



STIGMATINES IN ASIA MEETING 2018 >>>



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Asian Meeting 2018



On January 11 & 12 2018, the Asian Stigmatine confreres had a special assembly in the Novitiate Community in Phuket with the agenda of sharing their Assessments and Evaluation regarding the Novitiate Formation and the means of building the communication and relationship to the Stigmatines in Asia .



On the first day of the meeting, the participants were welcomed with a grand mass presided by Joseph Winai Plienbumrung, CSS. Afterward, the confreres gathered together in the conference room as the initial start of their sessions. In the evening we had a community dinner that was delighted with a cultural show from the novices. The Indian Novices performed their local dance "Madodi"; while the Indonesian Novices performed "Sajojo" (Hunters' Dance) and the Filipinos showcased one of their traditional dances called "Pandango sa llaw" (Dance in the Light).



On the second day, the session started by gam. And at the nearly end of the meeting, the novices were invited to the conference room for an open forum. The novices were given a chance to raise some questions to the confreres. Likewise the confreres also asked the novices about their personal experiences and views about the Inter-Provincial Novitiate Program. All the confreres look forward of the fulfillment of the resolutions of the meeting. Accordingly, they also anticipate the brighter future of the Stigmatines. -Novice Crizaldy



Feast of St. Agnes @ Krabi

Happy feast of St. Agnes! We the novitiate community joined the St. Agnes parish community in Krabi in celebrating their parish feast day last January 13, Saturday. This year we are blessed to have few more attending priest from India, Fr. Jasan and the Philippines, Fr. Marlon and Fr. Jimado who were still around after their Stigmatine in Asia meeting.



The Mass was celebrated by the bishop, Bishop Joseph Pratan and concelebrated by our Stigmatine priests from the different communities headed by Fr. Winai, the provincial. There was a procession at 10:00 AM and followed by the mass. The mass was well attended by the parishioners and visitors too. On this celebration also, we remembered the 30th priestly anniversary of Fr. John Pipat, Fr. Mark Sitichai and Fr. Joseph Niran, the



Pastor of St. Agnes. And also we remembered the 25th priestly anniversary of Fr. Winai, Fr. Wichien and Fr. Valentino.

Lunch was served and we were entertained by some performances from the parishioners and the students. We the novices were given the chance to present a song for all and another song entitled "I will be here", as our gratitude to Fr. Joseph Niran for inviting us. – Novice Tom



Honoring our Holy Patrons

January is one of the significant months for the Stigmatine Family since it is the time we celebrate the feast of our patrons- The Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph. It is a celebration that reminds us that the Stigmatine Family has always been entrusted to the compassionate heart of Mary and guided by the loving presence of Joseph. It is also a celebration that helps us to be in spiritual union with all the Stigmatines in the world. In the novitiate community, we expressed our tribute to our Holy Patrons in a very special way, the Spousal Themed Spiritual Bouquet. In our daily prayers, such as, Lauds, Vespers, Mass, Novenas, Rosary and Adoration, a person can outwardly express his intentions by placing 5 beads to the containers- each is specifically labeled with the said praying activities. At the end of the month we collected all the beads and made them necklace-sized rosaries and distributed them to our parishioners. In this way we can thank them and share to them the love and guidance we received from our beloved patrons, Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph. – Novice Joshua



Significance of the Holy Spouses to the Stigmatines

FEATURE

January 23 rd. every year, on this day, the Stigmatines all over the world celebrate the patronal feast. Mary and Joseph the rule and inspiration for all virtues at the same time obtaining through their powerful protection the grace which are so necessary for themselves and their children. St. Gaspar Bertoni as a founder of Stimate Congregation entrusted his congregation to the protection of the holy spouses Mary and Joseph, whose model of confidence in God is our inspiration to carry out all the Stigmatines missionary in mission.



One of the things that we should imitate from the Holy Spouses is the value of love. Love caused Joseph to spare no effort to assist his wife and to keep her comfortable. Love made him tirelessly dedicated to his work in order to support with his earnings. Love made him to have reverence towards his spouse, to be solicitous in serving her, to watch over her and protect her with great responsibility. Love made Mary Joseph as her head, even though she was infinitely superior to him in dignity. The one who was queen of heaven and earth made herself obedient to her spouse, so that all other married women imitate her in respect and always attentive in fulfilling as spouse and mother.

