



Nº18 | OCTOBER 2011

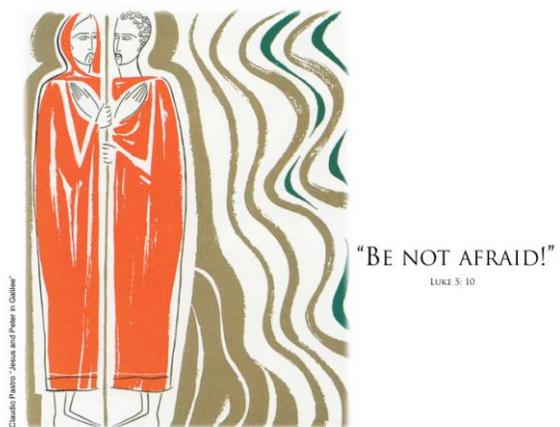
The exams of the first semester are over. A few days of vacation begin for our university students but it is also a time of sessions and of various activities. It's the time to share some news. First of all the priestly ordination of Bros. Ricky and Alex; the blessing of our new house called "Galabert"; the new compositions of our communities; the diversification of our apostolic engagements; and the arrival of new volunteers; the solidarity with the victims of the typhoons....our agenda and the traditional press review.

Happy Reading. Thanks for your friendship and for your support.

The writing team: Bernard Holzer, Jay Lituañas, Rex Navarro and Davy Sagun.

First of all, a Big News the Priestly Ordination of Brothers Ricky and Alex.

Ricky Montañez and Alex Castro, the first two Filipino Assumptionists will be ordained priests on November 12, 2011, at 2:30 PM in the church of Our Lady of Pentecost in Quezon City by Msgr. Chito Tagle, a friend of Assumption, who was just named the archbishop of Manila. Thank you for praying with us that they be part of a long list of men passionate for God and for Man.



THE AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
(THE ASSUMPTIONISTS)
INVITE YOU TO THE

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
OF
REV. RICKY CAÑET MONTAÑEZ, AA
REV. ALEX APAWAN CASTRO, AA

MOST REV. LUIS ANTONIO G. TAGLE, DD, STD
BISHOP OF IMUS
ORDAINING BISHOP

12 NOVEMBER 2011, SATURDAY, 2:30 PM
OUR LADY OF PENTECOST PARISH
LOYOLA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY
RSVP: (02) 9290373

THANKSGIVING MASS OF FR. ALEX APAWAN CASTRO, AA
PARISH OF ST. PETER
APULET, PAMPANGA
13 NOVEMBER 2011, SUNDAY, 8:00 AM

THANKSGIVING MASS OF FR. RICKY CAÑET MONTAÑEZ, AA
ASSUMPTION ILOILO CHAPEL
18 GENERAL LUNA STREET, ILOILO CITY
04 DECEMBER 2011, SUNDAY, 10:00 AM



The Blessing of a New House

Early in December 2010, we discovered a house on sale, not far from the Adveniat Community, which we thought could well be a place for our Assumption Language Centre. It had not been properly kept for about 10 years but it sure was a solid building. By January of 2011, we made a final payment and started the renovations. Five months later, a small group of religious moved in and the house was blessed on June 26. The workers continued their work in building a “Bahay Kubo,” a bamboo house, and a speech lab. This took another 3 months. In July, the second cycle of English, French and Tagalog classes could start in the new building: spacious, functional, and well-lighted.



The purchase of this new property was made possible thanks to a loan from the North American-Filipino Province of the Assumptionists. It is our hope, that this commitment to help religious and priests from Asian countries to learn English will be significant in opening up new horizons for their Churches. We are also the beneficiaries since they are all bringing to us the treasures of their own cultures and religious experience.



The community is called “Galabert” after the name of the first Assumptionist whom Fr. d’Alzon sent to found the Near Eastern Mission in Turkey and Bulgaria in 1863. We hope that the dedication of this medical doctor and canon lawyer will be an inspiration for all those who will come to learn the basics of a new language, like Fr. Victorin Galabert did with courage in learning Bulgarian in his own time.

For the moment, the Bahay Kubo is used to house two young volunteer couples (UK and Belgium) who are a tremendous help in the Language Centre

The new Outlay of our Communities

The beginning of the new school year at the University, which in the Philippines begins on June 15, was marked by the re-composition of our communities.

In Marikina, where the postulancy is held, there are six postulants: three Filipinos, two Indians and a Chinese priest. They are accompanied by Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi and Bro. Alex Castro.



(From left: Fr. Chuvi and Bro. Alex)



(From left: Frs. Richard, Roddy and Leo)

In Antipolo, where the novitiate is: there are three novices: two Filipinos and a Chinese Priest. They are accompanied by Frs. Richard Brunelle, Roddy Ratsimiolaka and Leo Brassard.

