



March (For Victims of Abuse)

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

April (For A Culture of Peace and Non-Violence)

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

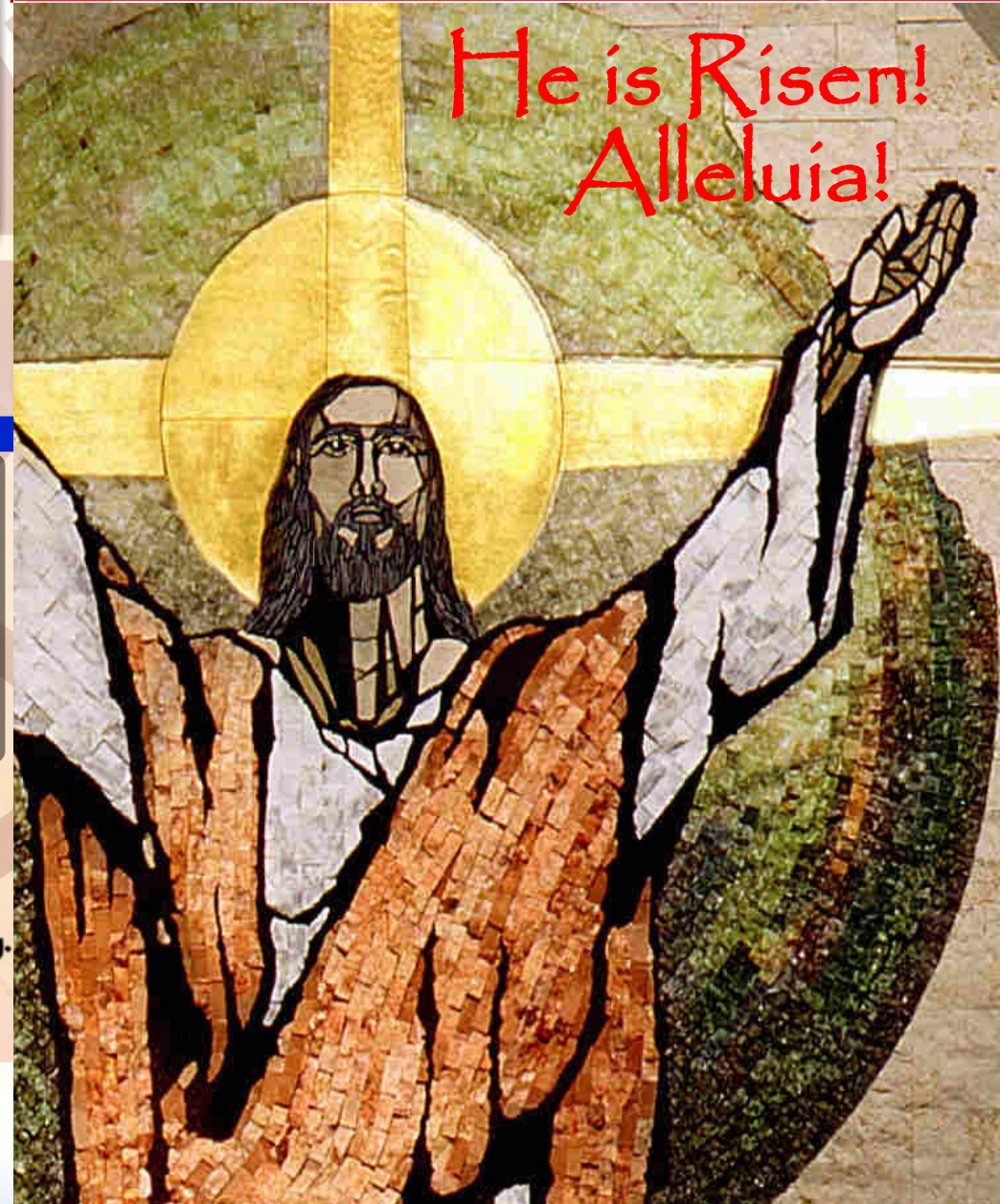
To all our generous benefactors, mission and prayer partners who are celebrating their gift of life in this month of March and April. Rest assured that you will be remembered in our prayers especially in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



Eukaristiya

SENTRO NG BUHAY

VOL. 29, NO. 2 MARCH TO APRIL 2023



The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament invites you to participate in the formation of our seminarians and the on-going formation of our religious.

