



*Celebrating the day of our Founder*



# STORIES OF THE MONTH

- Birthday of St. Gaspar
- Life of St. Gaspar
- House Rosary
- Recollection w/ Fr. Dominic
- Feast of St. Luke
- October's Community Days



## Birthday of St. Gaspar

FOUNDER'S BIRTHDAY



Each day is a miracle and a gift given by God. So it is our duty to thank God every day in our lives. Such that we are all are blissful to celebrate birthdays. As for us Stigmatines, October 9 is a special day. It is our annual tribute for the birthday of our dearest founder St. Gaspar Bertonni.

In the Novitiate community, we started the celebration with a solemn mass presided by Fr. Reby. In his homily he shared that we celebrate a person who was a precious gift to our congregation. It was because of his dedication and passion that we were formed as a Stigmatine community. And also we celebrate a person who became an inspiration for many people in their spiritual life. He is a precious gift not only to us Stigmatines but to the church, to the people whom we

are serving. As he became a spiritual director of priests and nuns, lay people, a friend of children, a protector of youth and many others.

After our breakfast, we made our day more fruitful by decorating the statues of the founder and broomsticks making. Then we prayed the Novena to St. Gaspar Bertonni before taking our lunch. We also had special food and snacks in the afternoon. Indeed this day was a very sentimental for all of us. This occasion helped us also to remember our own birthdays and thank the Lord together for the gift of new life. Likewise, we were grateful to the Lord for giving us this vocation to religious life and called us to be followers of St. Gaspar. –Nov. Tom



## Life of St. Gaspar- Founder of The Stigmatines

FEATURE

St. Gaspar Bertonni was born on October 9, 1777. He is the eldest son of Francesco Luigi Bertonni and Brunora Ravelli. His younger sister named Mathilde died at the age of 3 due to severe illness. The Bertonni family belongs to the upper-middle class in their society, as they enjoyed a good reputation for being known in land farmings, public notary and in government offices. It was seemed a secured and lavish state of life for the young Gaspar, yet he dedicated his life in the light of holiness and simplicity.



He had his first formal education in Saint Sebastian School. He was an outstanding student in the class. His skills also covered the field of entertainment and music as he was often chosen as the orchestra director. His brilliance and patience was best shown during recess time for he waits for his refreshments while his classmates rushed around to get first. His simplicity in life was expressed every time he wore his favorite modest detailed clothes, thus he was lightheartedly known as “Little Capuchin”.

St. Gaspar's juvenile spiritual formation lifted when he received his first communion at the age of 11. On that same day he had a worth remembering encounter with Jesus, in which twenty years later (October 9, 1808) as a priest when he wrote in his journal the he had the experience “very great devotion and affection like at my first communion as a child, such I never experienced afterwards”. At the age of 12, he joined in the group of Marian Congregation that promotes spiritual devotion to Mother Mary. His intimate communion to God was personally portrayed when a house maiden found some gravels on his bed and soundly interpreted as a sign of his desire to imitate the suffering Jesus. His willingness was fulfilled when he entered the seminary at the age of 16. He later studied Theology as an extern student. The conflict of the French Revolution was on contemporary with his seminary formation. And so, St. Gaspar focused his apostolate works on helping those wounded and gathering the children who were horribly devastated by the war. Despite all the strife St. Gaspar remained his deeper devotion and communion with God as it was proven by the three letter abbreviation in his notebook: “L.D.S” (Laus Deo Semper, Praise God Always).

St. Gaspar was ordained on September 20, 1800. Since then he became more eager on his ministry for the sick people, wounded soldiers and miserable young children. He also became a regular Spiritual Director (S.D) to the Convent of St. Joseph where he met Magdalene of Canossa and Mother Leopoldina Naudet, (both of them later became Foundress of their respective congregation).

One turning point in the priestly life of St. Gaspar was when he was praying in front of the image of St. Ignatius of Loyola, he felt an intense and flaming desire of founding his own congregation. And with a zealous heart and courageous spirit, on November 4, 1816 he was able to found the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata of our Lord Jesus Christ (CSS), commonly known the Stigmatines. He was accompanied by Fr. Giovanni M. Marani and layman Paolo Zanolli on building the first community.

Unfortunately, St. Gaspar suffered an extreme illness on his leg which forced him to perform his ministry only on his bed. There were efforts of performing over 300 operations, still the infection got worse and turned out to be an incurable tumor. Nevertheless, he continued to serve as Spiritual Director and Confessor in his bed until he died on June 12, 1853. He was canonized on November 1, 1989 by St. Pope John Paul II. —Nov.Crizaldy







Rosary is one of the sacred devotions of every catholic member. The more we pray the Rosary, the more we show our love to God and to our Blessed Mother Mary. And so, the novitiate community together with the parishioners spent the month of October with this sacred Marian Devotion. A week before the month started, Fr. Paul announced about the plan of having a house rosary and instructed the parishioners to fill up the posted schedule for their preferred day.