Echoes from the Hills

On the second of September, the Novitiate Community participated in an ecumenical encounter at the Institute of Theology of the Lazarists. Many Churches were present. The encounter-conference was on the social engagement of Christians and the dialogue between the Church and Society.



In Quezon City, the Brothers of the **Adveniat Community** are now split into two groups: that of the Adveniat House and that of the new Galabert House, which also houses the Language Center.



(From left: Bros. Ed, Rodel, Fr. Bernard, Blair, Jay and Cris)



(From left: Fr. Gilles, Bros. Ricky, Ellis and Christopher)

At Adveniat, there are also seven residents: 3 Chinese priests and a Chinese seminarian, 2 Vietnamese religious, a Korean priest; and an Assumptionist postulant and one French volunteer.

Bro. Christopher Jeong of Korea, who did his novitiate in Antipolo; and after some months of perfecting his English, rejoined a new his community in Gwangju (South Korea).

Engaging on Significant Apostolic Developments

This semester was characterized by significant developments in our engagements: (1) In Marytown, (2) In Our Language Center, (3) with Bayard, (4) with our Volunteers and (5) In Solidarity with the Poor.



In Marytown



In Marytown, the slum area next door, our presence there is becoming regular. The number of our contacts broadened. We are getting to know better the needs and the wishes of the inhabitants there. We are there nearly every day. We organize various activities and celebrate the Eucharist there three times a month. There is a special celebration for the children who want it. At the end of July, we teamed up with the « Christian Learning School » situated in front of our living space which we rent in Marytown. One of the teachers there is ready to help us with the activities for the children, its young people and adults. This will be an ecumenical adventure for the Community.

Brother Rodel tells us about his encounter with the young people at the opening of the new school year after the summer vacation:

“Last Saturday, July 23, 2011, was the first gathering and meeting with the youth since we opened again our house in Marytown after the Sumer holidays. I opened up the meeting by asking them if they were still willing to come to the house or be in touch with the brothers. What is common to their sharing is that they thought that the house is only for the kids so they are hesitant to come to the house. But they always wanted to continue what we have started there. They have been busy with their school so they don't know how often they can come here. However, what was important in the meeting was that I asked them what their needs were and how we may help them especially in their studies. Some are willing to be helped with their assignments and enrichment in English. Here are some of their suggestions: camping, sports (swimming lessons, basketball, volleyball for some, ping-pong, badminton, soccer, boxing, etc.), self-defence, movies, dance, music, piano lessons, guitar, flute, tutorials (English, Math, Science)... So far they are again enthusiastic to gather and I can see their willingness to help each other if need be. 23 youths attended this meeting.”



Bro. Rodel and Sophie with Youths of Marytown

About one hundred young people from Marytown are in touch with our brothers on “Facebook » and also by cell phone. This has inspired Fr. Bernard in “Panaroma,” a monthly magazine in France published by Bayard to write a new chronicle entitled (Chronicle – Letter from Asia).

Dance, Sports and the Green Spaces

On the 29th of July, Rama, former professor of classical dance and today a professor of traditional Filipino dance brings the children of Marytown far from their habitual setting and opens them up to their cultural heritage, which they know too little about. Since then the dances are also for their mothers who love to get together to perform the traditional dances.

On Saturday the 30th of July, the Brothers engaged at Marytown and some volunteers brought the children of Marytown to jog on the campus of the University of the Philippines which is near and where there are many green spaces. It is good to take some fresh air and to be away from one's cramped spaces where many families share the same space.



The Youth Days of Manila



Marytown-Assumption Youth (MAY), joined and celebrated with other youths in Manila the “World Youth Day (WYD) 2011 from Madrid to Manila Youth Vigil.”

The event was organized by the Campus Ministry of the Archdiocese of Manila, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao, the Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc., the Episcopal Commission on Youth-Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and Tanging Yaman Foundation. It was held in the Ateneo De Manila University grounds.

The youth have reached more than 13,000 from approximately 10,000 expected participants. Brother Rodel Cervantes tells us the story of this gathering.

“Our youth (MAY) were so excited to go and very much willing to join when we went to their houses and asked them one by one to be listed for a pre-registration. Their enthusiasm sparked as they showed a lot of energy during the festivity, through dancing, singing and meeting other young people from different parts of Manila.

Though it was only a short notice to the MAY, we were able to gather 34 of them. After the event we asked them to share to the group their own personal experience. It was common to everybody that they really enjoyed and were happy to experience that kind of event. They wanted to have more experience of youth gatherings like that. I have seen how they became a united group from small different groups from their areas. They saw other groups from WYD, how they participated and were active in every parts of the celebration, especially in the liturgical celebrations. The event made them eager to start and build a better youth group and leaders in Marytown.”

Two other encounters with the Youth

We are preparing now these youth for their first encounter with the youth of our Parish (Our Lady of Pentecost) through a Music Forum on October 22 organized by the parish youth. They also wanted to be known as part of the parish youth. Now they are rehearsing for their song and dance to be presented during the forum.

