



## **INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 2**

August 26, 2015

### **CAPITULARS FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES ON THE “STATE OF THE PROVINCE”**

The second day of the Chapter—August 25—focused on the reports on the various SSP communities, vocation promotion and formation, and apostolate of the Province. This is part of the “familiarization stage” necessary for the “programming stage” in which priorities and guidelines are established.

The day commenced with a concelebrated Mass at the Queen Apostles chapel, with Fr. Andres Inting as main celebrant and Fr. Albert Bernal as homilist. Fr. Bernal developed his homily around the theme of gratitude, excitement and fortitude, inviting the Capitulars to be thankful and joyful in their Pauline vocation and to be resolute in meeting its challenges.

The first act of the Chapter was the approval of the news bulletin prepared by Fr. Gil Alinsangan. Accompanied by some photos, the communication was then disseminated to the SSP communities, the Pauline Family, and the General Secretariat in Rome. The Capitulars next examined and approved the “acts” or minutes of the first day prepared by the Actuaries Fr. Norman Peña and Fr. Khris Llacer.

Fr. Joel Baguna, Local Superior of Silang Community, continued the reports of the communities. He focused on the running of St. Paul Seminary which provides the training of SSP aspirants and which welcomes outside seminarians and even religious sisters. There followed a lengthy exchange of views on the running of the seminary.

Fr. Soc Montealto, Local Superior of Pasay Community, reported on the members and their apostolic responsibilities. Of the seven members, four are doing their apostolate in Makati. The running of the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish is being made part of, and guided by, the apostolic project of the Province, giving it a particular “Pauline color.” The financial contribution of the parish to St. Paul Seminary was discussed. In the sharing that followed, ideas were expressed on how to integrate the parish apostolate in the over-all apostolic plan of the Province.

The Pampanga Community was next presented by the Local Superior, Fr. Cian Marquez. The priests help in the celebration of Masses in the nearby churches and chapels as well as offer religious services to religious convents and schools. They also give support to the Friends of the Divine Master who are being followed up by the PDDM Sisters.

Fr. Albert Bernal, Delegate Superior, reported on the Davao Community composed of himself and Fr. Jerome Palma. They handle the ST PAULS bookstore and the diffusion of ST PAULS products, celebrate Mass for the Pauline Family members (FSP, PDDM, Pastorelle, APC) and strengthen their relationship with them. They are active in promoting the Institute of the Holy Family who offer generous help in the holding of the St Paul National Bible Quiz. They also have vocation prospects for St Paul Seminary and for the Institute of Jesus Priest.

Fr. Nicomedes Reforeal, Delegate Superior, reported on the Cagayan de Oro Community composed of himself and Fr. Servillano Sinoy III. They handle the management of ST PAULS bookstore and wholesale of ST PAULS products. They join the Pauline Family (FSP, IMSA, APC) in prayer and spiritual animation as “altrice.”

Fr. Leonardo Ellezar, Local Superior, reported on the Community of Cebu composed of three members. They run the ST PAULS bookstore and Marketing which covers also nearby provinces. The community serves as the base of the SSP Postulants, especially at the first phase of the formation program. They collaborate in the spiritual animation of the Pauline Family members and help in the celebration of Masses in nearby parishes and chapels. Regular meetings with the ISF members are ongoing. A new bookstore will be opened soon. There is also the dream to construct a community chapel that would be open to the public.

In the sharing of ideas, there is a proposal to make Cebu also serve as base of formation: e.g, for some of the Juniors.

Fr. Albert Bernal, as Delegate of Grouped Houses, reported on the Community of Iloilo, composed of two members. There is a felt need to augment the presence of members, in the process enlarging the apostolic outreach of the community. A group of former seminarians—the Sons of St. Paul—can be a source of support.

There followed some “enlightenment” on the SSP presence in Macau. The Superior General invited the Chapter to help the General Government find ways to strengthen our presence in Macau or to have new openings in countries close to the Philippines.

Fr. Alan Gamutan, General Coordinator of the Team for Vocation Promotions and Formation (TVPF), presented his report that complements the report of the Provincial Superior on the subject. He touched on, among others: the number and situation of the formands in different stages, the seminary formators, the difficulties and challenges of the work, the studies, specializations, and renewal programs. He underlined the dangers: growing individualism, isolation, and stagnation. He likewise suggested directions to take: e.g. review and updating of the Formation *liter*, renewal program for the ongoing formation, possibility of change of formation houses.

The last to report was Fr. Cris Cellan, Director of the Apostolate. With the use of AVPs, he presented the titles produced by ST PAULS Creative, the National Bible Quiz and the Parish Youth Bible Encounter, SAMBUHAY that has become a “brand name,” and our involvement in the digital continent, including the recent launching of ST PAULS PH apps. Lastly, the Capitulars were shown the coverage of the Papal Visit

2015 prepared by the ST PAULS AVP Sector. Fr. Cellan pointed out that while these projects involve no little finances, there are also collateral benefits for our religious life and apostolate.

The Superior General, in addition, spoke of courses in communication provided by SSP in some countries and pointed to the role that St Paul Seminary Foundation as “communication school” may have towards this end.

The elections of the Provincial Councilors are scheduled this afternoon, August 26. Communications will be sent out as soon as the Councilors are elected. *Abangan!*

**FR. GIL A. ALINSANGAN, SSP**

Information Officer

*Photos by: Br. Barry Nobleza, SSP*