



INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 1
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7th SSP PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OPENS

“I declare the 7th SSP Provincial Chapter for Programming officially open,” Fr. Jose S. Aripio announced in his welcome address to the SSP Capitulars yesterday morning, August 24. They had come from near and far and gathered at the Javellana Hall of the SSP Makati Community for the celebration of the Chapter. Coming farthest was a special participant seated near the Provincial Superior: Don Valdir José De Castro, the Superior General who arrived from Rome on August 19 precisely to be present at the Chapter.

Earlier, the Capitulars had gathered at the Queen of the Apostles chapel for the Visit before the Blessed Sacrament and for a “recollection talk” given by Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD. The former Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word underlined two phenomena that provide a challenge for the Church today: the growing multiculturalism especially in the urban areas of the world and the worsening poverty that afflicts more and more people. These phenomena invite us to see the unfamiliar “other face” of God who meets us in the person of migrants, strangers, the poor and the excluded.

In his introductory talk in the Chapter proper, Father General pointed to the Capitulars their primary task of electing the Provincial Councilors and elaborating a guide of action for the new government for the next four years. He added some thoughts for reflection: The theme of the 10th General Chapter and of the current Provincial Chapter—“I do everything for the Gospel”—challenges us Paulines to use the most effective means so that in a large measure the Word of God may reach everyone. However, we ourselves must become first of all “men of communication” of the Gospel as we take it as a program of personal and community life.

After the afternoon break, the Capitulars approved the “Iter” or program plan prepared by the Methodologist, Fr. Ludovico E. Tacdoro, Jr. Following this Iter, they elected the officers that would

compose the Central Committee that would take care of the running of the Chapter. Members of the Central Committee are:

- Fr. Jose S. Aripio—President (*ex officio* as Provincial Superior)
- Fr. Cris Robert C. Cellan—Secretary
- Fr. Joseph Q. Javillo—Moderator
- Fr. Norman Melchor P. Pena and Fr. Khris Emmanuel L. Llacer—Actuaries

Aside from the officers of the Chapter, Fr. Gil A. Alinsangan was elected as Information Officer. News about the Chapter are coursed through him.

With Fr. Cellan now guiding the proceedings and with Fr. Javillo moderating, the Capitulars listened to the Report of the Provincial Superior. Fr. Aripio based his report from the Priorities and Guidelines of the 6th Provincial Chapter, enumerating the decisions and actions of the last Provincial Government vis-à-vis these priorities and guidelines.

Reports of the various local communities were to follow the Provincial Report. Fr. Joseph Q. Javillo, the local superior of the Makati Community, gave a little “SONA” (“state of the nation address”) on the life and activities of this hub of the Philippine-Macau Province.

As the time of the evening Community Mass was approaching, the meeting was adjourned; reporting would continue the next day.

FR. GIL A. ALINSANGAN, SSP
Information Officer

Photos by: Br. Barry Nobleza, SSP