The next event will be on October 29, a musical and liturgical concert organized by the Diocese of Cubao, where we also belong, in honor of Blessed Pope John Paul II at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao. They are all excited to go and show their solidarity with other youth of the diocese.



The Assumption Language Center



The first cycle (from July 4 to September 23) was attended by 28 students (male and female): 19 students enrolled to learn English coming from mainland China, Mongolia, South Korean, Burma, Vietnam, Italy, Japan and Thailand; 7 students to learn French from the Philippines (our postulants), India and Congo and two German volunteers who wanted to learn Tagalog.

The second cycle started on October 3 with 17 students for English, 9 for French and 2 for Tagalog. The cycle will last until December 16.

Bayard Assumption Media Foundation



Launching of a Children's Book on Saint Augustine

We launched a comic style book for children on Saint Augustine. This was done with *Adarna*, a local publisher who specializes in youth and educational publications. This comic style book is the 12th in a series hoping to enliven the faith of the families. This series has had much success in the Philippines since the sale of the books has reached the 50,000 mark.



Bro. Ricky President of Bayard Philippines at the office in Paris

At the end of August Brother Ricky Montañez spent a week at the offices in Paris. He was on his way back from the Youth Days in Madrid where he was one of the volunteers. He is sharing with us his intense experience of prayer, community life and apostolate in France.

In Valpré and Ars

"After the World Youth Day in Madrid, I had the chance to visit some of our communities in France, particularly the ones in Valpré and Morère. Aside from sharing community life with the brothers in Valpré, the visit was a sort of continuation of the days of silence and prayer that I spent earlier in Taizé. One of the highlights of my stay there was a day spent tracing the life of St. John Mary Vianney, the Patron Saint of Priests. We visited places significant to him from his birthplace in Dardilly to Ars where he spent the fruitful years of his priestly ministry. It was a meaningful and prayerful day spent with Bro. Viktors (who speaks perfect English) who accompanied me throughout the trip. My gratitude also goes to all the members of the community of Valpré (with Fr. Claude Maréchal as Superior) for being so good to me when I was there."

At rue Morère

"After Lyon, it was time to work and meet people who are involved in Bayard for a week. I spent a week in the community in Morère where most of the brothers who are involved in Bayard live. Aside from being struck by the dedication and zeal of these brothers for their apostolate in publication, I was also impressed by the way they live out community life. I can only agree with the way another Filipino brother who lived in the same community early this year describes the community spirit there: "They all strive to bring in community the best of all their involvements!" There is a time for everything, so to speak. If quality time is spent in work, the same value is placed on the time spent for prayers and meals, and casual interactions among the brothers in community, not to mention the joyful spirit I sensed in community. Thank you dear brothers for edifying me with your witness!!!"

At Bayard

"The short experience in Bayard only affirmed the interest and the support that Bayard France for the development of our publication apostolate in the Philippines. Christine Auberger, the person in charge of looking after our activities in Asia, made sure that I was taken care of and had a full schedule!!! I observed how they do things from the planning to the implementation stages of the different publications of Bayard. People took time to show me the ropes and to give me ideas for future projects in the Philippines.

Although it was a rather short visit, the stay there showed important paths to take for the development of Bayard in the Philippines."

Other Encounters

"It was also an opportunity to visit our youth hostel in Paris as well and to spend some time with the brothers involved in this ministry. Towards the end of the visit, I had the privilege of meeting Fr. Benoît Gschwind, the Provincial of France for the first time.

At the end of my stay in Paris and the work in Bayard, I told myself: "Was there really anything that I missed out in such a short stay?" I guess none but I am sure more things worth discovering will present themselves next time!"

The International Book Fair of Manila

From the 14 to the 17th of September, the Brothers, some volunteers helping out, Jerome Berson and Andrea Chang of Hong Kong, serviced Bayard's Booth at the International Book Fair of Manila. It was the occasion to put forth our best foot forward and to meet our various readers.



Volunteers Without Borders

Our development in activities would not be possible without the help of our volunteers who help us a great deal in our undertakings. The previous month was punctuated by the departure of former volunteers and the arrival of new ones. They also put their talents at the service of our mission.

On the first of August Arnaud and Marie Lemaître with their new born baby Louis left us as to go back to France. Both Arnaud and Marie are Volunteers for the Catholic Delegation for the Cooperation (the DCC) they serviced us for two years in social works and in the teaching of French in our Language Center.



Five new volunteers have taken their place



(From left: Mark, Jerome, Francois, Anne, Sophie and Michelle)

On the 16th of July, Sophie Hiernaux and François de Monge from Belgium, volunteers of the DCC, have taken over the posts of Marie and Arnaud.

On the 1st of September, Michelle and Mark O’Neil, a volunteer couple of the Associate Missionaries of the Assumption (AMA), hail from the UK, came to help out in the Language Center. Both British and American accents can be heard!

