



THE 5TH ASIAN INTER-PROVINCIAL NOVITIATE YEAR (2017-2018)

FEBRUARY 2018

*The 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter elects  
Fr. Rubens Miranda as*



*Superior General*

News: The 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, Bishop's Birthday Celebration  
Our Lenten Activities, Monthly Recollection



We thank God for he has done great things for us. He is good and makes everything good to those whom is he called. The blessing came to us on the 16th of February 2018. We the Stigmatines have a new government for the coming six years on the gathering of our capitular confreres for our 37th General Chapter held in the Institute of the Sisters of the child Mary in the Vatican City from February 1 to 18. It is the result of long prayer coming from all the Stigmatines all over the world and the hard work of the capitulars. Thanks be to God.

It is worthy to mention that on the 10th day of the meeting they had the Papal audience at the Vatican. The Holy Father Pope Francis gladly welcomed our capitular confreres. The Holy Father said to the attending confreres: "In community life, fraternity is a grace which requires concrete prayer for each other and that to hold onto resentment after arguments is a sin." And he invited the Stigmatine Fathers to revive both within themselves and their community the fire of the Word of God.' "So you missionary disciples, who are evangelizers, can bring people to conversion, to communion with Christ, through the joy of your life and with meekness."

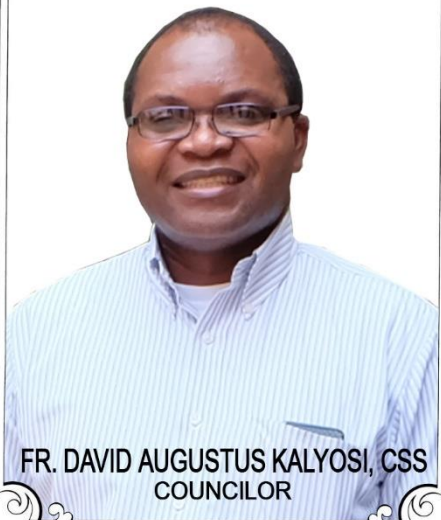
While our capitulars were working hard in Rome, we the novitiate community also joined with them in prayer. We prayed for our General



FR. RUBENS SODR  MIRANDA, CSS  
Superior General



FR. CLAUDIO MONTOLLI, CSS  
VICAR GENERAL



FR. DAVID AUGUSTUS KALYOSI, CSS  
COUNCILOR



FR. NELTON PEZZINI, CSS  
COUNCILOR

Chapter in our Holy Mass, common prayers and in our Rosaries. We also had a voting program which helped us to know our confreres more. Who will be the Superior General, from which continent will he come, which province and how old is he? These were the matters of the voting program. Therefore we were eagerly waiting for the result.

Some of our brothers' perditions became fruitful when the result came. On 16th the news reached us and we were glad to celebrate our General Council members: FR. RUBENS SODR  MIRANDA coming from the Province of St. Joseph, Brazil became our Superior General and his vicar FR. CLAUDIO MONTOLLI from the Province of the Sacred Heart, North Italy and his councilors FR. NELTON PEZZINI from the Province of the Holy Cross in Brazil and FR. DAVID AUGUSTUS KALYOSI from the Province of the Holy Redeemer in South

Africa. Therefore, we thank God for their willingness and availability to serve our dear Congregation. We congratulate them and we hope great changes will happen in their service. We offer our support through our availability and payers. - Nov. Abdon

## Bishop Pratan's Birthday Celebration

On February 12, Monday, the Novitiate community joyfully participated in the 72nd birthday celebration of Bishop Joseph Pratan, the bishop of our Diocese. The celebration started with the annual football match with the diocesan priests and the Stigmatine fathers and novices. This year the diocesan team won the game. A thanksgiving Mass was





celebrated at 6:00 PM. Bishop Joseph Pratan was the main celebrant and the function was attended by mostly all of the priests and religious of the diocese of Surat Thani. Delicious dinner was served after the Holy Mass. During the dinner there were performances by the minor seminarians and the Pastoral Center collaborators. We were also given the chance to wish happy birthday to the bishop through a song. – Nov. Jomon

## Recollection with the Bishop



On the 13th of February we had our monthly recollection together with priests and religious men and women of Surat Thani Diocese at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Surat Thani. Prior to the recollection we had Holy Mass in the morning. Bishop Joseph Pratan was the main celebrant. Silence and preparation followed after breakfast. At 9:30 AM the recollection started and the bishop was the speaker. He spoke about the message given by his holiness Pope Francis for year's Lenten Season. The theme of the message was taken from St. Matthew's Gospel which says: "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt 24:12). "Lent enables us to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect

of our life", the bishop commented. "God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a sacramental sign of our conversion. Jesus foretells great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and love that is the core of the gospel would grow cold in many hearts. There are certain things we must do. By prayer, fasting and almsgiving we can avoid the chance of love turning to cold in our communities." We thanked the bishop who was so kind to us to give the recollection in English. The recollection ended with the adoration of the Blessed Sacraments and Confession simultaneously. – Nov. Tom

# Lenten Observance

In this lent season the Holy Father speaks about the Gospel of St. Matthew, "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (24:12). He tells that in our preparation for Easter, God in His providence offers as each year the Season of Lent as a 'Sacramental sign of our conversion'. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord whole heartedly and in every aspect of our life, the Pope said.

