



THE 6TH INTER-PROVINCIAL NOVITIATE YEAR (2018-19)

JULY-AUGUST 2018





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Lectures

Constitution Classes. It is an honor for us to be elected and have a higher position. Some perceive it in a different way, some in a negative and some in positive way. But the usual impression is positive because nobody feels bad if he knows he has a responsibility towards his institution the same way the other members do. However, despite the honor, authority and power someone possesses, a lot of duties that needs to be done. It demands our time and sometimes put us into pressure. This makes Fr. Joseph Wattanasak busy every day. Being the present Provincial Superior of the Thai Province, he has so many things to do. Like conducting meetings which means he has to travel quite a lot for the progress of the Province. But despite his hectic schedule he never refused to conduct class with us, novices. He finds way to include in his monthly schedule our Constitution classes. On July 18 to 20 we had our first Constitution class with Fr. Joseph. The classes were very helpful for us because it leads us to know the Congregation all the more and its rules that guides all our members to live harmoniously and for the benefit of the congregation and for the Church. - Nov. Donrich

Psychology Classes. Psychology is an important aspect in supporting spiritual life. Therefore, the novitiate community held a series of psychology lectures for us for four days beginning on July 23 to 26. Mr. Bryan Chen from Singapore became our psychologist. He guided us how to know and to understand our personal conditions. Those lectures are important for us and for community life because we can know about ourselves and try to understand each other. We are very much thankful to Mr. Bryan Chen for his insights and the information we gained on Psychology. – Nov. Jung

Thai Culture and Manner. Last July 11, 2018, we, the novices, were glad to have Sister Lakanna to give us a lecture about “Thai Culture and Manner”. Sister Lakanna taught us the basic Thai practices especially how to show or paying respect towards the other and we learned the word and also an action called “Wai” which means it is an everyday form of paying respect to people. And we learned that there are levels of “wai” depending on who you pay respect to. According to Thai culture they respect people according to their age and class. Traditionally, they believed that elder people have more experience that younger people so they merit respect. Even though in the modern world this is not always the case anymore but they still have influence in the language they speak and they action they perform. And many other practices taught by sister especially how to give and how to receive a gift or something and so on. After the talk of Sister Lakanna, we practiced the “Wai” in different levels with my co-novices. We also offered a song to sister as our gratitude for her time in teaching us important manners and Thai culture that we too can adapt and practice. - Nov. Jhan Rey

Skill Development. One of the community activities during the last month of July was learning about Microsoft Excel as part of skill development. This activity is guided by Engr. Rommel Ongpoy. He is from the Philippines and presently working in Singapore. With Mr. Rommel, we were able to learn in 2 consecutive days, on July 7-8, the program. The important thing from studying Microsoft excel is to make it easier and very helpful for us in making various reports in the form of data. It is also in mind of the formators to let us know and learn how to manage financial reports using Microsoft Excel and so on the last day we were introduced to the format of the financial report of our delegation in the Philippines. It is very helpful for us because in the future we will be dealing with our own financial reports. – Nov. Jung



ABOVE

Sr. Lakkana, Good Shepherd Sister giving a lecture on Thai Culture and Manners to the novices last July 11, 2018.

SIDE

Engr. Rommel Ongpoy, our visitor lecturer on Microsoft Excel with the novices last July 7 to 8, 2018.

Recollection of the Month



July Recollection. July had its share of adventure in our journey towards fulfilling the call of God in our lives. One of those adventures is our recollection with Fr. John Pipat, Parish Priest of St. Joseph Church, Phuket.

Our scheduled recollections always fall on the last day of the month. For the month of July, it falls on the 30th. Fr. John Pipat's talk started at 10:00AM and we arrived an hour before so we spent it on reflection and meditation. Fr. John's talk was about the self, avoiding selfishness and being selfless. He started by sharing to us the history of Catholicism in Phuket and went on to ask us about our vocation stories after his own vocation story. He said that when we answer the call of God it is not for ourselves and this is selflessness.



Towards the end of his talk, he told us that he was only sharing to us the general ideas and that details we have to encounter and experience by ourselves. After the talk, we had a few minutes to digest and ponder what was said to us. We then had lunch together with our formators and Bro. Sujin who came with us to pay Fr. John and Mr. Billy a visit. And of course, we took pictures before returning back to our novitiate community. – Nov. Chino



Socialization Night

Budots. *Budots* is a very famous dance craze in the Philippines especially to the southern part of the country. It is a kind of dance where you will feel freedom. The way to dance it is just feel free. There is no right or wrong step, just do whatever step comes to your mind and everything will go perfectly. That is why during our first socialization night we, the novices chose to perform this dance as our batch presentation.

With our formators and Bro. Sujin, we celebrated our first socialization night on July 30, 2018 at exactly 6:30 pm. Of course, the celebration was started through prayer followed by our dinner. During dinner time the program proper was started and the theme of our first socialization night was "Getting to know each other."

That is why, we the novices was tasked to prepare an individual presentation regarding our family, about our very own selves. We prepared pictures of where we came from, our family members. Some of us prepared video clips as aids for their presentation. I myself felt very happy during my own presentation because our formators keep on asking about ourselves and our families, it only means that they are very eager to know us better.