By the first day of October we started our first evening of house rosary. Each family warmly welcomed us and joined us as we solemnly asked the intercession of the Blessed Mother. They also enthusiastically sang with us after praying each mystery. There were a good number of parishioners who joined us with this activity. One of the remarkable days

was when we had a house blessing prior to the rosary; praying the rosary in the cemetery and also on Wednesdays since the rosary was always held in Assumption Church. And for the vacant days, the parishioners were encouraged to personally pray the rosary in their own household. Truly the holy rosary is one of the best ways in offering our petitions and thanksgiving for all the things we have in life. And for this past 31 days, we are blessed enough to have the opportunity to gather together as one family and pray the rosary. -Nov.Abdon





## Recollection with Fr. Dominic

SPIRITUALITY



Each monthly recollection is a gift which helps us to look ourselves. As St. Gaspar says that "it is the duty of man to prepare his soul; use the greatest, the most delicate, and utmost care, so that your soul may be always ready for the visits of His divine majesty." As followers of St.

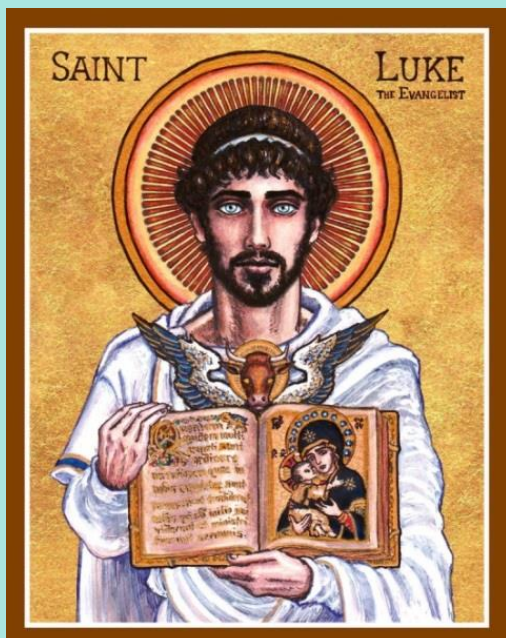
Gaspar we are also paying attention to his words and are concern about the needs our soul.

Thus, on 24th of October, the novitiate community conducted our monthly recollection at the church of St. Martin of Tours in the Province of Phannga. Under the guidance of Fr. Dominic we, the nine novices had our monthly recollection. Fr. Dominic, started by reading a gospel passage from St. Luke chapter 12 which speak about the faithful servant who is waiting for the return of his lord from the wedding. Fr. Dominic shared his reflection and gave us three points that show the importance of the Word of God in our life. And they are: "Being Ready", "Wait for the Lord", and "Know your King". After the sharing of Fr.Dominic, he gave some time to reflect ourselves and then confession and spiritual direction followed. After that, we had a delightful lunch together. -Nov.Sonet



## Feast of Saint Luke, the Evangelist

FEATURE



St. Luke, the Evangelist and the author of the Acts of the Apostles, was born in the city of Antioch. He was a disciple of St. Paul. (He earned good education and became a physician. St. Luke's classical education and careful attention to details can be seen in his Gospel. His Gospel opens with the priest Zachariah who was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense (Lk. 1:9). In the temple, Zechariah encounters the angel Gabriel, who heralds the birth of his son, John the Baptist. Gabriel goes next to Mary to tell her that she will conceive and bear the Son of the most High (Lk. 1:32). In the Gospel of St. Luke he is revealing the mercy of Heavenly Father through the particular parables of the Good Samaritan and the prodigal son. Therefore St. John Paul II called his Gospel "The Gospel

of Mercy” which is written in his encyclical “Rich in Mercy”. Companion Volume of his Gospel called Acts of the Apostles which describes the life of the apostles and the life of early Christian community. Traditional belief of Catholic Church signify Luke as ox, which is the symbol of strength and sacrifice. St. Luke became a sacrifice at the age of 84 on an olive tree in Boeotia and became a healer of many. Therefore Catholic Church acclaims him as the patron of physician, surgeons and artist. –Nov.Abin

## October's Community Days

COMMUNITY

Sunday is always been considered as family day. It is the day when we shared our time and happiness with our family members. As for us, in the novitiate house, it is our community day. For this month we had two memorable Sunday afternoons. First, on October 8 Sunday we had a surprise visit to Fr. Ferdinandino Ronconi in his mission area at Sacred Heart Chapel in Patong. In spite of not being informed for our visit, Fr. Ronconi still welcomed us with great joy. We even had a short catechism with him. He shared to us the importance of devotion to the Holy Spouses on which our congregation is entrusted. He also shared to us about the history of the chapel and his ministries there, and one of these is his charity works for the poor every first Friday of the month. After his sharing, he guided us as we took a tour in the chapel. After that, we expressed our gratitude to Fr. Ronconi for his hospitality and for the inspirational words he shared and for the time he rendered to us.