Our founder St. Gaspar Bertoni speaks about Lent and urges us: "Towards the Lenten Season fast with cheerfulness." On this line, our novitiate community also begins with almost like this. We have different activities and preparation for this Lenten Season. They are;

1. **The Way of the Cross.** The Way of the Cross is another kind of spiritual activity which we are doing in our novitiate community and in the parish. Every Tuesday at 3:00 PM we reflect on the Way of the Cross in our novitiate community. This is a precious time for us to think about Jesus's sacrifice, love, and mercy to us. And on Fridays also join our parishioners for the Way of the Cross at 7:00 PM at the parish church.
2. **Donation or Charity Box.** Every month since the month of December, we the novices are given allowances from novice community. This allowances mainly for buying personal necessarily things. During this Lenten observance, we are allowed to reduce the things we buy and are encourage to share what little that we have in our donation box provided by the

chapel in-charge. This donation box is for the poor people. This is a good time for us to do something for the poor. Our founder reminded us: "Your fast becomes food for the poor".

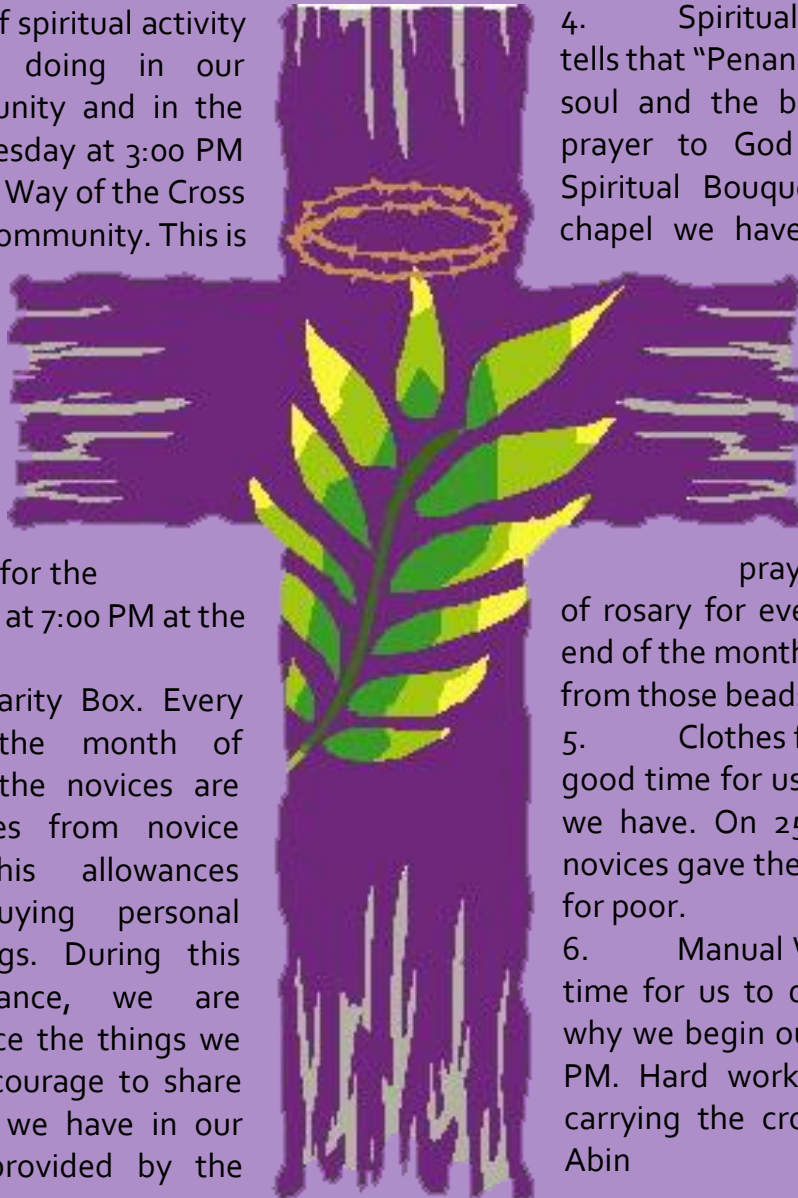
3. **Visiting the sick.** Every week especially on Thursday we are visiting one sick parishioner suffering from cancer. Visiting the sick is a good opportunity to serve her in necessities and to see her. All the novices are going to visit her together with Fr. Paul, Fr. Joseph and Fr. Reby with enthusiasms. The priests are providing the Holy Communion and blessing to her. All the novices are making her happy by singing songs and touching her hand as a sign of love.

4. **Spiritual Bouquet.** St. Gaspar tells that "Penance is medicine for the soul and the body." We offer our prayer to God with help of our Spiritual Bouquet. In front of our chapel we have the image of the crucified Jesus. In front of the image of crucified Jesus we kept many boxes with intentions. If we want to offer our

prayers we will put beads of rosary for every intention. At the end of the month we will make rosary from those beads.

5. **Clothes for the poor.** This is a good time for us to give others what we have. On 25th February all the novices gave their one or two clothes for poor.

6. **Manual Work.** Lent is a good time for us to do sacrifices. That is why we begin our work early at 3:00 PM. Hard work is another sign of carrying the cross of Jesus. - Nov. Abin



# Lenten Observance



"All come from dust, and from dust all shall return." (Ecc. 3:20) We start the Lenten season with ashes on our foreheads, an invitation to live a simpler life than usual. We eat less, we pray more, and we should give more than we receive. Moreover, the ashes are a constant reminder that we are sinners, but yet in the symbol of the cross, it is a sign that we are being saved. As Pope Francis said, "this is a good time for sacrificing. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others. If Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us, why couldn't we for others?" - Nov. Joshua



*February 7 - Fr. Wichien*

*February 19 - Fr. Niran*

*February 20 - Bro. Herbert*

*February 27 - Nov. Joshua*

*And to all the birthday celebrators of the month of February*

**"All the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be."**

**Psalms 139:16**