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UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-RECOLETOS

# PR UPDATES



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## **FR. PRES APPOINTS LMS COORDINATORS**

Fray Don Besana, OAR, University President, appointed College Learning Management System (LMS) Coordinators as per recommendation of the Director of the Planning and Quality Assurance Office and with the endorsement of Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR, university Vice President for Academics. Fr. President issued Memo No. 006 s. 2020-2021. The college LMS coordinators are: Czarina Mae G. Ferrer, RMT and Fanelia Villanueva, MN for the College of Allied Medical Health Sciences; Dr. Celo Magallanes and Pinky Prudente, MA for Arts and Sciences; Joanne Saquian, MBA and Christine May Roncales, CPA, MBA for the College of Business and Accountancy; Gladys Estrellanes, PhD and Loriejen F. Dequilato, MCrim for the College of Criminal Justice Education; Nikko Calumpiano, MA and Claire Magbanua for the College of Education and Engr. Leah Joy Hiponia, MECE and Engr. Ashraf Khater, MEnE for the College of Engineering.

## **ON-LINE CLASSES START AT UNO-R**

On-line classes for the Tertiary level have officially opened last August 17, 2020 while online classes in the Integrated School officially opened August 24, 2020. Due to the Pandemic, the university is adopting the on-line mode of teaching in all levels. There is no physical face-to-face classes in the university. The tertiary classes have adopted three phases education for the semester. This means that the first phase opened August 17 and closes on September 25; the second phase is from September 28 to November 6; and third phase is from November 9 to December 18, 2020. Meanwhile, the Integrated School (Grades 11-12) have designed a 2 cycle mode for the online education. "At UNO-R, get an education that SOARS."

## **NEG.OCC AND BACOLOD HOLD "TIME-OUT WEEKEND" ON AUG 28-31,2020**

Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia, Vice Mayor El Cid Familiaran, who chairs the city's IATF, and Councilor Renecito Novero, chair of the Quarantine Centers Action Team, join Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose

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"Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds?  
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Lacson, Board Member Ryan Gamboa, Provincial Administrator Rayfrando Diaz, and Provincial Consultant Alfredo Benitez in a press conference today [August 22] to inform the public of the planned Lockdown for COVID-19 Mass Testing, dubbed “Time-Out Weekend,” from August 28 to 31. This project is initiated by the Provincial Government. A Special Task Force will be created to facilitate the mass testing of 10,000 symptomatic patients and their close contacts in the cities of Bacolod, Silay, Talisay, and Bago, and the municipality of Murcia for four days this weekend. RT-PCR tests are scheduled on August 28-29 in Bacolod, with estimated 5,000 patients. The remaining 5,000 patients from the cities of Silay, Talisay, and Bago, and the town of Murcia will have their swab tests on August 30-31. All 5 molecular bio-laboratories in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental will be used to speed up the processing of these 10,000 swab specimens so the results can be released in 24 hours. Leonardia and Lacson are expected to issue their respective executive orders to implement the said mass testing. (*Bacolod City PIO, August 22,2020*) As of 2 am today, August 27, 2020, Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia issued Executive Order No. 55 for the conduct of COVID-19 Mass Testing under the "O-Plan: One-Time, Big-Time" joint program with the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and 4 other LGUs, and the imposition of the citywide "4-Day No Movement" period from Aug. 28 to 31 to realize the program.\*/CITY PIO (August 27,2020). EO 55, section , stated that “from Aug. 28-31,2020, people movement into the City, out of the City, and within the City shall be prohibited. Provided the following exceptions shall be allowed for: Unhampered movement of any type of cargo in bulk, especially that of the essential commodities and products; Medical cases requiring treatment or therapy at health facilities in the City; Bacolod Residents included in the Mass testing population; Officials of national agencies and commissions, the judiciary, Bacolod City, and the Province of Negros Occidental including LGUs under the latter’s jurisdiction; Government employees of Bacolod City and Provincial Government and other LGUs delivering essential services within Bacolod City; Personnel of national government agencies delivering essential services; Medical Frontliners and Health workers of any LGU; Drivers of Public Transportation units with franchises issued by LTFRB/LGU’s; Drivers of company –owned vehicles purposely servicing its employees; Media Practitioners; Private Security guards; Priests and Religious ministers administering the sacraments and last rites; Personnel of funeral homes and crematoriums; Personnel of restaurants (delivery and take-out only); personnel of Hotels, pension houses and other accommodation facilities that serve as quarantine facilities; Personnel of Category 1 industries (DTI Memo Circular 20-44, July 31, 2020). All public Markers shall be closed from Aug 28-30.