The 5th of September, Jerome Berson, from Normandy, another volunteer of the DCC has come to help us with our efforts in Bayard. It is with great humor that he retells of his splash in the Philippine setting:

“He Scurries! He runs! This Volunteer. He Goes Very Fast!”

It was as if it were a perfect beginning. I arrived on time on flight GF018, at 11:45 AM as foreseen this Monday the 5th of September. I didn’t have to wait a second at the customs, and more surprising still my bags were the first on the belt. Bernard Holzer was waiting for me as agreed upon on Skype a few days before. He was at the right place at the right time!

We arrived at Adveniat in the nick of time, which is quite extraordinary they tell me. “Things are quite nice here,” I thought to myself. The people are nice, welcoming, the place is big – kind of nice, I guess – and there is a pool at the end of the property... this will come in handy when the Tropics appear! It’s hot. One cannot deny it but it is quite bearable even for someone who comes from Normandy and who has just lived a hot Normandy summer!

Good. Let’s roll up our sleeves now.....

Oh yes, the work ahead. I came for this didn’t I? Tropics or not, let’s get rolling.

Scurrying...

Have the 300 copies for the Box Magazine recipients ready. Oh to find the computer list! Print the mail stickers, make piles of show books, stick some stickers on them, and distribute them according to zones....

There are zones here? And what is a zone?

- Well, its very simple There is Makati, Pasig, Parañaque, Taguig, Quezon City, Manila...

- Manila ? Aren’t we in Manila here? No this is Quezon City in Metro Manila. They are the same!

Really?

Scurry, you fool....

The Book Fair – oh yes time to get going. It’s an International Fair after all. It’s in the Mall of Asia next week. Time to get kicking!

Here I am at it!

Running...

I must find a Jeepney to get the furniture of the booth, the books - to transport all these. The man to see is Ed! But who is he? You see that bloke over there... that’s him!

Good!

Going very fast...

I have to print the passes for the visitors. Print some posters to sell; decorate the stand, go for the Fair passes ... see Blair.

- At last I know him. I saw him in Paris this summer !!!

Scurrying...

I have to see our co-publisher Adarna about the Faith Series. Ricky tells me that the price is not right... Of course... our co-publisher... his bill... well, I understand!

Running...

- You must remember to give the Claretians prices for our books.

- Certainly, I was just thinking about it!

You've thought of bringing money for change purposes?

- What? No I didn't think of that but I'll do it.

-The Augustinian Contemplative Sisters have given us things to sell. You must think of a price...

-Perfect. I'll do it.

Going very fast.

Go get Andrea at the airport...Get her a room at the hotel...

"Oh I know her, for I met her in Paris this summer. She works for Bayard in Hong Kong. But why didn't she come earlier???"

I have to make a plan for the booth and diffuse the schedule to the brothers' so they can come. I have to prepare the budget for the transport and the meals at the hotel for Andrea and for myself!!!

There! All are in place for the five days of the Book Fair.

Day one. More scurrying... and then the following day: STOP.

Sick I am! I'm cold. I'm hot. My legs are weak! My head is spinning! I think I have come down with a serious cold! But this is not possible, a cold in the Tropics! They didn't tell me about this!!! Oh no it's the Dengue. Oh No!!! DENGUE, DARNY, BREAKBONE FEVER Dengue and its symptoms: headaches, pain in back of the eyes (retro-ocular pain), muscle pain, skin rash, bleeding. Oh no not me! -after two weeks! And didn't I have a little bit of an eye ache in the back of the eyes?

Off to the hospital I go. It is Saturday September 24. "One must be sure," says Bernard!

"Yes" to the hospital. Only after two weeks – this does not give the impression of being very serious.

Nothing doing, we must go. Jay accompanies me and he is not feeling too well himself!

At the emergency room they our pulse and tension, our temperature, we are shuttled to see a doctor, blood tests – analysis and result: It's DENGUE! Jay has the disease! As for me. Everything is ok. Just a little local welcoming virus! There.

The volunteer runs a little less fast these days. Now, he walks. He has learned to merely walk for before this he always ran. He evens takes a siesta after lunch and things are much better - quite well, as a matter of fact-keep tuned in for more...



During the summer, two students from Lille and Paris did an international internship with us. **Bérangère Fromentin** (from ESTICE – The Superior School of International Transactions and of Exterior Commerce of Lille) promoted with success the inscription to “Story Box,” “Adventure Box ” and “ Discovery Box, ” publications for the young at Bayard.

Anne Laroche (University of Paris - Dauphine) analyzed for us the financial situation of our NGO (Non Governmental Organization), Kaloob, and of our Language Center. This is a big help for us as we try to know what is happening and plan for future apostolic ventures. When Anne returned to France, she sent her impressions of her stay with us:



“My stay in the Philippines was profitable to me personally and professionally. My time with NGO Kaloob helped me establish a report for the current financial year. Being able to put into practice the knowledge I gained at school was comforting but it also taught me not to pursue this line of work in the future. As to my interventions in the squatters area of Marytown, these were too short for me to really bring any structure to the edifice. The fact that I do not speak Tagalog only reinforced my impression. But I did, in hind sight, see a real progress from the beginning.

