

The Inter-Provincial Novitiate Community

Phuket, Thailand

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

November 2017



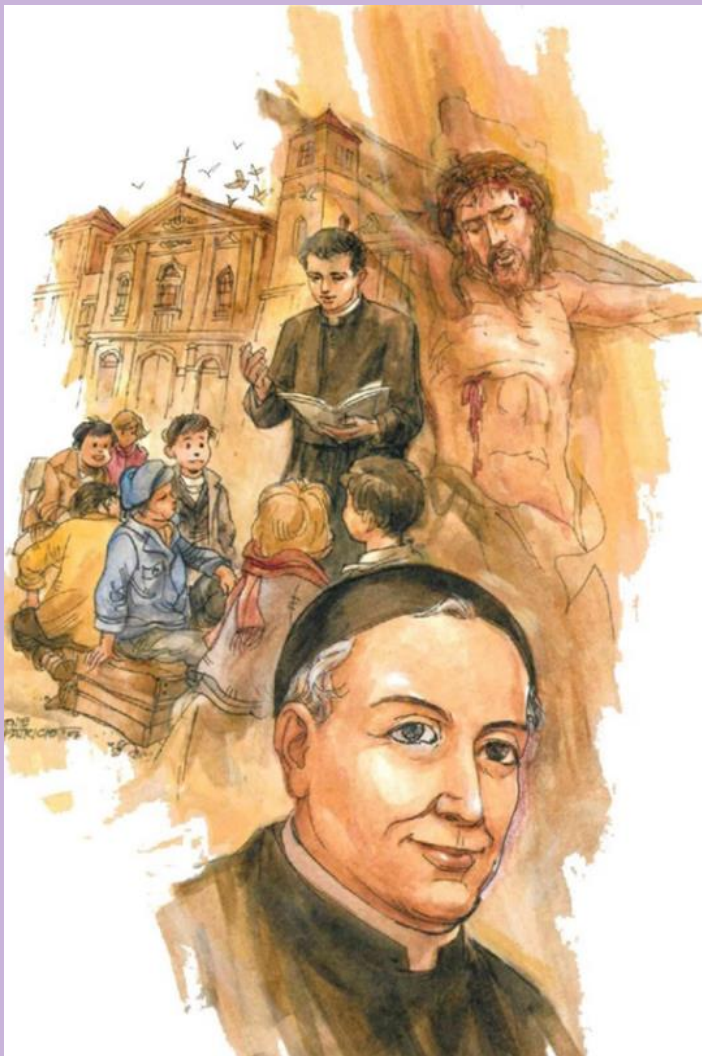
STORIES OF THE MONTH

1. Foundation Day Celebration.
2. All Souls Day celebration in Phuket Cemetery.
3. St. Martin de Tours' Feast Day Celebration in Phang-nga.
4. 50th Foundation Day of Daronuthai School, Trang

The 201ST Stigmatine Foundation Day at the Novitiate



The Novices gathered in front of the statue of the Founder listening to the message of the General Superior being read.



The 4th of November marks a historic day for the Stigmatine Congregation around the world because today we celebrate the 201st founding anniversary. Our novitiate community here in Phuket celebrates with a simple but meaningful ceremony started by our morning Mass dedicated to the Founder and a simple celebration in the evening. We celebrated by praying in front of the statue of St. Gaspar Bertoni outside the house. With great love and dedication we expressed our deepest gratitude to our dear founder, St. Gaspar Bertoni for making us members of his congregation. We also heard and reflected on the message of Fr. General Maurizio. It was a simple but meaningful message: "Unity in love". With this message and during this special occasion of our 201st year anniversary let us all join hands and walk together to proclaim the Word of God through our words and actions to everyone, especially to those who are in need. "Unity in love, unity in Diversity". - Nov. Kornelis

Feast Day of St. Martin de Tours in Phang-nga



St. Martin de Tours' feast day is celebrated on 11th November in every year. However, the Stigmatine Parish Church at Phang-nga Province which is dedicated to St. Martin de Tours celebrates its feast day on the 4th of November. The parish priest Fr. Dominic has

invited us the day prior to the feast day to help him prepare for the feast day. Fr. Paul and Bro. Sujin also joined us. Arriving at the province Fr. Dominic brought us to a restaurant for lunch. After lunch we proceeded to the parish of St. Martin de Tours. Fr. Dominic gladly and officially welcomed us all. Then we had meeting with Fr. Dominic and he told us the things we have to do there in preparation for the feast day. We started cleaning, some of us wiped church windows and glasses. Some of us cleaned the candle stands and others cleaned the chairs. After that we practiced songs which we are going to sing during the feast day's Holy Mass. After dinner we entered the church to say thank you to the Lord Jesus for giving us the grace to do everything for the glory of God. We end our day together with the Lord. Some of us roamed around the Church area and took pictures. On the feast day before breakfast we had light cleaning in the church. After breakfast we were preparing for the feast day Holy Mass. The Holy Mass started at 10:30 which was presided by Bishop Joseph Prathan. After mass we had delicious lunch. During the meal time kids performed dances. It was excellent. After lunch Fr. Joseph introduced to us three priests namely Fr. John, Fr. Niran and Fr. Mark. These Stigmatine priests are celebrating their 30th priestly anniversary this year. On behalf of our community we wished prayerful greetings to those priests. And finally we had picture taking together with all those priests. Lastly Fr. Dominic thanked us all for the help we gave him. And also he said that we are in the same family so you should help me. We all laughed. After saying good bye to Fr. Dominic we started our journey back to novitiate house. We all enjoyed the trip to Phang-nga and the feast day of St. Martin de Tours. - Nov. Tom

