

The Inter-Provincial Novitiate Community

Phuket, Thailand

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

AUGUST 2017



25th Priestly Anniversary
on the feast day of the Assumption

***"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* (Mt. 25:40)**

On August 2, the novitiate community gladly welcomed Mr. Michael Viruj and company of the Diocesan Social Action of Surat Thani Diocese. Mr. Michael and

two others gave us a touching sharing regarding the work that they do for the migrants in the whole area of the Diocese. The sharing lasted two hours. With attention we listened to the various stories of joy and sorrow about how they deal with migrants especially those coming from Myanmar. They work as volunteers. According to Mr. Mikael, the priests or the religious of the diocese cannot work alone therefore they need the cooperation of the laity. This is a vocation, he added and very few answer to this call. "Working for others unpaid is not an easy job, therefore it requires perseverance, willpower, unyielding and loving. Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Mt. 25:40)', Mr. Michael commented. "That's why as a Christian we should help each other. We will find an unparalleled joy and inner satisfaction, when we make others smile because of our help", said the Filipina companion. "It is better to give than to receive, perhaps this is what we must remember and do in our lives", the other Thai companion said. In accordance with the plea from Francis our Pope, who expects all Christians to always help immigrants and the poor and needy, this is the one concrete way that the local church does by establishing a special commission to deal with immigrants. We all eagerly listened to this sharing and were delighted to have this opportunity. At the beginning of Mr. Michael gave us the opportunity to introduce ourselves one by one and a brief reason why we wanted to be a priest. Our reasons are then summarized by him with the pocket of the sentence that every choice in our life must have a useful reason not only for ourselves but also for others. At the end of the activity, Mr. Michael gave us a task to do in the form of a reflection question, what would you answer if someone asked you why you should help a foreigner? And lastly, we sang a thanksgiving song and took pictures together. *Father, open our eyes to see those who struggle for food, love, and hope; Open our hearts to help them enjoy love, use our hands to serve them-and through them we serve You.* – Nov. Kornelis





On 6th August we as a community went for a picnic dinner to Sapan Hin Park. It is a popular and beautiful seaside park in Phuket town. It is a common social get together destination for everyone, from young children to parents to grand parents. Its surroundings and atmosphere are quite pleasant with mature pine trees lining the main road, and lovely open spaces with grass and walking and jogging tracks. All

these make it a perfect place for picnicking, exercising or just relaxing. Saphan Hin stadium, the city's main sports Centre is also located inside the park. Its features badminton, basketball and tennis courts and football field. We can see a number of restaurants in that place. During the journey we shared our joy and happiness. When we reached the place we sat down and shared our happiness to all of us. We had our supper in that place. We took some pictures together. After the supper we walked around the park in order to see the beautiful scenarios. This shows togetherness, unity and oneness among us. It is an occasion to share our thoughts and ideas to each one of us. It was a memorable journey in this novitiate formation. It was a beautiful evening which gives us a real meaning of a joyful community life. – Nov. Tom

NEWS

Feast of Our Lady of Graces



On August 12, 2017 the novitiate community joined the celebration for the feast day of the church of Our Lady of Graces in Ranong. We traveled in the morning of August 11 and reached the province by 4:00. Then we extended our journey to see the beautiful places of the province. We had our dinner in a restaurant beside the beach and spent the night in Chumpon Province. In the morning by 8:00 we then traveled to the church of Our Lady of Graces. Fr. Waranyu, the pastor of the Church and the parishioners warmly welcomed us. The event was blessed by the presence of Bishop Joseph Pratan and was even more graceful with the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima

(which we brought with us in Phuket as her next pilgrimage destination). At 10:30 the Holy Mass begun with a procession of the image of Our Lady of Fatima. There were lots of parishioners who attended the mass. We were also glad to join them as the choir for the Eucharistic Celebration. Before the mass ended, Fr. Waranyu expressed his gratitude for all the devotees and parishioners, diocesan priests and confreres who jubilantly attended the event. The delightful lunch followed after the mass. By 2 pm we gave our farewell message to Fr. Waranyu and we happily travelled back to our community house in Phuket. – Nov. Crizaldy