Therefore, as members of stigmatine congregation we should be imitate them, to love our congregation by doing the good things for benefit the congregation and for the universal church.

Community Visit

NEWS

Part of our novitiate formation is to visit the different communities of the Thai Province. The purpose of our visit is to give support with our presence to our confreres. We believe that with our visit we let them feel that they are not alone in their ministry and we also would like to learn from them to be apostolic missionaries in the future.

On January 17, we started our journey. We began our journey by invoking the blessing of our Lady as we greet her using the words of our dear founder. We also listen to the Gospel reading of the day and prayed the Rosary later in the afternoon.

The visit lasted 8 days and this year we visited our confreres in the North East part of Thailand but stopping first at our community in Samphan, our seminary community to celebrate the feast day of the Holy Spouses. The journey was fun, we stopped by several nice places but we enjoyed most the hospitality and welcome of our host confreres. We learned a lot from them and wished them a fruitful mission. The following are the communities that we visited.





First, Samphran community. Fr. Tinglee as the formator of the minor seminary and his assistant Bro. Mark together with their seminarians gladly welcomed us in the seminary upon our arrival on January 18, Friday. We stayed at Samphran community for 3 days. On Saturday following our arrival we celebrated the feast day of the Holy Spouses – an annual celebration and gathering of the seminary benefactors.

Second, Bua Yai community. This community is composed of 3 parishes namely St. Joseph the worker (Fr. Timothy as the Parish Priest), Presentation of Mary (Fr. Peter Pramote as the Parish Priest) and The Sacred Heart of Jesus (Fr. Mark Weerasak as the Parish Priest). An important activity that we had in the parish of St. Joseph is the visiting to the parishioners. We got to see and experience their rich hospitality despite their simple lives. We were also entertained by the program they prepared for us and we too expressed our gratitude and had presented few dances for them.



Third, Fr. Dominic's home town in Chun Buri. Having Fr. Dominic with us, we also dedicated few days visit to his hometown before heading to our next destination - Ranong Community. At his hometown we went fishing and cook them for dinner, stayed in camp tents and admire the country side atmosphere. We also had the chance to visit his parish, Sts. Phillip and James nearby.

Fourth, Ranong community. From Chun Buri we headed down south of Thailand to the province of Ranong where we have a parish and school community. We were gladly welcomed by Fr. Wichien, the pastor and superior of that community. He kindly presented us to the students of the community's school for migrants. With more than a hundred students, we enjoyed dancing animation with them.



Again we were thankful to the formators for adding such a wonderful program, - the visit to the different communities. We learned a lot from this experience. Rest assured that we will treasure this events: the hospitality of our host confreres, the moments we shared with them and also the family spirit that we shared during that unforgettable journey.

– Novice Abdon

Seeing the “Unseen Thailand”

FEATURE

Our journey to the North East wasn't complete without few stopovers. Along the way we stopped by several interesting places to hang around and relax, avoiding traffic jams and cutting the long hours of sitting.

Our first stop, Rajabhakti Park in Hua Hin. It is a historically themed park honoring past Thai kings from the Sukhothai period to the current royal house of Chakri. It was built by the Royal Thai Army, on Thai Army property, with approximately one billion baht in funds donated by the public and private sectors. The king gave the historical park the name "Rajabhakti Park", which means "the park that has been built with people's loyalty to the monarchs". At the same district, we enjoyed our lunch at Plerwan place, a recreated retro village offering quaint shops & eateries, plus charming, colorful accommodations.



Second stop, Khao Bin Cave in Ratchaburi. This is the most beautiful cave in Ratchaburi. It is located 20 kilometers from the town along the route to Amphoe Chom Bueng and 2 kilometers along an access road. The cave extends 300 meters from the mouth and offers truly amazing scenes of plentiful stalactite and stalagmite formations. It was so nice and beautiful. It was much better than any expectations, the gigantic rocks and the lighting effects gave us the feeling on being on another world. It was a time well spent for all of us seeing the beauty inside the cave.