Candle Making



Prior to the celebration of the feast day of the All Souls Day on the 11th of November (the usual November 2 celebration of the All Souls day was moved to the 11th), on the 9th we had something very special activity. On that day, we were busy making candles for the upcoming celebration. It was a new experience for us. So we were very excited to make the candles. There were some parishioners who also joined us. They had more experience than us in the making the candles. We started our candle making at 9'o

clock in the morning. Even though the intention of our candle making was for the All Souls' Day celebration in the cemetery, then while making candles, we experience the difficulty and efforts of people who are working in small scales industries. It shows us how much time and patience they are given for a little thing. I can say that the success of candle making was not in 300 candles but it helps us to understand the common people.
- Nov. Sonet

Rosary Making



Days after Fr. Reby arrived from the Philippines on the 17th of November, he introduced to us a religious and productive way of developing our inner artistry- the Rosary Making. He started by presenting the names of the primary materials, such as the various types of wires and intricate pieces of beads. Then he taught us the different ways on making a rosary. We can make by binding the traditional wood-type beads on a thread or elastic thread. We can also make by using the sparkly crystal-

type beads and connect them with the metal wire. Aside from that we can also choose from making a bracelet-type 10 beads rosary or the typical necklace-size full beads rosary. We were very happy on learning this new skill. And now, making the rosary makes our personal time more creative and fruitful. Thus, we are excited to share such spiritual handicraft when we go back to our respective communities. - Nov. Crizaldy

All Souls Day celebration in Phuket Cemetery

On the 11th of November, we celebrated the feast day of the All Souls Day in the cemetery here in Phuket. This cemetery belongs to our congregation few kilometers from the Novitiate community. At 07:00 in the evening we started our Holy Mass and prayed for all the souls specially those souls of our parishioners and confreres who were buried in this cemetery. Fr. Paul the Pastor of Assumption Church presided the celebration and was joined by Fr. Dominic. Many parishioners also attended the said Mass. As novices we were assigned to be the choirs of the celebration. At the end of the Holy Mass Fr. Dominic and Fr. Paul blessed all the tombs in the cemetery. All those who were present at the celebration were invited by the priests to pray for the dead specially their deceased family members and relatives. We thank the parishioners who helped us prepare the cemetery for the celebration. – Nov. Abdon



The 50th Anniversary of Daronuthai School, Trang



On November 23rd Thursday the Daronuthai School, Trang celebrated the 50th anniversary of the school. The Daronuthai School was founded by Fr. John Cerrasato CSS where he is known to all for his dedication in teaching. Fr. John also became formator and spent the remaining for his years serving in this school until his death in December in the year 2011. He started the school with two students and now almost three thousand students study in the school.

The novitiate community joyfully participated in the event. There were also other Stigmatine priests who joined the celebration headed by Fr. Winai, the Provincial of the Thai Province. The program started at 9:00 in the morning and it was inaugurated by the former prime minister of Thailand. Parents of the students too were present on this event. After the inauguration Bishop Joseph Prathan, bishop of the diocese of Surat thani led the prayer service. The program ended with beautiful dances performed by the students. Then we had delicious lunch provided by the Trang community. After our lunch we came back home. The 50th Anniversary celebration continued until the 25th of November. One of the activities was the gathering of the teachers from the 4 different Stigmatine schools in Thailand. - Nov. Jomon

Reflection: Feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle



St. Andrew is one of the many proofs that Christ calls people to serve Him no matter what status in life he/she has. With the same profession with his brother Simon Peter, Andrew used to catch fish for a living; but not for a long time. When Peter and Andrew answered the call of Jesus, they became the living instrument of Christ for the salvation of mankind.

As Stigmatines, we came from different countries around the globe, from different areas with different cultures and traditions. But no matter how different we are from each other, we all choose to answer one call, to serve God with outmost humility. We should imitate our founder, St. Gaspar Bertoni, who never failed to humble himself at all times and heeded the will and call of God. In this feast day of St. Andrew, let us be reminded that Christ doesn't care how rich and poor we are to serve Him, but let us put in mind that we should serve Him in richer and poorer.

– Nov. Joshua