## **GUV: TIME-OUT WEEKEND NEEDS NIATF APPROVAL**



Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Laccson clarified yesterday, August 25, that the planned “Time-out weekend “ needs the approval of the National Inter-Agency task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (NIATF). Lacson also clarified that the areas that would be placed on “Lockdown” during the mass testing as part of the four-day weekend timeout will be implemented in Bacolod on August 28-29 which will then be the first to be placed on a two-day lockdown. After Bacolod City, Lacson said the cities of Silay, Talisay, Bago, and the town of Murcia would be the next on the lockdown from August 30 and 31. If IATF doesn’t approve of the lockdown, Lacson said the mass testing will still continue, and would depend on the available resources.

The Governor pointed out that since the province is under Modified General Community Quarantine, there won’t be similar lockdowns such as those implemented during the ECQ, which is why they would need the approval of the NIATF. Lacson, meanwhile, has expressed doubts if the 10,000 target be reached after it was learned that other testing laboratories in the province are not serviced by PhilHealth. (*Teresa D. Ellera, Sunstar-Bacolod, August 26*)

## **UNO-R CLOSURES FOR DISINFECTION AND IMPLEMENTS STRICTER HEALTH PROTOCOLS IN THE CAMPUS**

The University closed its doors last August 13 to pave the way for a week –long disinfection of the campus. UNO-R was supposed to open last August 17, but as the Kontra COVID -19 Task Force recommendations, the opening of the campus was postponed to August 24,2020. The Fr. President, in his Memo no. 005 on Administrative Updates, also created the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, in compliance to the DTI-DOLE Joint Memo Circular 20-04 s. 2020 or the Supplemental Guidelines for Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID 19. The Committee is chaired by Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR and co-chaired by Dr. Christer Mari Taclobos and Mars Olea. The members are: Engr. Christopher Taclobos; Carlos Eduardo Legaspi, Jr; Dexter Paul Dioso; Carmenda Leonoras;

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Ma. Judy Legaspi; Mary Jane Concel; Winnie Sumbillo, RN; Pallas Athena Joy de Paula, RN; Lilibeth Hablo, RN; Ildefonso Obligado; and Quirico Yanguas.

## BISHOP BUZON SUSPENDS HOLDING OF MASSES



Bacolod Bishop Patricio Buzon, SDB, DD issued Circular Letter No. 2020-011. The Circular tells all Parishes, Chaplaincies, Religious communities and institutes to suspend the celebration of Masses with physical participation of the faithful as a token and show of support to our frontliners from August 24 – 30, 2020. The letter says, this is in response to the request for help made by medical societies in Bacolod and Negros with regards to limiting mass mobility and gatherings as concrete measures of addressing the continuing spike in the number of COVID 19 cases in our communities. The Diocese sees it necessary to give our frontliners and our hospitals the much needed support through this gesture of sympathy of a week-long suspension of Masses. Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia issued a letter of Grateful Appreciation to the Bishop for the decision. In his letter, the mayor said, “This voluntary act on your part, while we are still in MGCQ can only be motivated by great love and concern for all our people, especially your overworked and ‘at risk’ health workers. “



## BISHOP NAVARRA CELEBRATES FEAST OF ST. EZEKIEL MORENO

The Community of the OAR Contemplative nuns of Tangub celebrated the feast of St. Ezekiel Moreno with Bishop Emeritus Vicente Navarra last August 19, 2020. Bishop Navarra thanked the nuns of their presence and their prayers. They are our inspiration., he added. We often complain of the little things and conveniences that this COVID-19 has deprived us of. However, look at this religious nuns, they have given up a lot for the Kingdom of God. We complain of the quarantine periods, but look at them. They have chosen to be perpetually quarantined in the name of Christ. We have to make them our models and stop complaining and we have to start praying for one another, he hinted. The bishop was joined by Fray Emilio Jaruda, Jr., OAR and Fray Randy Castillo, OAR of Recoletos de Talisay community. OAR Friars from UNO-R took turns in celebrating the Novena Masses from August 10-Aug. 18 at the Monastery. The UNO-R Knights of Columbus served as Choir and the UNO-R Heartmedia Productions live streamed the Novena and Fiesta Masses.

## NIATF, MAYOR AND GOVERNOR EXTEND MGCQ

THE National Inter Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (NIATF-EID), Bacolod City Mayor and Negros Occidental Governor extended the Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) in Bacolod City and in Negros Occidental. Governor Eugenio Lacson issued Executive Order 20-36 s. 2020, which extended the MGCQ in the entire province of Negros Occidental until August 31.. Mayor Evelio Leonardia also issued Executive Order 53 which extended the MGCQ in the City until August 31, 2020. Leonardia also issued EO 54 s. 2020, as part of his Executive prerogative as embodied in City Ordinance No. 934 s. 2020, on the extension of the implementation of curfew hours in the city from 8 pm to 4 am until August 31, 2020.