Next stop, Samphran area. In the morning we went to Thai Human Imagery museum. Thai Human Imagery Museum is Thailand's first wax museum opened in 1989. The museum was built for three reasons: to promote Thai culture, history and art, to develop the study and practice of sculpture in Thailand, and to raise awareness of Thai culture. Due to the tropical climate of Thailand the figures are made of fiberglass instead of the traditional wax. Ms. Duangkaeo Thippayakonsilp and a group of Thai artists, created these breathtaking, real-looking and worth seeing human figures of various characters.

Then we headed to the floating restaurants at Samphran Riverside for lunch. After that we travelled to Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo. We watched a frightening but entertaining Crocodile Show. We also witnessed the amusing Magic and Elephant Show.

And finally as our final stop of the day, we went to the church dedicated to Blessed Nicolas, a martyred priest in Thailand.



Fourth stop while heading North East – Wat Pa Lak Roi in Korat. It is a Buddhist temple with rather odd surroundings that depicts the reality of heaven and hell in Buddhist belief. The place was filled with statues that moves by inserting 5 baht.

In the same province of Korat, we stopped by at Phimai historical park protects one of the most important Ancient Khmer temples of Thailand.

This opportunity to visit these wonderful places was also a chance for us to merge ourselves to the richness of Thai culture and to share the joyful spirit of fraternity. – Novice Abin



This month, different from the previous months, we had a rather different recollection day last January 31. After our personally directed meditation at the chapel we processed with the sharing of our community visit that we had last January 18 to 25.

On our sharing we listened to Nov. Tom and Nov. Kornelis, the two travel chroniclers of the community – the St. Marks of the travel, as they relate to us the details of our travel. We also heard the details of the travel expenses by the St. Matthew of the travel – Nov. Jomon. We thanked them for their service during the travel.

The community visit program in the novitiate was a successful program for all of us. We all have positive evaluations with regards to this special program. Thanks to our formators for this program and their efforts to make this program successful. As some of us shared, we had the chance to know other confreres and their mission areas in the Northeast. Others comment that this program can be a good practice our respective countries in the future. We noticed the rich missionary spirit of our confreres, living with the people and living like them. We really admire their willingness to do mission. And the best example is our immigrant school in Ranong. “We are missionaries”, Fr. Wichien says, “and so very ready to be sent anywhere, even outside your own countries.” We also realized that during travel, we have to be ready to sacrifice our own comfort, sometimes we have to sleep uncomfortably and eat what we sometimes we dislike. As Fr. Dominic and Fr. Paul has pointed to us, the travel makes us understand the reality more clearly and helps us understand ourselves as apostolic missionaries. As a final word, Fr. Joseph pointed to us that the travel or the visit to the communities are our support to them, letting them know and feel that they are not alone in their mission.

Our gratitude to the formators, to Fr. Paul for arranging everything for us from hotels to restaurants and places along the way and to Fr. Dominic for his company, makes us animated all the time. All in all, we had a wonderful recollection, reminiscing our wonderful experience of the community visit. - Novice Sonet



Fr. Supachai Kaewpuang | Jan. 3

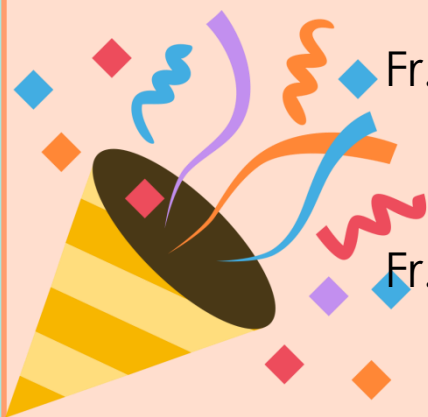
Fr. Valentino Wasan | Jan. 8

Fr. Matthew Manop | Jan. 12

Fr. Peter Banchara | Jan. 16

Bro. Adrian Petecio | Jan. 19

Novice Jomon Peter Pulickal | Jan. 5



Happy Birthday