To live in a religious community is really an enriching experience. I liked to be able to meet the novices and the postulants. It was most interesting to discover the different engagements and the different convictions in a religious along his way. The international character of the community immediately pleased me, especially at the meals, for these were an occasion to exchange views. To be able to enrich my vocabulary with a few words of Japanese, of Chinese, of Tagalog and of Vietnamese – what a pleasure!

The strong point of this stay has been the confrontation of cultures so different...This demands a lot of adaptation and it has broadened my views!”



Bro. Ellis Luciano, who is in charge of accompanying the volunteers, shares with us his conviction of the richness that they bring to us.

One of the realities of our community is the presence of various brothers of different nationalities in our community. With the arrival of our five volunteers from different countries (2 from Belgium, 2 from UK, and 1 from France), our community was enriched all the more by this diversity. With open arms and hearts, we welcomed our volunteers who will share with our work in different social and ecclesial ministries.

I appreciate this opportunity to strengthen more my experience about Assumptionists' thrust on lay empowerment. Their presence in our community challenges me to be more open to various cultures, traditions, practices, and way of doing things, which is also part of our congregation's emphasis on internationality. Yes, there are differences and even some difficulties but we don't let these hinder us in achieving our goal in working for the Kingdom and for the good of our neighbours especially the poor. In a more personal level, our volunteers allow me to see the goodness in different calling in the Church, as a religious, seeing our couple-volunteers made me more aware of the richness of vocations present in our Church. Together with the prayers of the community, I wish our volunteers all the best in their endeavours here in the Philippines!

Solidarity with the Victims of the Typhoons

In Malibay a school resurrects after the awful typhoon Ondoy

After the awful typhoon, “Ondoy,” in October 2009, the school of the Religious of the Assumption in Malibay (a very poor neighbourhood of Manila) was obliterated. Sunday the 31st of July after a year and a half of construction we celebrated the end of construction in the chapel of the school.

This school today can face all eventualities. Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, making a reference to the multiplications of the loaves in the Gospel story, spoke of the miracle of generosity. Effectively, the gifts of the donors - including that of the Catholic Community against Hunger and for the Development of France and yours - permitted the school by the gifts it received – yours included – to have new lease on life.



Worse Than Ondoy

On the 29th of September, two years after the typhoon “Ondoy” which had fallen on Manila and its surrounding regions, a typhoon more powerful yet – “Pedring” - fell on the North of the Philippines, with winds of 91 miles an hour or 160 km/hour. More than 160,000 persons had to leave their homes.

The country of Bro. Alex, Pampanga, was very much affected by the typhoon “Pedring” and the 2nd of October, another very typhoon called “Quiel” also hit the area. Brothers, postulants and volunteers went on site to help out the best way they could in the distribution of relief and help the Sisters devise a plan of action. The Sisters themselves were affected by the deluge. With the professors of the Technical and Professional School of San Simon, they devised a plan to help to the inundated refugees.

Our NGO Kaloob – “of one heart” – is constructing a long-term program of help and reconstruction. (visit our website www.kaloob.ph).

Bro. Ed Molina shares with us his experience: San Simon Underwater



The last two typhoons that hit the Philippines this year spared Manila but badly hit the provinces in the North. However, it still came as a surprise that a town just an hour's bus ride from Manila and many others in the area were submerged in flood waters.

The Religious of the Assumption who run the Assumpta School in San Simon, Pampanga, informed us that that since September 28 when the typhoon struck until the first week of October, they suspended classes and were busy with relief operations in almost all the neighbourhoods of San Simon.

We rushed to make an ocular inspection of the situation but were immediately asked to help in the distribution of relief goods to the many affected families. We were shocked at what we saw. Whole plantations of rice and other crops turned into lakes; trees and houses buried under flood waters; and people just trying to manage with the little that they have.

The following day, Assumptionist brothers, lay volunteers and the Assumptionist postulants left Manila early in the morning to help in the relief operations; whether that meant packing relief bags with rice, water, canned goods, medicine and clothes or hauling into trucks sacks of relief goods for distribution in the flood affected areas.

At the end of the day, the relief efforts were far from over, it would take days for the flood waters to finally subside and allow the people to get on with their lives, but even if we also had to go back to our own daily task in Manila, we will keep in our hearts and minds the memories of the people we met with smiles of gratitude in their faces facing bravely the disaster before them.

One could not forget the little acts of integrity and honor in the midst of confusion in the distribution centres.. I handed one man bottles of drinking water that would be barely enough for him and his family for a day. It took a while for him to receive his bag of relief goods but when he finally received them, I handed him again some bottles of water forgetting that I had already given him his share. I was surprised at what he said: “Brother, I had already received my share of water. Thank you po, (“po” is an honorific in Tagalog) brother.”