Triduum Celebration

NEWS



Prior to the feast day of Assumption Church on the 20th of August, Triduum masses were celebrated from August 17 to 19. On these masses three Stigmatine priests were invited to preside these celebrations. They were chosen because this year they are celebrating their 25th Anniversary being ordained in the year 1992. On the first day of the Triduum, the parish was blessed to have the Provincial Superior Fr. Winai as the main celebrant. On Friday the second day of the Triduum, Fr. Wasan, professor and formator of the seminarians at Samphran became the main celebrant and on Saturday, the last day Fr. Wichien, from Ranong community presided the

celebration. The triduum celebrations were truly a guide and suitable preparation for the parishioners of Assumption church. It is always proper not only to prepare the physical and external appearance of the church but most importantly the spiritual preparation of the parishioners through the Triduum masses and guided by our Stigmatine guest priests. Just to mention a beautiful excerpt from Fr. Winai's sermon on the first day about forgiving others, he says: It is very easy for us to forgive those who are far from us and difficult to forgive those near to us. He then invited us to learn how to forgive those who are near to us. As novices we were happy to celebrate the Triduum masses. We have participated happily as choirs together with religious sisters and some other parishioners. – Nov. Abdon.

Phuket – we celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of Assumption here in Phuket last August 20, and as expected, it is a huge success. Everyone who attended the celebration was very well pleased. Early in the morning before the mass, people gathered at the parish for the preparation of the event. Some arranged the venue, some prayed the rosary. The mass started at exactly 10:00 a.m. but before 9:00 a.m. the place was already jam packed by visitors who lived inside and outside of Phuket. The mass was presided by the Most Reverend Joseph Pratan, Bishop of the Diocese of Surat Thani. Along with him was the 3 Stigmatine Priests who celebrated their 25th priestly anniversary. They are Fr. Winai, CSS, Fr. Wichien, CSS, and Fr. Wasan, CSS, together with other priests from different dioceses. After the mass, all were invited to eat and share the food served outside the church. It was filled with fun and laughter especially when it was spent with friends. The event is also attended by minor seminarians from our Congregation, and also the minor seminarians from the Diocese. Some also are teachers from Darasamuth School, and some students from Dowroong Wittaya School who assisted the traffic. We can say that it was a grace from above that the feast was a success especially when the two statues of Blessed Mary was with us that day, one is the statue of Our Lady of Fatima (The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is on tour, visiting the parishes and religious schools and institutions in the Diocese of Surath Thani on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady in Fatima) and second is the statue of Our Lady of Assumption. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima was transferred to another parish after the mass. – Nov. Joshua



Birthday and Night Jam



"If you want to go faster, go alone. But if you want to go farther, go together." These are the words of Fr. Joseph quoting a proverb, explaining the meaning of community life to us his novices. Because on this day the 28th of August, the community of the novitiate celebrated the birthday of Fr. Paul, the Superior of Phuket Community where we belong. And on the same day too, on the occasion of the memorial of St. Augustine we had our night jam or the community socialization of this month. In this night jam of the month we presented our own local songs starting from our Indian companions and followed by the Indonesians and our Filipino companions. A Thai song was also rendered by Fr. Paul and Fr. Dominic as requested by us. The usual reading of the two favorite days of the month and the handling of the chronicler book to the new beadle of the month also took place on this same celebration. The singing of the birthday song and the wishes of Nov. Abdon to Fr. Paul followed. Fr. Paul shared to us that he was very happy to celebrate his birthday with us and also he wished to live hundred years in his life. And unexpectedly Fr. Paul has given us a beat box that we can use in playing songs. – Nov. Abin





Monthly recollection is very important in our novitiate formation. It will help us to renew our relationship with God. In this month we had our recollection on August 29 led by lay couple. They were Mr. Roy and Mrs. Julie. We began our recollection with a personal meditation at 9:00 am and continued with rosary at 10:00. At 11:00 we listened to the sharing of the couple. They shared their life story,

especially the conversion of Mr. Roy who was Buddhist. He shared to us that he knew Jesus through his wife whom had introduced to him the Christian faith and it was because of her influence he was converted into Christianity. Mrs. Julie shared to us that our lives are not perfect only God is perfect. So whenever we find difficulties in our life we must stay with God, accept the trials and difficulties as the plans of God for us to learn and be strong. When they face problems in their life they took it as the will of God and they could face the problems courageously together. Their sharing was very helpful for us. We ended our recollection by expressing our gratitude to them and we rendered them a song entitles: 'The Lord is my strength.' – Nov. Jomon