Any donation will be deeply appreciated and acknowledged. We pray daily for the intentions of our benefactors during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament & weekly Mass every Thursday.

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS:

Empty box for intentions and prayers.

Prayer in honor of St. Peter Julian Eymard

Gracious God of our ancestors, you led Peter Julian Eymard, like Jacob in times past, on a journey of faith.

Under the guidance of your gentle Spirit, Peter Julian discovered the gift of love in the Eucharist which your son Jesus offered for the hungers of humanity.

Grant that we may celebrate this mystery worthily, adore it profoundly, and proclaim it prophetically for your greater glory.

Amen.

St. Peter Julian Eymard said:

Happy is the soul that knows how to find Jesus in the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in all things.





From the SMP - PDO Office

Greeting you all the Peace of our Risen Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The event of the Resurrection of our Lord is the singular truth that formed the foundation of our Christian faith. There is Christianity because of the truth of the Resurrection. That is why, it is of logical weight to say that the resurrection is not a product of the faith of the Apostles; it is rather the faith of the Apostles which is a product of the Resurrection of our Lord. It is essentially the resurrection of Jesus that early Christians became bold enough to proclaim that "Jesus is Lord!" – because to rise from the dead is completely a divine action.

Faith in the risen Lord is not something we can explain just by way of retelling the story of the resurrection, but by way of resurrecting also our actions of faith, hope and love which might have died along with our weaknesses and limitations. It can become entirely pointless to celebrate Easter Season if we fail to recreate the life-giving values of the resurrection in our relationships with the family, neighbours, friends and workmates. We only become true Christians on account of our sincere resolve to bring Christ alive in our sentiments and in our actions. In fact, if there is any spirituality, we Christians must value the most, it is the spirituality of the resurrection; always attuned to newness, fullness, rebirth, hopefulness and faithfulness. This is one reason why in this sacred season of Christ's Resurrection, we are called to promote and protect the dignity of the human life, especially the unborn. Easter time is also a Sacred Season which calls us to stand up for life; to help defend the rights of the offenders to face sanctions that lead to their conversion and not to their execution.

May we all seek to be blessed with the spirit of Easter to increase our fervours to know, to love and to serve the Lord. Let our dailies be as bright and warm as the joy of the resurrection; because the Resurrection is not a past event, but always a present event. That is why we say: "Christ IS Risen"; we do not say "Christ was Risen." This is to think that even the grammar is a perfect indication of the truth of the Resurrection. It is not a past perfect tense; it is a present perfect tense. Meaning, that the resurrection already happened and it continues to happen until now; so must it be in our thoughts and actions.

A blessed Easter Season to one and all! In Christ, our Bread of Life, I remain,

Gratefully yours,

FR. MARC BRYAN R. ADONA, SSS

*To all those who wish to send their financial assistance for the "Support Our Seminarians" Project or S.O.S through bank, you can deposit your donations to BPI Account No. 4061-001951 under the name of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you very much!




MEDICAL V.2.0
HEALTH CHECK!
18 February 2023

Brothers' Night
Solemnity of St. Joseph
March 19, 2023

EWARDS FORMATION CENTER

SCHOLASTICATE FORMATION UPDATE

Graduation: Scholasticate Experience

Graduating Scholastics FY-2022-2023

Since 2020, two years after I finished my novitiate formation, I have lived in the Eymard Formation Center (EFC). I had the chance to learn more about God and myself in this house. My entire scholastic formation has been filled with both challenging and happy times. The four pillars of formation — prayer, study, community, and apostolate — must all be integrated, which requires commitment and a sincere give of self. All credit for my success goes to God, who filled me with His enduring blessings and helped me incorporate them into my religious life. My formators and brothers, who served as God's tools in molding my Eucharistic Spirituality during my entire academic formation, have my eternal gratitude.

