



FOR THE PROVINCE Capitulars of the Commission on Education engaging in a serious discussion.

Commissions Formulate Proposals for Decision Phase

CEBU CITY—Fresh from a weekend respite, the first day of the week opened with a celebration of the mass dedicated to all the deceased members of the Order. Fray Ian Anthony Espartero was the mass presider and he was assisted by Fray Joseph Dexter Palagtiosa and Fray Charlito Orobia.

Reflecting on the first reading, Fray Espartero focused on the passage: “Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” He reiterated that “holiness is the universal call of all Christians,” whose genuine growth happens within the community. He focused on three points in sharing about holiness. First, he said that “holiness is seeking out the good of others in love.” Love impels Christians to act because it is the soul of holiness.

Second, “holiness impels us towards Christian mission.” Quoting Pope John Paul II, he said that genuine holiness must be articulated in actual and concrete service for the spiritual and material good of others.

Third, “holiness happens in the Christian

community.” Fr. Espartero mentioned that “holiness is lived out not in isolation but in communion with the other members of the community.” He pointed out the example of the missionary dynamism of the first Christian communities who “despite limited resources, they were zealous to proclaim the religion of the man who had died on the cross.”

At 8:30AM, the delegates convened at the session hall for the opening prayer and the reading of the messages sent by well-wishers. Then, they proceed to complete their proposals per Commission.

The afternoon session commenced at 2:45PM. Messages were read and the minutes of the previous sessions were approved. The proposals of the different Commissions

were distributed to the delegates for their suggestions. After the instructions were made, the delegates again grouped themselves according to Commission.



The Capitulars raise their hands to signify their approval of the minutes of the Chapter.

Holiness in the Christian Community

CEBU CITY—Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, President of the Secretariat of Formation and Vocation Ministry, started the second week of the Provincial Chapter with the celebration of the Eucharist wherein he was the main celebrant and homilist.

In his homily, he first stressed that the call to holiness is a universal call to all Christians and that the growth of holiness always happens within the context of the Christian community.

He developed this theme by first asking what it means to be holy, then defined holiness as desiring the good of others in love. He cited the Catechism of the Catholic Church which states, “Charity is the soul of the holiness to which all are called: it governs, shapes and perfects all the means of sanctification.” This decision to become holy, he added, has an eschatological effect as it gears man towards

that joy to come. This invitation to holiness is also seen in the Gospel of the day where Jesus grants eternal life to the sheep who have done good to others and sends to eternal damnation to the goats who have done nothing to others.

Second, holiness also entails a dedication to the Christian mission. He quoted Pope John Paul II who said that “there is no genuine holiness apart from a radical orientation toward the spiritual and material good of others.” And in *Redemptoris Missio*, the same Pope emphasized that “there is no holiness with mission.” Yet this dedication to the Christian mission must come with an

attitude of joy in spreading the Gospel. The joy of the Gospel would tell us to bring this holiness to other people.

Finally, he concluded saying we are all called to holiness and it is our companions who will direct us to this holiness. Hence, holiness occurs within the Christian community. This universal call to holiness and mission is meant to be fostered within the community. He challenged then the capitulars to make their communities places where all can grow in holiness by devotion, good example, generosity, and encouragement.



Photos show Fray Ian Anthony Espartero leading the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 7TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Federacion de Agustinas Recoletas de España
- Sis. Corazon Catindig, SAR
- Fray Feliciaco Campomanes, OAR
- Fr. Nicholas Salamanca
- Mr. Ramon Moreno
- Fray Antonio Carrón, OAR
- Fr. Romeo Barcelona
- Recoletos de Bacolod Community
- San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, Quezon City
- Fray Carlos Alberto Villabona Vargas, OAR
- Universitaria Agustiniana, Columbia
- Recoletos Formation Center Coristas and Formators
- The Lady Mediatrix Institute, Inc., Candelaria, Quezon Province