoke my thoughts aloud. "...if the boys were here, that snake would already be gone." She nodded in silent agreement. The snake-killing battalion (our trusty kitchen staff) finished the unpleasant task. When the intruder was removed, the usual female chatter erupted. They all started to speak at the same time. Who is listening? Do you not need someone to listen to? I guess this is feminine logic, which I will never understand. With the adventure over, I couldn't help but think about these so-called "gender theories" emanating from other countries. Clearly, boys are boys, and girls are girls. Human nature comes from God, and no government or medical program should tamper with this God-given nature.

The reaction of the boys versus the girls, in relation to the snake, illustrates their distinct differences. One is scared and repelled; the other is excited and ready for war. The boys slew the snake before it could harm their Father, while the girls wouldn't allow their Father to approach the danger. The reaction is different, but their love is the same – unalloyed. I am relieved that these innocent children in our care are still untainted by "woke" lunacy. They live much closer to nature, the same nature God intended. I thank God for this beautiful lesson. ☩

Fr. Therasian Babu



The happy faces of the girls at the Orphanage.

Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Palayamkottai, India

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Thank you for your continued support all these years, without which we would not have been able to continue our work in this part of the vineyard of our Lord. Life is never monotonous here. Every day is an exciting day, every day is different with different joys and sorrows. With variety of people living under the same roof, we have a lot of amusement. God does have a sense of humour, creating such a vast variety of people.

For example, we have a 75-year-old elderly lady, Krishnamma (see right picture), who loves to keep the grounds clean and neat. She is always outside sweeping or burning the garbage. She knows how to create garbage where there is none, by plucking the leaves and flowers from the trees and plants and putting them on the ground and then sweeping them away! If you ask why she is plucking the flowers, she says that anyway they are going to fall one day! As I said, she loves to have the ground plain and clean. So our gardener has a hard time growing flowering plants. The gardener plants, and the old lady removes them. A war goes on between them. Poor plants. They have no chance of growing! By the way she loves to keep her room and bathroom clean too. So, she dumps her garbage in the neighbouring rooms' dust bins and washes her muddy feet in others' bathrooms! She is very active and very strong and keeps working the whole day without getting tired.



In December, we had the happiness of having Fr. DuChalard and two of our American sisters from Italy. The sisters gave singing lessons to the girls and learnt a little bit of embroidery from the master embroiderer (see right picture)! The girls enjoyed having new sisters amongst them.



One of our girls, Catherine Kala, who was married last year, had a baby girl, Immaculate Paula, this April (see left picture). As the girls normally go to their parents' house for their delivery, she being an orphan, came here.

On Easter Sunday the baptismal waters flowed on Immaculate Paula and she slept peacefully throughout the ceremony. On the feast of the Sacred Heart our Indian Postulant, Ms. Charlotte Gonsalves, will be receiving her habit in Italy. Please keep her in your prayers. 🙏

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart



For those of you who are interested in helping us, you can send your donations to the places mentioned at the end of the "Apostle", but please don't forget to mention that it is for "Servi Domini Orphanage".

Those of you in USA can send your tax free contributions to:

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Parish Activities

Singapore

The girls from the catechism classes had an enjoyable outing with the Oblate Sisters during their visit to Singapore.



SG Priory Picnic with BBQ lunch, fun and games for the faithful... and for the priests!



Slow and steady hands will win the race!



Come on Fr. Summers, you can do it!



Fr. Novak captivated the crowd with his art of storytelling.



Fr. Gomis sharing his intriguing priestly experience.

The crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima by Bishop Fellay.



Our Lady of Victories Catholic School

Manila, Philippines

Fr. Peter Fortin, Principal of OLVCS, presented an award of certificates to deserving students at their recent Graduation Ceremony.



Please pray for our Asian vocations!



A picture from our Seminary in Dillwyn: our seminarians Petrus, Longinus and Gregory with Fr. Onoda (2nd from the right).



Brother Pascual made his perpetual vows last year.



Sr. Marie of the Incarnation made her first vows in Lanorgard, France.



Rafael became a deacon in La Reja, Argentina.



Luckshane received the cassock in Flavigny, France.



Longinus received the order of Diaconate in Dillwyn, USA.

Please continue to support our ongoing projects!

INDIA
Orphanage



PHILIPPINES
Manila School



SINGAPORE
Chapel Expansion



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