- **BR. Duo Ming Pei, SSS**

If you had asked me if I would finish these years at the beginning of 2019, I would have laughed. It was difficult for me to imagine the time of my graduation, which seemed so far away, especially given the demands of academics and adjusting to a new culture. Thank you to the brothers and formators who have accompanied us on our journey. Their brotherly affection for me made this journey easy and memorable for me. Thanks to the Almighty God, who sustained my faith even in the midst of the pandemic that struck us, my stay here has been a success. All Glory and Praise to God for supporting me and us. - **Br. Fred Bugembe, SSS**

I am very grateful to God for helping me complete my theological studies. For more than two years, we had our classes online and it was very difficult at the beginning. But God's grace was sufficient for me. I never lost focus and I continued to pray & study even more. All was Grace for me throughout my four years journey at Eymard Formation Centre (EFC). I strived to integrate community life, prayer life, Apostolate and academic. I am very grateful to the Congregation, and to the members of my community for having provided me with conducive ambiance for growth. - **Br. Emmanuel Byaruhanga, SSS**



BR. EMMANUEL BYARUHANGA, SSS



BR. DUO MING PEI, SSS



BR. FREDERICK BUGEMBE, SSS

POSTULANCY FORMATION UPDATE

My Postulancy Experience

By Br. Vincent Rene U. Conti, pSSS

My postulancy experience has been quite a transition from a comfortable, financially independent life as a practicing medical professional with a strong family responsibility to take care of my parents who have long since passed, to a structured religious life that by itself calls for a renunciation of non-essentials in my committed pursuit of the religious life. It has been a constant adjustment to daily community life requiring discipline, diligence, patience, and humility stretched to the limits by our own distinct personalities. An experience that was both blissful and stressful, but ultimately rewarding, provided priceless opportunities for further growth and discernment, self-discoveries that tested our faith, purpose, and commitment to the Lord, community socials and road trips that provided precious bonding time with the fathers and brothers who came before us as formators and superiors, and fellow postulants whom we have come to love as our own brothers. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our talents, which ranged from gardening and sports to cooking and baking, flower arrangement, art and design, medicine, and music. And when one of us seemed to lack confidence in manual labor, singing, writing, or speaking, it was an opportunity to encourage each of us to try harder and improve ourselves. For us, the Assumption Parish served as the first model of parish life, where we were officially accepted as postulants by Fr. Leo Ayuyao; the setting of beautiful encounters with loyal, kind, and generous parishioners and members of nearby religious communities who have become our dear friends, confidantes, and benefactors; and the place where we first served as lectors and sacristans at church and in other congregations such as the RVM and PDDM, in GKK masses and Legion of Mary apostolates.

Many members of our Davao community came and went during our postulancy; some became very close to us, were instrumental in our formation, and left a significant imprint on our ongoing vocation stories; but, like the seminarians who came before us, we journey on to the next phase of our own formation, hoping that our vocation will lead us to where the Lord wants us to be, in a way that we ourselves do not know exactly. As I prepare to enter the novitiate, I remember Thomas Merton's prayer: *"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I can't see the path ahead of me. I don't know where it will end, nor do I really know myself, and just because I think I'm doing what you want doesn't mean I'm doing it. But I believe that the desire to please you is gratifying. And I hope that desire pervades everything I do. I hope I never do anything other than what I want. And I know that if I do this, despite my lack of knowledge, you will lead me in the right direction. As a result, even if I appear to be lost and dying, I will always trust you. I will not be afraid because you are always with me and will never leave me to face my perils alone."* May this prayer serve as an inspiration to those who come after us, so that they, too, can find meaning in this calm before the storm, as we did as postulants.



