



THE 5TH INTER-PROVINCIAL NOVITIATE YEAR (2017-18)

JUNE 2017

Viva St. Gaspar Bertoni!

#WELOVETHEFINDER

#WELOVEBERTONI

#HAPPYJUNE

#JUNE 12 SAINT GASPAR

NOVITIATEC

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#PRAYFORUS

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June 2 – A recollection day once a month is part of our novitiate formation. In this month of June our recollection took place in St. Joseph Parish. Our recollection for this time was guided by Fr. John Pipat, CSS – the new pastor of St. Joseph Parish. While on the way going to St. Joseph Parish we stopped for a while to visit and to give communion to one of the sick parishioners. We were introduced to the sick by Fr. Paul, CSS and offered prayers together for this sick parishioner. After which we headed straight to St. Joseph and were welcome warmly by Fr. John Pipat who immediately invited us to be inside the church to introduce himself and the history of the church in passing. Our recollection started at 09:00 am. Thai brothers also joined us in our recollection. Fr. John was very thankful by our presence. And was happy to share to us about the goal of the religious life. We were inspired and motivated how to build a strong religious community. Everybody should have a sign of religious life. For us, as Stigmatines “Euntes Docete” is a sign to live and to experience it during our life. – Nov. Abdon

## Solemnity of the Founder

NEWS

June 12, 2017 marks a special place in the hearts of the Stigmatines in the whole world- it is the Solemnity of St. Gaspar Bertoni, our beloved founder. The joyful day started with a holy mass which was celebrated with some of our parishioners from the Assumption Church. In the mass, after receiving the holy communion the parishioners were ask to pick a special paper that has a quotation from our dear founder. Then together we had a lavish breakfast. The novices had a music jam in the whole morning. They expressed their







jubilation through the songs they offered for the founder. The celebration was also expressed through sports. The community had a football game together with the kids from the neighborhood. In the evening we had a special steak dinner and enjoy the rest of the night through the songs performed by the novices. – Nov. Crizaldy



## Who is St. Gaspar for me?

FEATURE



He is a friend who is always there for me in times of crisis. Putting my trust to God and to St. Gaspar made my life meaningful in the seminary. Crisis will last for only few days. There's always fun and laughter. As time goes by, bit by bit I realized that St. Gaspar is not only a friend, but also a teacher who guides me in my apostolate and helps me build my character as a simple and humble servant. – Nov. Joshua

For me, St. Gaspar Bertoni is a good model and lamp which help me to fulfill the plans of God. He is very passionate to give the Christ to others. He used his whole talents and abilities in order to earn the souls for God. He had a great patience and seeks the will of God in everything. After knowing the will of God, he did it perfectly for the glory of the lord. He was ready to abandon every worldly pleasure and trust completely in the providence of the God. – Nov. Sonet



He is a good man and priest for all the people particularly for the young people. He is my inspiration. I found one thing in his life that make me hardly to imitate that is his attitude towards suffering. Even though he was seriously sick, Fr. Gaspar spent his time to serve the people even on his sickbed. – Nov. Jack

St. Gaspar Bertoni is a good example for me in Consecrated life and also he is a good model of an apostolic missionary. I liked his childhood very much because even though he had many sufferings in his life he received those sufferings joyfully. He abandoned everything for Jesus and he worked for the glory of God. He was never attracted by the worldly things. He was always ready to do anything for the glory of God. He never followed his will but he waited for the will of God. Because of this reasons I can say that he is a good example for my life. – Nov. Abin





During my childhood days there was only one saint whom I know. I may have heard of other saints but only by names, not as deep as my knowledge of St. Gaspar. Since our former house was a walking distance to the former Novitiate House, every Sunday afternoon I and my friends used to attend catechism there and there were a lot of times when the novices would teach us the life of St. Gaspar. I was in grade 4 when I received a comical book of life of St. Gaspar which I often read whenever we had an annual "quiz bee" on his feast day. When I reach high school, St. Gaspar was still the only saint that was very close to my heart. I regularly went to the Novitiate House every weekend to participate in the rosary on Saturdays and mass on Sundays followed by catechism in the afternoon. For me, I would really say that St. Gaspar and his followers- the Stigmatines were part of my spiritual growth. Thus, St. Gaspar was God's divine instrument for calling me to follow the priestly and religious life. – Nov. Crizaldy

