



PROVINCE OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO Chapter CHRONICLE

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THE BIG THREE PLUS ONE Photo shows the terna, the top three contenders for the Prior Provincial, together with the Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró Miró (second from left). From left to right: Fray Lauro Larlar, Fray Dionisio Selma, and Fray Leander Barrot.

Ternary for Prior Provincial Announced

CEBU CITY—The shortlist for the 7th Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno was finally announced by the Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró OAR, towards the end of the evening session today, February 20.

The top three highest votes were garnered by Fray Dionisio Selma with 60 votes, followed by Fray Leander Barrot with 14 votes, and Fray Lauro Larlar, 9 votes.

These three religious were also the ones who composed the “terna” in the previous provincial chapter, in 2015.

Fray Selma is the 6th Prior Provincial. Fray Barrot is the Vice Prior of the community of Recoletos Formation Center (RFC) while Fray Larlar is the Local Prior of RFC.

Moreover, the scrutiny for the recent election revealed an unprecedented statistics in the history of the Province as all of the 146 voting religious voted, registering a spine-chilling 100% participation rate of the friars who have the right to vote.

Last year, during the election of the delegates to the 7th Provincial Chapter, the canvassing of votes reported a 97.24%

turnout, also the highest in the history of this 20-year old Province.

Soon, the election from among the ternary will take place. Whoever gets elected will be charged to steer the direction of this youngest province of the Order for the next quadriennium (2018-2022).

For the First Time (100% Participation Rate)

For the first time in the history of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, all 146 members with active voice cast their votes for Prior Provincial. The last ballot from Casian Island, Taytay, Palawan arrived last February 19, 2018 via 2Go courier service. The participation of all eligible brothers to elect their delegates and Prior Provincial is a good sign of their willingness to support and cooperate in the undertakings of the 7th Provincial Chapter.

FEATURED NEWS



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REFLECTION



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Capitulars Deliberate on the Commissions' Proposals

CEBU CITY—Fray Lauro Larlar set the mood of the day by anchoring his homily on the importance of the Word of God in setting the direction of the Province for the next quadrennium.

Fray Larlar cited Saint Augustine as the man who loved the Word of God and eventually became the one whom he loved: the Word of God himself. He asked the delegates with several questions for their reflection: First, “What God is asking of us today?” Second, “What does God want to tell us today?” Third, “Are we giving to those whom we minister the Word of God?” He exhorted the delegates to draw their “strength from the Word of God, and to be all the time prayerful and discerning.” He added by saying that “we who wished to serve the Lord must put ourselves in obedience to the Mother Church and to remain faithful to our charismatic identity as Augustinian Recollects.” He concluded his homily with a plea “to make ourselves men of prayer and

lovers of the Word of God.”

The morning sessions were moderated by Fray René Paglinawan. The messages to the Chapter were read and the minutes of the previous sessions were approved. After the Commission on Spirituality and Formation completed their report as well as suggestions for the improvements of their first draft were gathered, the different Commissions again assembled by group to study the remaining proposals for their perusal.

The afternoon sessions were opened by the reading of the messages. Fray Lauro Larlar was the moderator. The reporting of the Commissions continued with the presentation of the Commission on Social Action, Youth and Vocation, Ministerial and Missionary Apostolate and Educational Apostolate.

To fast-track the proceedings, the delegates agreed that an evening session would be held at 8:30PM for the presentation of the proposals by the Committee on Governance, Finance and Communications. Subsequently after the deliberations, the result of the scrutiny of votes for Prior Provincial were announced, and the following religious formed the ternary: Fray Dionisio Selma (60 votes), Fray Leander Barrot (14 votes) and Fray Lauro Larlar (9 votes). A hundred percent voting turn-out was achieved by the 7th Provincial Chapter with one hundred forty-six voters (146 voters). Of the 146 votes, 145 were valid. The sessions were adjourned at 9:30PM.



Photos show the capitulars deliberating on the proposals made by the different Chapter commissions.

Word of God: Our Daily Bread

CEBU CITY—The 7th Provincial Chapter is halfway on its proceedings. The capitulars continue to scrutinize the proposals submitted by the commissions for the crafting of a new Life and Mission Project of the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno.

Before another set of meetings and plenary assemblies would continue, the capitulars were reminded by the presider of the Holy Mass and homilist of the day, Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR, Prior of Recoletos Formation Center. In his homily, Fray Larlar quoted St. Augustine who said, “Every time we read the Word of God, the Father lovingly speaks to us. And if we speak to the Father, we pray.” He urged his co-capitulars to experience that loving dialogue with God by asking the Lord, “What do you want us to hear, to know and to live?”

Going back to St. Augustine, Fray Larlar used the image of the Restless Heart that never stops seeking, asking, and knocking at the door of Heaven. He linked this image of the heart, which is one of the symbols of the Augustinian Recollect newly approved branding, to desire. Desire, in the Augustinian perspective, is the driving force

that pushes man to continue searching for God. St. Augustine loved the Word of God that he himself became the “word of God.” In one of his homilies, St. Augustine said to his flock, “Do not worry if you do not have any copy of the Scriptures. I am your codex. I am your scriptures.” That explained why the book becomes the heart, and the heart is on the book.

Fray Larlar further deepened his reflection on the Word of God. He reminded his co-capitulars to put first their trust in God and not in themselves nor in their services. They have to be prayerful in the way that Christ is prayerful. “We have to start our prayer with the conviction that we are so loved by God; that we are His beloved; and that we are His children. That is why we begin our prayer with the words, ‘Our Father,’” Fray Lauro added.

In the desire to become creators of

communion, men of hope, and witnesses to the Gospel values by faithfully living the consecrated life and by serving humanity, Fray Lauro emphasized that everything should start from the Word of God “that came from the mouth of the Father. A word that should fertilize the earth and bear fruit.” Every endeavor in this Provincial Chapter should begin and end with the Word of God for Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the beginning and the end.”

Fray Lauro ended his homily by encouraging the capitulars to humbly pray every day, like the beloved children of the God, so that they may learn to love the will of the Father. “Man does not live by bread alone, but we live primarily because the Word became flesh” was his parting message for the capitulars that summed up his reflection on the Word of God as our Daily Bread.



Fray Lauro Larlar stressing the importance of the Word of God to the capitulars. Inset shows Fray Arnel Diaz praying the psalms.