(L-F: Bro. Christian, Bro. Glendell, Bro. "Doc" Rene, Bro. Ryan, Bro. Jaime, Bro. Johsua)

NOVIATE FORMATION UPDATE

The Novitiate Recipe: Taste & See the Goodness of the Lord

By Br. Emmanuel P. Unabia, nSSS



Perhaps my family and friends would be as perplexed as I was when I decided to leave the corporate world and pursue a religious life. After postulancy, I experienced the same ecstasy and delight with the Sacramentino way of life, but I was never satisfied; I craved more. Despite the threat of a coronavirus pandemic, I entered the Blessed Sacrament Novitiate with confidence. And as I sat behind the banquet

prepared for me, I began to taste and see the Lord's goodness. It was a fantastic recipe, and I wanted to share it with the rest of the world. Every ingredient in the recipe was God's unique way of revealing Himself and assuring us of His constant presence. Only in deep solitude of prayer and adoration could I hear



His voice and become attuned to His will. I was strengthened and made aware of my helplessness and constant vulnerability in the face of temptations, amidst the dissonant voices of guilt and unworthiness, brokenness and sickness. I learned to stir my own conviction for forgiveness and reconciliation



with a humble heart and contrite spirit. I received the grace of a deeper appreciation and understanding of Christ's humanity and the virtues of the beatitudes - the spirit of poverty, the actual possession of God in my life, absolute total self-giving - where all my thoughts, words, and actions radiate His presence and find security only in Him -



through fraternal communion and apostolates. I pray that I shall keep this wondrous recipe in my heart and memory. And as I drink a bowl of God's goodness every day, I hope to remain faithful and obedient on His side, to listen to Him attentively and to respond generously. Amen



PASTORAL FORMATION UPDATE

Pastoral Exposure Experience



"I am on training." This is my standard response to people's inquisitive looks when they don't understand what pastoral exposure means. This 10-month Pastoral Year Program is, in fact, my "on-the-job training." But, more importantly, it is a period of integrating, in a pastoral setting, all of the knowledge I gained during my previous years of seminary formation. My placement in Ireland taught me to fully embrace the community's international spirit. It also emphasized the importance of academic training in pastoral ministry. Most importantly, the importance of prayer in a religious' life and mission. As a result of this

experience, I would say that my missionary training was truly rewarding. – **BR. DANIEL I. NACAR, SSS (Pastoral Exposurist – Dublin, Ireland)**

My pastoral year experience with the people of OLBSP (*Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish*) Mapandan's rural areas helped me to reflect more deeply on my religious vocation. As I facilitated several formations and catechesis for various ministries and schools within the parish, one thing that struck me was the enthusiasm and unwavering efforts of those dedicated parishioners in bringing religious education to what I call the hills and plains' peripheries. As a result, my missionary zeal has strengthened and empowered me to place our Eucharistic Lord at the center of everything, because He enables me to be more mature and to have a meaningful but also fruitful pastoral year experience. – **BR. NEPTALIE R. REYES, SSS (Pastoral Exposurist – Mapandan, Pangasinan)**



My pastoral experience is unique and extraordinary, as I have worked in two different locations and communities. My first seven months were spent in Calaca's remote and high mountains, where there was no "parish." I regarded it as my "Mt. Tabor" experience, which has witnessed the eucharistic charism of the congregation. It was also a transfiguration experience in my own self, aside from the fact that the eucharistic presence that I humbly

bear became an avenue of hope to the people. I was eventually transferred to Taguig, a city center community, which I describe as an "oasis in the middle of the desert." Christ's presence in the parish quenches the thirst of the parish's busy people in the midst of a frantic venue. – **BR. EUGENE L. MAOY, SSS (Pastoral Exposurist – Batangas & Taguig)**

Ilocos Norte, Pagudpud, a place where God cultivated me to grow with this seed of vocation that he planted in me. After almost a year of caring for this vocation, with many good and challenging memories, I feel so blessed to have learned so much that will help me in this religious life journey. I developed my prayer through adoration in order to love the Eucharist more, which manifested itself in our ministry and apostolate when dealing with parishioners. I learned that I need to understand myself, every life in the community, and the parish churchgoers, whom I will be caring for in the future. – **BR. RECHARDSON L. EBCAS, SSS (Pastoral Exposurist – Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte)**