Just as we finished our individual presentation we are now ready to present to them our group presentation, I can say the most awaited part of the program, our *Budots* dance presentation. We all agree that the presentation went quite well as we can see from the audience impact coming from our formators. Fr. Reby concluded our socialization night with his message for all of us: encouraging us to live harmoniously by our commonalities while respecting each other's differences. Together we journey and bearing in mind if *we want to go fast go alone but if we want to go farther go together.* – Nov. John Paul



Feast day of our Lady of All Graces



Saturday, August 4, 2018. Whilst the heavy rainfall in Pak Jan, Ranong Province, the celebration of the Parish Feast day of Our Lady of All Graces was carried on.

Earlier in the morning we, the novices together with Fr. Reby, Fr. Joseph Wattanasak, Fr. Paul Krittapat and Bro. Sujin arrived at the church packed with the parishioners welcoming people from other parishes to partake in their feast day. Fr. Peter Waranyu, the Parish Priest spearheaded the welcoming of guests.

We were right away introduced to him by Fr. Joseph Wattanasak because it was our first meeting with Fr. Peter Waranyu. He accommodated us well in his rectory while waiting for the celebration.

The celebration started shortly upon the arrival of the main celebrant, Bishop Joseph Pratan of the Diocese. The celebration was very successful, well

attended by guests and some confrere priests and priest from the Diocese. We are grateful to Fr. Peter Waranyu for inviting us to his mission area and celebrate with the local people on their feast day.

Lecture



Social and Pastoral Work. Thailand is one of the worlds most visited country in the Southeast Asia. Foreigners come to Thailand not only for vacation but also for job purposes. Thailand has a competitive manufacturing industry that attracts other nationality to work, especially the neighboring countries Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Philippines, etc. On the other hand, despite of many job opportunities there are also many cases of abuse of workers like any other countries. Some workers are victims of illegal recruitment and abuse from their employers. There are also some illegal migrants coming to Thailand hoping to find jobs, and unfortunately many of them were killed without reason.

In line with these problems, as religious volunteer it is one of our responsibilities to help them. Last, August 14, 2018 we had the opportunity to listen to a group of volunteers from the Diocese. They gave us a seminar about Social and Pastoral work of the Diocese in our novitiate house community in Phuket, Thailand. The session lasted for three hours in the morning, with reflections and sharing of insights regarding the case. The lecture was headed by Mr. Michael Viroj together with three associates and also volunteers – two Filipina women and one Thai woman.

Their institution focuses on social work helping migrants and victims of illegal recruitment and abuse with the help also of the diocese of Surat Thani in Thailand. They also provide shelter, food and livelihood for those victims of abuses as a temporary assistance while waiting for the complete process of their documents to go back to their country. – Nov. Donrich



Assumption Church Feast day



The feast of the assumption is an important celebration of the Catholic Church as it pertains to the reality of life after death, the existence of Heaven and of course the End of Times. In a gist, this is what the Bishop of the Diocese of Surattani, Joseph Prathan, said in his homily during the celebration of the feast of the Assumption of Mary on August 19 at the Assumption Church in Phuket.

A week before the feast, four seminarians from Samphran arrived to help the novices in preparing and cleaning the church along with some parishioners. There were also Triduum masses held at 7'oclocks in the evening celebrated/officiated by a Carmelite priest.

During the feast the church was jam-packed with people from nearby churches who were undaunted by the bad weather and rain. After the mass, we all ate together with the people. We all had our fill of Thai foods. At around 1:30pm the people went home and we started to clean and restore the church and when we got back to the novitiate house we were all very tired. However, the contentment of the success of the celebration overwhelmed us all not counting the good experiences of helping together preparing the church. It was a memorable experience indeed. – Nov. Chino

Fr. Abel visits the Novitiate



Last August 26 to 29, we were very glad to welcome our very own Fr. Abel Maglines and a friend couple Mr. and Mrs. Albaniel. He is our new Superior Delegate in the Philippines and currently the Parish Priest of the Shrine of the Five Wounds in Las Piñas City.

Fr. Abel came by invitation to give us and share about the Stigmatine communities all over the world especially about the history of our delegation in the Philippines and the challenges we are currently facing as a delegation. We were informed of the delegation's build and form program and we were happy to know about the roots of our delegation.

The last day of his session was dedicated for reflection and recollection. Fr. Abel has given us a beautiful reflection on the sense of belonging to the community and what we can do for our community, for our delegation and for the congregation.

We are so thankful for his and his friends' short presence here with us. On the last day we had the opportunity to express our gratitude for his availability and his sharing. They flew to Bangkok to visit our seminary where they were welcomed by Fr. Tingly before flying back to Manila on 31st of August. – Nov. Jhan Rey



Birthday celebrators of the Month

Happy birthday!

to all the birthday celebrators of the months of July and August

Fr. Michael Jeerasak – July 28

Bro. Ulysses Amora – July 30

Fr. Dominic Pattharaphon – Aug. 4

Bro. Jerome Hermosada- Aug. 23

Fr. Paul Krittapat – Aug. 28



In loving memory of
Fr. Richard Woodarek, CSS
on his 7th Death Anniversary
December 3, 1928 - August 5, 2011

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