When he could have taken advantage of the confusion and the circumstances, he chose not to. He chose honor over greed; integrity over need. Moments such as this relieve the sores and ache one feels at the end of the day and gives joy to the heart. And affirms that, "Yes! We Filipinos are worth dying for!" (Benigno Aquino, former Senator)

In Piat The Houses Stand Firm

One of our programs after the last typhoon was the construction of 40 houses in Piat in the Northern part of the country. When there is a typhoon coming, we are always afraid for the safety of the people living there. But the houses are solid. Bro. Ricky Montañez, who is in-charge of a scholarship program for the youth in Piat, re-assured us.

"Build your house on rock!" Jesus tells us in the Gospels (Mt. 7:24-26/Luke 6:48) so that "when the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock". This is what the beneficiaries of the housing project of the Kaloob Foundation of the Assumptionists had for houses after the project was completed last summer. These houses sheltered them from the two back-to-back destructive typhoons that pummeled the Philippines recently. These beneficiaries who used to reside along the riverbanks now live in the relocation area that the Assumptionists helped to develop along with the local government through the assistance of some international funding agencies and donors. Being the pilot project and a source of encouragement for the foundation, Kaloob aims to reach out to other communities in need to help them in their development and sustainability.

Help us to help! Thank you for sending you donations too!

Send your donations to :

In the Philippines (Php):

Assumptionist Philippine Delegation
Account No. 3081-1158-92
Bank of the Philippine Islands
Loyola-Katipunan Branch-Quezon City
Philippines

In the States (US\$):

Augustinians of the Assumption –
Philippines,
330 Market Street -BRIGHTON, MA
02135 -USA

In Canada (Canadian \$):

Montmartre Canadien –
Philippines,
1679, Chemin Saint-Louis
QUEBEC G1S 1G5 –Canada

Phone: 00 632 929 0373

Mail: aa.manila@yahoo.com

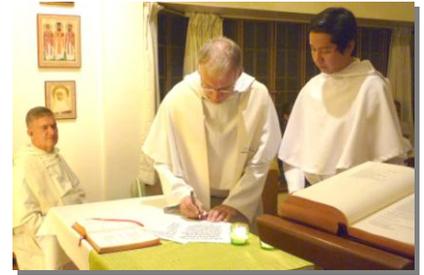
DIARY

The Renewal of Vows of Bro. Blair Nuyda

11 August 2011: Bro. Blair Nuyda renewed his vows. His mother came from the States to be with him at this time.

Birthdays

25 July and 20 August, 2011: The religious of Manila met to celebrate respectively the 40 years of Ricky and of Alex.



Our participation to the World Youth Day in Madrid

August 2011: Bro. Ricky Montañez was blessed to participate to the World Youth Day in Madrid as Volunteer. He is sharing with us his experience of the Church's Dynamism.

"Planted, built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith!" These words from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians made up the theme of the recently concluded World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Although not belonging to the age bracket of the youth anymore, I was privileged to participate in the WYD, not as a youth participant but as the leader of the group of volunteers of the Episcopal Commission on Youth (ECY) for the event. It was a different kind of experience since one's participation is marked not by a direct participation in the activities of the event but by the service that one renders for it.

The Pope noted in his message to the volunteers in his meeting with them, to which I was chosen to participate, that as WYD volunteers, we made a great sacrifice that was both beautiful and evangelical. Through the services that we rendered in the event, the volunteers in a real sense brought to life the Lord's words: "Whoever wants to be first must be the last of all and servant of all." (Mt 9:35).

Like the previous World Youth Days, it was another opportunity to experience the vigor and dynamism of the universal Church, which is a rare occasion especially for the Church in Europe. In one of my exchanges with Iñigo, a fellow volunteer from Asturias, Spain, he told me that the World Youth Day in Madrid is a source of encouragement for many young people today (not only of Spain) who have become timid and even scared to proclaim their faith in a society that tends to marginalize God. We both agreed that more and more activities like this should be organized in the local churches. No wonder, the next big youth gathering is not very far in sight, in Brazil in 2013!!!

I thank the Lord for this experience and the opportunity to visit three of our Assumptionist communities in Spain. May the events bring more fruits to the Spanish Church as well as to the entire universal Church.

Visit to Vietnam

26 – 30 August 2011: Fr. Bernard, in his new function as the "Delegate of the Superior General for Asia" went to Vietnam. This short visit had four objectives: to participate in the ceremony of first vows of the brothers after their novitiate and to express concretely the support of the Pilipino brothers; to visit the Family of the Assumption there and to meet the new Provincial of France and his delegate for Vietnam, Fr. François-Xavier Nguyen Tien; to share on the Asian reality and make some concrete propositions between the Philippines and Vietnam and lastly to meet a Congregation and an Institute of Research who want to send their students to our Language Center in Manila.



