

# The Inter-Provincial Novitiate Community

Phuket, Thailand

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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." - Luke 2:11*

**INSIDE:** Nov. 4 Celebrations, All Souls' Day  
Activities of the Sto. Niño Delegation  
This Year's Christmas Celebrations

## November 4 Celebrations



November 4 is one of the special and historical days for our congregation. November 4 marks the day of our foundation. This historical day began in 1816 by the founding Father St. Gaspar Bertoni along with other companions. Therefore, the Stigmatines all over the world celebrate 4 November as its foundation day. Standing since 1816 and until 2018, the age of this congregation has reached 202 years. Happy foundation day Stigmatines!



The novitiate community celebrated this special day by attending mass in our Stigmatine Community in Pang-nga Province. The novices went to Pangnga together with their formators. In Pang-nga, at that time, the mass celebration was led by Fr. Joseph Wattanasak, CSS together with Fr. Reby, Fr. Peter Pakpoom, CSS and other concelebrant priests. This said celebration also commemorates the patron saint of the Pang-nga church, St. Martin of Tours.

The mass celebration was not only attended by the parishioners of Pang-nga but also the teachers who are non-Catholics who taught at the Stigmatine School in Pang-nga. After the Mass celebration is over, Fr. Joseph distributed certificates to the teachers. – Nov. Jung

## Commemorating All Souls' Day



On the 10th 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. Joseph Wattanasak, Fr. Dominic and Fr. Reby. Many parishioners also attended the said Mass. As novices we were assigned to be the choirs of the celebration. It was also an opportunity for us to visit and pray for our dead missionary confreres buried in this cemetery. At the end of the Holy Mass the priests 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.

## *A Series of Notable Events in Sto. Niño Delegation*



The 25th of November 2018 was particularly a special Sunday at St. Gaspar Bertoni Seminary in Carmona. The sky was a little bit cloudy, no news of rain coming, and the wind breeze was fair enough to make it a perfect day for everyone. Practically, it was indeed a perfect day for the aspirants and the brothers to prepare the seminary compound for a series of notable events that they look forward to later that week. Stigmatines from all over the Philippines and abroad would come to the seminary to attend at least four extraordinary occasions in the Sto. Niño Delegation.



The weather on November 26 was like a replica of the previous day. It was the day where Br. Carlos Avenido made his perpetual profession of vows. It was held in the chapel of the Aspirantate Community attended by his invited guests and relatives. The Eucharistic Celebration started at 11 o'clock in the morning and was solemnly presided by Fr. Bruno Facciotti, the Provincial Superior of Our Lady of Hope Province. The celebration was concluded by a simple lunch in the refectory where everyone ate with delight and joy in their hearts, savouring the rare spiritual occasion they have just witnessed. Right after lunch, everyone readied themselves to attend the diaconal ordination of (now) Rev. Dennes Ato held at the Shrine of the Five Wounds in Las Piñas City. The ordination started at 6:30 in the evening presided by Bp. Pedro Dulay Arigo, DD. The relatives and friends of Rev. Dennes, and many

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parishioners had witnessed how he promised to God to serve Him all throughout his life. The Eucharistic Celebration was followed by a lavish dinner held at the basement of the Parish Church.

The perpetual profession and diaconal ordination were followed by the annual on-going formation of the Sto. Niño Delegation. It started on the 27th of November, the day after the profession and ordination. It was held at the Bertoni Center of Evangelization inside the seminary compound and it went on until November 30, Friday, before lunch. It was attended by the members of the Philippine Stigmatine Delegation including the temporary professed brothers. The council invited for the second time Fr. Virgilio Delfin from the Diocese of Malaybalay, to talk about Financial Management and Stewardship. During the sessions, workshops and practical insights

were given to help the confreres for proper financial administration in the delegation. Part of the on-going formation also was the sharing of experiences of confreres from their respective assigned areas. The Provincial Superior also was given a slot to talk about Stigmatine Spirituality especially a topic related to being the real community and family. In the evening of November 30, at exactly 8 o'clock, the awaited concert performed by the religious of the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata of our Lord Jesus Christ, Sisters of the Holy Family, and Daughters of St. Francis de Sales inaugurated. The concert was given the theme "The Promise," which was the celebration of the Shrine of the Five Wounds for the culmination of the Year of Clergy and Consecrated Person and the opening of the Year of the Youth. The event became so successful with the participation and involvement of the Koro Stigmatino and Messiah Choir. It was the first concert at the Shrine of the Five Wounds where the three religious congregations who have been serving the people in the parish joined together.