NEWS

Blessing

August 30, We Stigmatine novitiate community visited Pang Naga which is the place where Fr. Dominic, one of our Stigmatine confreres resides as parish priest. It is 80 km away from Phuket community and belongs to another province. There we, the Stigmatines have a parish and a kindergarten school. The intention of our visit to Pang Nga is to participate in the blessing ceremony of the statue of Mary help of Christians which we are going to fix on the top of our new school building. Fr. Paul, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Reby, Br. Sujin and one visitor friend, Mr. Rommel and we novices started our journey at 8:30 am and we reached our destination around 10'clock. Fr. Dominic, Sr. Nipa (the principal of the school) and her kindergarten kids and their teachers and some parishioners welcomed us warmly. At 10:10 the ceremony of the blessing of the statue began. Fr. Dominic was the celebrant of the ceremony. We sung the entrance hymn and the recessional song during the ceremony. The statue of Mary help of Christians was big therefore, we used crane to move it into the top of our new school building. The new school building was built on the opposite side of our kindergarten school. Its works still going on and we hope that the blessing of the school will take place on November. Then we spent with kids joyfully and conversing with the teachers. Fr. Dominic treated us with delicious food on a restaurant. We enjoyed our lunch very well. At the end of our lunch we have to say good bye to Fr. Dominic. We returned our journey at 12:45 pm. On the way Fr. Joseph dropped us at Sarasin Bridge which connects between two provinces Pang Naga and Phuket. It was long at least 3km. We walked through it from one end to other and take pictures there. Fr. Joseph

picked us up from the other end of the bridge. We were very happy in our journey to Pang Nga and reached home very safely. – Nov. Sonet



BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST

August 4
Fr. Dominic Pattharaphon, CSS

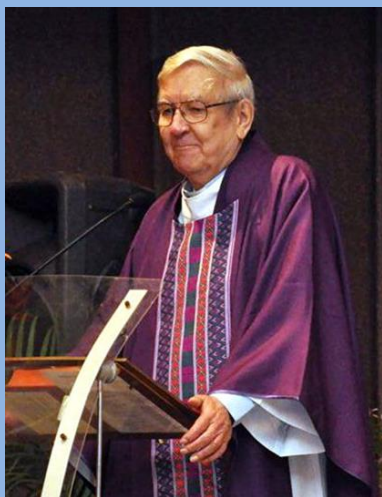
August 23
Bro. Jerome Hermosada, CSS

August 28

Fr. Paul Jumjon, CSS

happy
birthday
and to all the birthday celebrants of the month of August

DEATH ANNIVERSARY: FR. RICHARD WOODAREK, CSS | AUGUST 5



Father Richard was born on December 3, 1928 in Salamanca, New York. After fulfilling his military duty in the US Army, Fr. Richard entered the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers in 1948 in Waltham, Massachusetts. He was sent to Rome to complete his philosophical and theological studies at the Angelicum and was ordained in Rome on May 5, 1957. He was first assigned to serve at the All Saints Church in Manassas, Virginia, while attending Catholic University, where he earned a Master of Arts in social sciences. In 1959, Fr Richard was assigned to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, but when he reached Rome he found that the assignment was changed to Thailand. He arrived in Bangkok in April, 1959. Fr. Richard had many different assignments in his 52 years in Thailand. He had been the Superior of the Stigmatine Mission in Thailand, the Superior of the Stigmatine community in Phuket, pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Church in Phuket Town, prefect of aspirants, master of novices, Superior of the

Stigmatine House of Studies in Samphan, and pastor of St Francis Xavier in Trang. He served the community well, welcoming tourists year after year to Mass at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort in Patong and at the Laguna resort complex every weekend. Father Richard's death was sudden and unexpected. He had returned from visiting relatives in the US on August 3, 2011 and returned to Phuket the following day. He was looking forward to marrying a young couple on Saturday but he died on Friday, August 5, 2011, he was 82 years old. Father Richard's funeral was held last August 10, 2011 at 10am at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Phuket, Town. Bishop Joseph Pratan, bishop of the Diocese of Surat Thani, officiated the funeral mass. Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers from all over Thailand, as well as parishioners from Assumption Church and other Catholic churches throughout Southern Thailand, joined the Mass to celebrate this wonderful priest's life. As he wished, Father Richard was buried at the Stigmatine cemetery in Phuket. Father Richard loved Thailand, and especially Phuket. He was a humble man who with missionary spirit humbly served the Thais and tourists of Phuket for over four decades.