In the French Parish of Manila

- 8 September 2011: Fathers Bernard and Gilles met some 15 members of the French Parish of Manila to start the New Year. Some new items: two Sunday Masses a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, a new catechesis for the children, separate liturgies, a monthly meeting of reflection and sharing.
- 25 September 2011: Four Children made their first communion. The celebration was followed by a convivial aperitif of the beginning of the New School Year.
- 20 October 2011: There was a first reflection and sharing with Father Matthieu Dauchez, of the Tulan Ng Kabataan (TNK) foundation, « a bridge for children ». He shared with us his experience with the street children and the lessons that we can glean from them. He promoted his book, "Beggars of Love". (visit the blog of the French Parish: <http://paroissecatholiquefrancophone.blogspot.com>)



Assembly of the Professed Religious of the Delegation

10 September 2011: All the religious of the Delegation of the Philippines held their Assembly in the new Galabert house. After a photo session, the religious revisited their principal activities through a power point presentation, namely the Assumption Language Center and Marytown, and they also looked into a report on the finances of the Delegation. The Assembly finished with Evening Prayer and a common meal.



From left: Bros. Rodel Cervantes, Alex Castro, Cris Quiñal, Ed Molina, Frs. Richard Brunelle, Chuvi Adobango, Bernard Holzer, Bro. Jay Lituañas, Fr. Gilles Boulin, Roddy Ratsimiolaka, Bros. Cris Jeong, Ricky Montañez, Ellis Luciano, Blair Nuyda and Fr. Leo Brassard

A Congolese Association of Charity in the Philippines

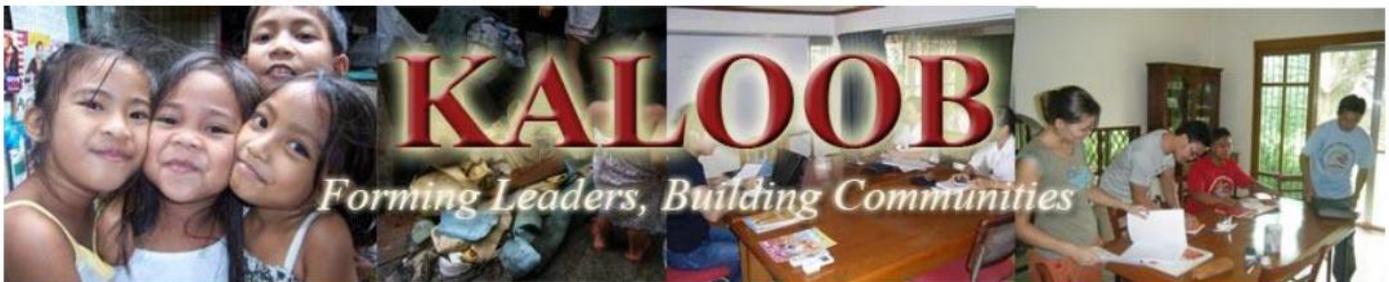
16 October 2011: About forty Congolese from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are now living in the Philippines meet from time to time at Adveniat. Most of them are students, some have distinct professions here and some are married to Filipinas. They decided to create an association of support and mutual help for Congolese with the hope of one day of formulating a project of development for the families that establish themselves here in the Philippines. Our confrere, Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi, was elected the first president of the Association.

To follow more regularly the activity of the communities of the Philippines and the NGO “Kaloob,” to see them in photos, go to our two websites:

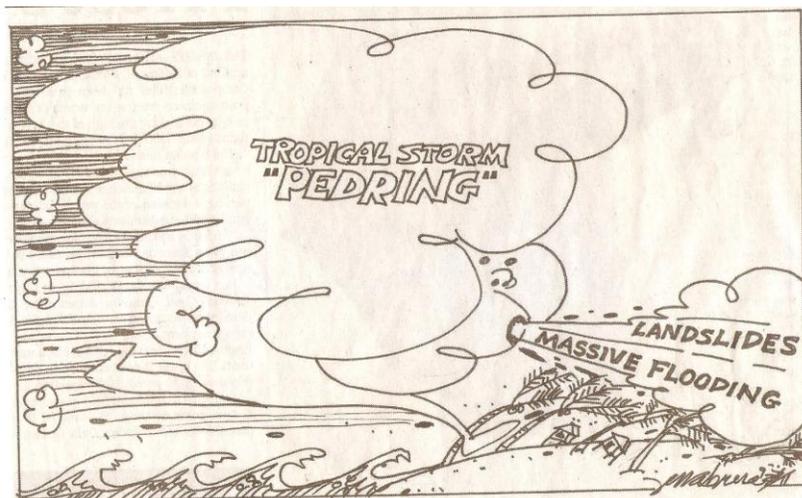
www.assumptionists.ph



www.kaloob.ph



PRESS REVIEW



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER dated 27 September 2011

As Always, Violence

On the 28th of July, seven marines, including a student officer, were killed and 21 other soldier were hurt in a confrontation with the group Abu Sayyaf in the forest of Paztikul, Province de Sulu.