The sequence of events that the Stigmatines in the Philippines have organized from November 25-30, 2018 were very exhausting, however, those events had really helped the members of the delegation to become united and bond with one another for their finest accomplishments. Indeed, that week of being together amidst our differences had taught each and every one of us that though there are problems and difficulties existing in the Sto. Niño Delegation, we can always think positively and look forward to the future with a silver lining. – Bro. Carlos, Carmona



## *Recollection of the Month*



Last November 28, 2018, we had our monthly recollection in the novitiate house. Fr. Michael Jeerasak, the present director of Dowroong Wittaya School became our speaker. The recollection was held in our Novitiate Chapel. The talk was short but it was very substantial and satisfying.

Fr. Michael shared to us his experience of priesthood, since he was ordained as a priest in

the Stigmatine Congregation. He talked about his ups and down, sadness and joy, frustration and comfort. He told us that life is not easy, every vocation that we are going to choose in life are always wrapped with hardships. There is no excuse. Everyone must have to fight hard if he/she wants to succeed. He also said that life is like a coin with two sides. One is the pain or the hardships and the other is the glory. "No pain no gain". "No hardships no Glory", he said. We have to embrace both sides if we want reached our end which is the fulfillment of our Goals.

This recollection that we had reminds us novices to set our goal, because this goal would be our direction. As Fr. Michael said; if you don't have goal and if you do not know what you want in your life you will get lost. Aim at your target first before you pull the trigger so that your bullet will have direction where to go. – Nov. Donrich

## St. Francis Xavier Feast Day - Trang



Last November 30, the Novitiate community travelled with our formators with Bro. Sujin, Bro. James and Bro. Fab and two sisters, Sr. Duangkhae and Sr. Eat to Trang community to celebrate with them the feast day of St. Francis Xavier. Fr. Mark Sittichai the Pastor and Fr. Yuttana welcomed us all joyfully.

Since the bishop of Surat Thani was unavailable to celebrate the feast, the Provincial, Fr. Joseph Wattanasak presided the celebration instead. The mass was shown live on Facebook as part of the program of the Diocese of Surat Thani in celebrating its 50th year's foundation.

After the mass, lunch was served for all the visitors and parishioners. When lunch was over it's the time for us to head home but before heading straight to Phuket, we stopped by the famous Khao Kop Cave in Trang province and experience the Belly of the Dragon which was very dark and we had to lie down on the boat to avoid getting hit by stalactites. – Nov. Chino





## *Christmas Activities of the Year*



Last November 19, we started to decorate our house for Christmas. We arranged everything inside and we also made the three Nativity Cribs for our chapel, at Assumption Church and one outside our house. We also installed star lanterns with different colors on the side of our road. We



also practiced Christmas carols for our parishioners when we will visit them in their homes this Christmas.

On December 23 we had our Christmas party in the novitiate community and we offered a Christmas carols to the community and was followed by the exchanging of our gifts. After that we were invited

by Fr. Michael Jeerasak to join the Christmas party of the teachers at the school. We also presented a dance during the party.

On 24th of December we had our evening mass at Assumption Church. Before the mass started there were some kids who presented story of the Nativity of Jesus and was followed by the mass. The main



celebrant was the pastor of the Assumption Church, Fr. Paul Krittapat, CSS together with the concelebrating priests. After the mass there was a program and the parishioners prepared gifts for the raffles. In the morning, 25th of December we had our Thai and English Mass. And during the evening we went to Sister Lakana's place to sing a Christmas carols and followed by a simple dinner and sister Lakana gave us also a gift as a sign of her gratitude for us.

On December 26 to 30 we had our Christmas caroling for some of our parishioners and after the caroling we had our dinner together with them. On December 31st we had our mass at assumption church for the New Year celebration. After the mass we had a simple party together with the parishioners held on Novitiate House. We also prepared some games for them and presented some entertainment. - Nov. Jhan Rey Cardosa







## *November Celebrants*

*Bro. Romel and Bro. Jessie James - Nov. 9*

*Fr. Jessie - Nov. 13*

*Fr. Weerasak and Bro. Mark Ratchanon - Nov. 17*

*Bro. Tom George - Nov. 27*

## *December Celebrants*

*Fr. John Pipat - Dec. 2*

*Fr. Romolo - Dec. 3*

*Nov. Jhan Rey - Dec. 7*

*Bro. Dan Dave - Dec. 16*

*Fr. Calven Mark - Dec. 28*

*Bro. Ren - Dec. 30*