I was able to understand the life of St. Gaspar through the help of my senior brothers. I liked the life of St. Gaspar because he was from a broken family. At a certain time his parents were not together and they were not happy in their life but this never affected the holiness of the young St. Gaspar. Even though he was from a broken family he was able to live in holiness. He was alone in the house and his beloved sister passed away at a very young age but still he chose to work for God. His life is really a good inspiration for my life because there were many obstacles in the life of St. Gaspar in following God but he never turn back from his decision of following Christ. He is very good model for me in humility. St. Gaspar was very humble even though he was very clever, very good in everything but was never arrogant in his life. He always glorified God for all his abilities. – Nov. Jomon



I could see total detachment in his life. He did everything for the glory of God. In his life I understood that without humility I cannot attain perfection and union with God. During the time of great suffering he said "I need to suffer". He did nothing for his life and prosperity. He did everything for others. He was very active in his whole life. He used the properly. He had a deep devotion to Eucharist. He used to visit the sick people in his life. He was very excellent in his studies. In various occasions he imitated Jesus in his life. He had deep devotion to mother Mary. He was ready to do things at any time. He had done everything for the glory of God. He lived a simple life. I learned many things from him. He is the true example of humility. I want to practice humility in my spiritual life. Be humble before God and others. – Nov. Tom

St. Gaspar Bertoni, Apostolic Missionary is a great name and great saint for me. He is one of my favorite saints. I knew Him since I entered in the Stigmatine congregation. I'm so proud of Him after I heard the story of His life. He inspired me to look at the difficulties in my vocation as a challenge to strengthen and help me to go on because if there is no pain, there is no gain and if where there's a will, there's a way. St. Gaspar Bertoni said: "It is necessary to prepare oneself for greater temptations and to make amends for past faults, so that we attain that place where God wants us to be. Great temptations are the matter and the means of great sanctity, provided there are also courage and strength." By this message I know that I have to struggle with the difficulties so that one day I can reach my goal it is to be a religious and priest. – Nov. Cornelis







Personally talking about to become a priest is least of my concern. I do not want to become. To be a teacher would come first of my priority because my eldest sister is already a nun. And beside I don't have any idea of it.

After I graduated senior high, I stay home to help my family and would like to apply for work in my former elementary school. At the same time two of my senior high classmates invited me to join them to visit a seminary and convinced me to become a seminarian. When we arrived in the seminary of the Stigmatines in Maumere, Flores, we were immediately interviewed by Fr. Donato and Bro. Kris. After the interview, my two companions were unsuccessful and did not make it through. So, I decided not to continue because I was alone. But my companions inspired me and requested me to continue as their representative. On discussing the matter to my parents they said: *it is depends on me*. They also showed great support in my decision.

And at that time I started to think about the seminary, I started thinking to become a religious and to become a priest after that short seminary visit and my encounter with Fr. Donato. When I joined the Stigmatines everything has changed, everything is different now. I admit it is very difficult for me at first because of the many schedules to follow. But I was able to carry on because of the help of my formators.

During my seminary years, I have learned a lot from the founder especially as an apostolic missionary. By this great mission of the founder, it invites me to learn more how to become an apostolic missionary like him. In addition, it is Fr. Donato Lovito, CSS – the formator of our seminary, has shown as an apostolic missionary himself. There are many activities and good works he has done; helping the bishop of the diocese, giving retreats and recollections, confession, celebrate the mass, anointing the sick around our neighborhood, helping for the poor people and a spiritual director for the seminarians, to the religious and friend of children and etc. In these kind of behaviors inspired me and motivated me most to share my life, my love, my faith to the people of God.