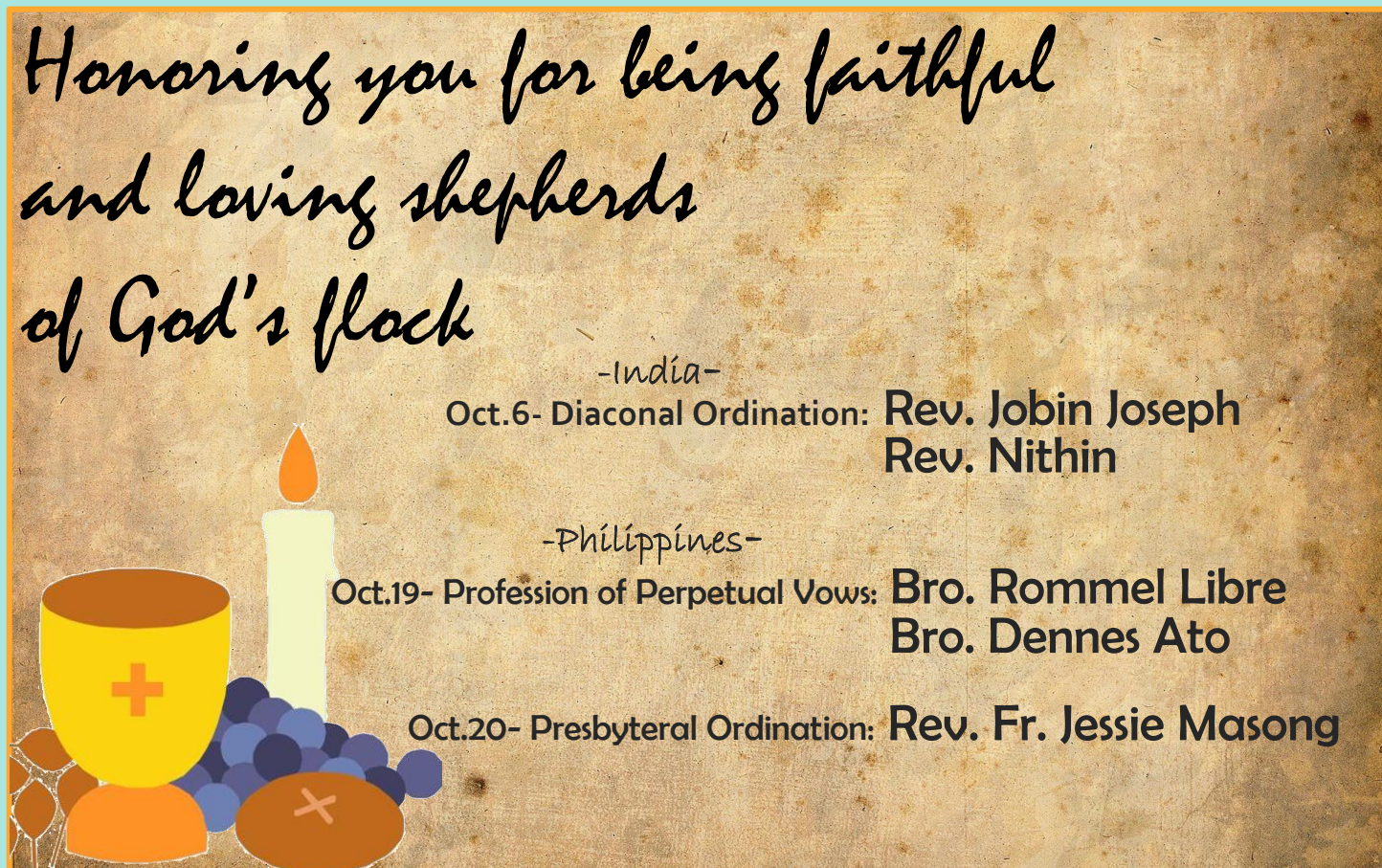


On October 22, we visited the tourist areas near to our community. They are Promthep cape and Karon view point. Promthep Cape (or Laem Promthep) is the name of the rocky cliff than extends out into the sea at the far south west of Phuket. Its Phuket most southerly and



southwesterly point, and many tourists and locals come there for windy views and to enjoy the sunset. And, Karon view point is one of the most frequented viewpoints in Phuket. From here, it is possible to take in view of Kata Noi, Kata Yai and Karon beaches. The community had a good chance to visit these famous sites in Phuket. We enjoyed our time looking on the sceneries, breathing some fresh air and taking scenic pictures. –Nov.Jomon





...GOD BLESS...