On the 9th of August, the army killed three rebels from the Abu Sayyaf group in Paztikul in the Province of Sulu. On the 13th, two terrorists were killed as they were placing a bomb in front of some official building in Kidapawan City, Mindanao. On the 14th of August, rebels from the New Army of the People, the (NPA), a militant branch of the communist party attacked the police station in Mobo, Province of Masbate. They hurt one soldier and pursued some twenty other policemen and soldiers.

Monday October 3, 300 communist rebels, dressed as policemen, attacked, at the same time, 3 mining companies at Claver (Surigao del Norte), in the southern part of the country. The rebels pillaged and burnt down vehicles for the sum of 1.5 billion dollars. *“This is the Pearl Harbor of the mining industry”*, said one observer. Six thousand miners were forced out of work and because they were unemployed they were sent home. The newspapers decry the lack of means of the army and the police to organize patrols. The newspapers put in doubt the capability of the army to attack rebels.

On Monday the 17 October, at Arakan in the center of the isle of Mindanao, an Italian missionary, Father Fausto Tentorio (59 years of age), who was a member of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missionaries (PIME) was assassinated with multiple gun wounds as he was leaving his rectory to go to the weekly meeting of priests of the diocese at the Bishop’s residence. He was in the Philippines since 1978. Fr. Fausto habitually defended the rights of the Manobos, one of native peoples of Mindanao. This missionary was an ardent defender of the roots of the indigenus in the valley of Arakan. He was recently named at the head of the anti-crime commission of the city.

This is the third Church person felled down since the new government has taken over, following Benjie Bayles, a member of the « Filipina Independent Church » and that of Abe Sungit of the « United Church of Christ in the Philippines ».

The fight against corruption

The new president of the Philippines has made of his electoral campaign and in his actions, the pronouncements against corruption the leit-motif of his addresses. He is trying to reform the army and the police corps, the administration of the customs, of the imports and taxes...But before him is a huge task since corruption has hit all the levels of society.

The private sector has put in place a Charter of integrity advocating transparency in all accounts, paying one’s taxes and imposed duties, the refusal of all corruption in all its forms. Very soon they will attain the summit of 1,000 signatures for business leaders, directors of enterprises.

In the Biggest Arena In The World

For the celebration of the centenary of its foundation in 2014, the “Iglesia ni Kristo” (The Church of Christ), a religious sect which is very politically influent in the Philippines has begun the construction of the biggest covered arena of the world with a capacity of 50,000seats. It will be twice as big as anything that exists in the U.S.!

Swatch has Created a Watch for Assumption College in Manila

Former female students of Assumption College Manila have asked Swatch to create a watch with colors of the College.



NEWS BRIEFS:

- The Number of the Rich is Increasing: According to one bank study, the group becoming affluent in the Philippines - that is with an annual income between \$10,000 and \$100,000 - will augment every year from 10 to 12% in the years to come. This bit of news will incite new investments in the Philippines and already is challenging the bank and promoters to compete for this public. The people in this category have stable employment, travel frequently, use the internet and will use loans for further money making.
- Manila is one of the Cheapest Cities in theWorld : According to many studies, Manila is one of the cheapest cities of the world. The salary of the worker is very low while the cost of energy is very high. « Manila is a blessing for investors and expats, but a bane for the locals! » The poorest make it so that this is the cheapest city in the world.
- The Scourge of Prostitution: Prostitution is the fourth source of revenue of the National Budget. It is estimated that the country has 800,000 prostitutes of which half are minors!
- The Street Children: The social services of Metro Manila have given themselves the objective of cleaning up 10 zones of the capitol where 4,000 children live in its streets. To do this it will gentrify the neighbourhoods and sell the apartments to the parents. The children will be given education programs and permanent work. There will be a follow up to this. Be on the lookout.
- Outsourcing Operations: The Philippines is the third country after India and China for outsourcing operation such as the receiving orders and handling bills by telephone.
- Births outside of marriage: More than 37% of the 1.78 million children born are born of single mothers according to the latest national census. This is an increase of 12.5% over the previous years. According to the same survey religious marriages have decreased by 0.7%.
- Migrant workers: 8.5 million Filipinos, some 10% of the population, work in 196 countries throughout the world. The greatest number of them work in Saudi Arabia, in the Arab United Emirates, in Hong Kong, in Qatar, in Singapore, in Kuwait, in Taiwan, in Italy, in Bahrain and in Canada, while its merchant marines crisscross the seas under the flags of Panama, the Bahamas, Liberia, Malta, Singapore, Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands and the Bermudas. In 2010 they sent back to the country 18.7 thousand billion dollars, and are considered heroes as they greatly help the economy of the country. But they have few rights ...The revolutions in the Arab World and the problems in Japan have seriously affected this work force.