Sometimes I complained to Fr. Donato on his charity works; why he is too much into doing charitable works? But for doing these charities, I realized that he is a servant of God, he is an instrument of God, to take care of the people of God. And that leaved a mark in my heart to do the same. That inspired me to go on with my vocation.

While learning the spirituality of St. Gaspar and Fr. Donato, there are also visiting Filipino fathers and brothers who showed me good examples. They were imitating the spirit of St. Gaspar Bertoni as an apostolic missionary. The spirit of St. Gaspar is like an example for those who are following him and I want to share this example that one day I may become one of them in God's grace – to be an apostolic missionary myself.

During my philosophy years, I learnt the habit of doing charity works which is not easy to do, it takes time, and I needed patience. So, little by little I tried to do this charity work. Starting from myself, I have to love the community and also the lay people around me who needed my help.

– Nov. Abdon

After a long wait our brothers from India has finally arrived in our Novitiate house. Morning of Friday, June 23, 2017, accompanied by an Indian priest and member of their community – Fr. Jose, CSS, four candidates arrived Phuket. Due to Visa processing they were given



special permission to arrive and to be accepted late in the Novitiate. Added to the five already accepted novices are Post. Abin Peter, Post. Jomon Peter Josy, Post. Sonet Davis and Post. Tom George Thottumkal. All are coming from the State of Kerala, India where we have our seminary. With their arrival and their late acceptance the following day, the novitiate batch of 2017 – 2018 is complete. We, in the novitiate community to please continue to pray for us. As we carry on in our chosen vocation join us in wishing a fruitful novitiate year and that one day we will reach our goal as St. Gaspar says: "Go out and tell the Good News in the your diocese and all over the world". – Nov. Zackarias

## The Acceptance of the Indian Novices



Sunday, on June 25 at 18:30, novitiate community had the acceptance ceremony of our Indian brothers. They were Post. Jomon, Post. Tom, Post. Ebin and Post. Sonet all coming from Kerala State, India. The acceptance ceremony was held in the Chapel of the Novitiate house. Fr. Paul, CSS, the

superior of Phuket Community has been delegated to accept the Indian Novices. The ceremony was done very simply and were attended by Fr. Joseph, CSS as Novice Master, Fr. Reby, CSS as Socius, Fr. Jose, CSS from India, Bro. Sujin, CSS and some Parishioners as well as the previously accepted novices (2 from the Philippines and 3 from Indonesia). After the acceptance, the event continued with dinner together with the parishioners. We were all very happy and grateful that after passing all kinds of difficulties regarding Visa issues, we can finally gather together to continue our formation in this novitiate house of Phuket. Now we novices of 2017-2018 are complete in number. Welcome my friends and let us join our hands and walk together as a team. – Nov. Cornelis





The Novitiate community here in Phuket was finally completed when our Indian brothers arrived together with Fr. Josh, CSS, one of our Indian Priest confrere, last June 23. Staying on a foreign country is a fun and exciting experience especially when you roam around to see and enjoy the beautiful views. But staying here in Thailand is not for a lifetime especially for Fr. Josh who stayed for only 1 week. That is why we brought Fr. Josh to see some tourist destination here at Phuket like the *Promthep Cape* and the *Big Buddha*. The place is very often visited by many tourists because of the picturesque cape and its beautiful sea views. Together with us Fr. Josh have enjoyed much. Fr. Josh left for Kerala, India the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. – Nov. Joshua

## Birthday celebrants of the month



Fr. Peter Warangu, CSS – June 2

Fr. Joel Barcelona, CSS – June 18

Bro. Jerson Rey Avenido, CSS – June 20

Fr. Peter Pramote, CSS – June 22

Fr. Maximo Benaning, Jr., CSS – June 25

Bro. Twestuesjun Rivera, CSS – June 25

Fr. Peter Pakpoom, CSS – June 29

And to all the birthday celebrants of the month of June

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”