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## PARREÑO AND ESTRELLANES ARE PHD CJ

Dr. Jasmin Parreño, Dean of the College of Criminal Justice Education and Dr. Gladys T. Estrellanes were conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Major in Criminal Justice (PhD CJ) with specialization in Criminology from the University of Mindanao, Matina Campus, Davao City. They are recipients of the K-12 Transition Scholarship Program of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) last June 2016. Dr. Parreño's Dissertation is titled "The Lived Experiences of the Female Inmates: The Unfolding," while Dr. Estrellanes dissertation is titled, "Structural Equation Model of Adolescent Resilience among Criminology Students. Both studies were published in the International Journal of Information Research and Review. Parreño's study was also published in the Philippine Criminology Journal by Chapter House Publishing, Inc and was presented in the 2019 International Research Conference at the Ateneo de Manila University, where she won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Presenter.

Meanwhile, One (1) of the College of Criminal Justice Education graduates was declared NUMBER 1 in the class of 99 students-Police Non-Commissioned Officers (PNCOs) with an overall rating of 93.12% during the graduation ceremonies of the Public Safety Basic Recruit Course (PSBRC), RTC 6 Class 2020 – 01, last August 14, 2020, held at PNP Regional Training Center 6, Bakyas, Mansilingan, Bacolod City. **PATROLMAN QUENNIE G. BARREDO**, who graduated magna cum Laude of UNO-R batch 2018, joined the Philippine National Police last February 11, 2020. Among the awards she received were Armed Defense Tactics- Female category – Highest Rating – 89.91%; Academic Phase – Highest Rating – 93.23%; Comprehensive Examination – Highest Rating – 96.67%; Physical Fitness Test - Highest Rating – 98.08%; and Subject Proficiency - Highest Rating – 92-74%.

**Congratulations! We are proud of you! UNO-R CCJE!** (news from CCJE).

## ARCHBISHOP CRUZ SUCCOMBS TO COVID 19

Known anti-gambling crusader Archbishop Oscar Cruz died on Wednesday due to complications from the coronavirus disease, a church official said. Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan said Cruz succumbed to "multiple organ failure caused by critical Covid-19 infection". Cruz passed away at 6:45am at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan City. He was 85. Cruz was the third Filipino prelate to contract the coronavirus after Bishop Broderick Pabillo, the apostolic administrator of the Manila archdiocese, and Bishop Emeritus Deogracias Iñiguez of Kalookan. Both Pabillo and Iñiguez have already recovered. Following health protocols, he said that Cruz's remains will be cremated immediately and will be brought to the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist in Dagupan City. Cruz served as archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan from 1991 until his retirement in 2009. Cruz was known for his relentless campaign against illegal gambling, particularly "jueteng". To advance his crusade, he founded the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng in 2004 that eventually transformed into a bigger anti-gambling advocacy. Born in Balanga, Bataan in 1934, Cruz was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Manila in 1962. In 1976, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Manila and worked with Cardinal Jaime Sin until he was named archbishop of San Fernando in 1978. In 1991, he was appointed archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan, a post he served for 18 years. He also served as president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines from 1995 to 1999. During his time as CBCP head, the bishops' Office on Women was created and the offices on media, legal and research were operationalized. After his retirement at the age of 75, Cruz remained as judicial vicar of the CBCP National Appellate Tribunal of Appeals and director of the Legal Office. In 2018, a bout of pneumonia weakened him that he had to leave his remaining posts at the CBCP. On August 10, his condition deteriorated that he was shifted to the hospital from the CBCP headquarters in Manila where he had been staying. Archbishop Cruz also wrote 54 books, including the CBCP Guidelines on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: A Critique, and Call of the Laity. His funeral Mass will take place at 9am on Friday, Aug. 28 at the Saint John the Evangelist Cathedral. He will be laid to rest at the Santuario de San Juan Evangelista. Villegas said that only the priests and bishops together with the archbishop's family will be allowed to attend the funeral Mass in adherence to prevailing health protocols. "We encourage the Catholic faithful to follow the liturgical rites on social media livestream," he said.

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**Eternal Rest grant unto Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, DD, O Lord.  
Let Perpetual Light shine upon him.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful through the mercy of God, rest in peace,  
Amen.**

## **AUGUST 28, FEAST OF OUR FATHER, ST. AUGUSTINE**



St. Augustine of Hippo is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a former life of loose living, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions. His complete turnaround and conversion has been an inspiration to many who struggle with a particular vice or habit they long to break. This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day, however, he heard about two men who had suddenly been converted on reading the life of St. Antony, and he felt terrible ashamed of himself. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend Alipius. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!" Full of bitter sorrow, Augustine flung himself out into the garden and cried out to God, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Just then he heard a child singing, "Take up and read!"

Thinking that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the book of the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage his gaze fell on. It was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life. He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious priests, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too. On the wall of his room he had the following sentence written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervor right up until his death. "Too late have I loved You!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion. His feast day is August 28th. ([https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=418](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=418))

**VIVA SAN AGUSTIN!!!**