



September 19, 2020

Vol. XIII no. 35

University of Negros Occidental - Recoletos, Bacolod City

PR UPDATES

An official publication of the Office of External Affairs



UNO-R HOLDS BOT MEETING

The University of Negros Occidental - Recoletos, Inc. Board of Trustees (BOT) held its zoom meeting last June 15, 2020. This is the first time that the Board meeting was held virtually because of the Pandemic. The meeting was led by BOT Chair and Prior Provincial Rev. Fr. Dionisio Selma, OAR. Present were: Provincial Councilor and REAP President Fray William Villaflor, OAR; Provincial Councilor Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR; Provincial Councilor Fray Edgar Tubio, OAR; UNO-R President Fray Don Besana, OAR; USJ- R President Fray Christopher Maspara, OAR; SSC-R, Manila President Fray Nemesio Tolentin, OAR; SSC-R de Cavite President Fray Rafael Pecson, OAR; Fray Henry Santiago, OAR; BOT Secretary and UNO-R VP-Academics Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR; UNO-R P-Administration Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR; Atty. Ulpiano Sarmiento; Dr. Ma. Socorro de Leon; and Secretary to the UNOR President Mrs. Ma. Judy Legaspi. Fray Besana presented his President’s report to the BOT while the Financial Report was presented by Fray Villaflor with UNO-R Controller Mrs. Luisa Catague, CPA, MBA.

FR. PRESIDENT ISSUES UNO-R GUIDELINES on MECQ

Fray Don Besana, OAR issued Memo No. 13 s. AY 2020 - 2021 on University Guidelines for the MECQ, September 8, 2020. Pursuant to the National Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases Resolution No. 69-A Series of 2020 dated September 07, 2020 and Bacolod City Executive Order No. 60 Series of 2020, Bacolod City is placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) classification from September 8 to 30, 2020. And with reference to the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, the University is adopting necessary measures to promote the health and safety of everyone in the midst of the rising cases of COVID-19. In this regard, we will be closing the UNO-R campus and entry will be strictly prohibited starting September 9 to 30, 2020. However, The University adopted the “Work from

“To LOVE and to be LOVED is the most important thing for me.”

- St. Augustine

Home” scheme for all its employees (teaching and non-teaching). Classes in all levels continue to be conducted online. All deans, directors, and office heads are hereby instructed to ensure that their respective personnel perform works at home and that necessary outputs be required as proof of their performance of works; For exigency reasons, offices offering essential services such as the Office of the Registrar, Information and Communication Technology Department (ICTD), Human Resource Management and Development Office (HRMDO), Accounting Office, Property Administrator’s Office (PAO), and the Medical-Dental Clinic may open provided that minimum number of personnel shall report to the said offices; READS scholars not to report to duty and are encouraged to stay at home all the time; and The septenary for the feast of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Patron Saint of UNO-R, continued as scheduled by the Campus Ministry Office (CMO). His feast day on September 10 be celebrated with a Holy Mass via Facebook live streaming. The Memo directed the Campus Ministry Office to publish the Mass schedule, and everyone is invited to attend the Mass online. The Fr. President requests everyone to continue praying for our safety and seek for the intercession of St. Nicholas of Tolentine and our Blessed Mother Mary, whose birthday is celebrated on the 1st day of MECQ in the city, that this pandemic will soon be over.



UNO-R VIRTUALLY CELEBRATES FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

With Bacolod City under MECQ, a live streaming Eucharistic Celebration was done September 10, 2020 in honor of the patron of UNO-R, St. Nicholas of Tolentino. Fay Amadeo Lucero, OAR led the Eucharistic celebration at the Oratory of St. Nicolas of Tolentino and observing the protocols of the MECQ. In his Homily, Fray Lucero sad that the theme of the celebration is Mission. We are all called to be missionaries (we are sent). As missionaries, we need to be giving and loving. We can never clam that we are loving without giving. He pointed out that we should give ourselves for others abundantly, generously and courageously. St. Nicholas was generously offered by his parents to God, his whole life was an offering to God. He was a Christian, Priest, and Religious, who had helped the poor, the abandoned, the sick and even the dead. Let St. Nicholas be our inspiration that God will ever abandon us. We have to be happy that God is always with us. Fray Lucero was also celebrating his 31st Sacerdotal Anniversary that day.



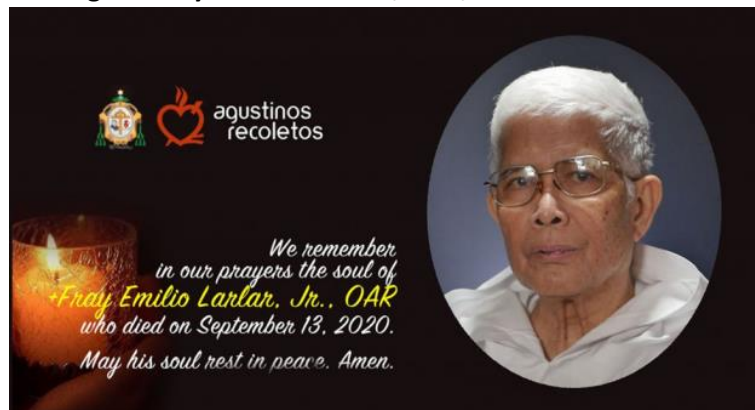
12 SIAP -JAPAN STUDENT INTERNS RETURN

The 12 UNO-Rians, under the Student Internship Abroad Program (SIAP)- Japan, have returned to the Philippine Last September 3, 2020. Their OJT in Japan had been extended because of the pandemic. They will be the last group to undergo this experience because the Commission on Higher Education had issued moratorium on the SIAP programs and The Japanese Company also suspended their internship program. Chuo Foods Corporation wished to continue the program after this pandemic. The students started their internship in Japan last January 9, 2020 and

ended in September 2, 2020. The 12 are Begei P. Matia-ong; Norman C. Garcia; John Martin Nadales; Ralph B. Rocaberte; Reyna Joy T. Atienza; Michelyn A. Bat-og; Ella Mae A. Napallatan; Sosamae N. Sampiano; Mary Grace M. Estrada; Girlie B. Paglinawan; Cyrene Mae O. Canoy; and Josel May G. Mercado. It is sad to note that 2 of the twelve were tested positive of COVID -19 but remain asymptomatic. Together as one community, we pray to God for their healing, *(Data and picture from Ms Josel May Mercado)*

FORMER UNO-R LOCAL PRIOR JOINS OUR CREATOR

Message of Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial of the Province of St Ezekiel Moreno.



TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FAMILY

Saddened yet full of hope, we relay to you this notice that our brother, FRAY EMILIO LOBERIZA LARLAR JR., OAR, passed away in the early hours of September 13, 2020, a Sunday, at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Provincial Center, Quezon City (Philippines). He succumbed to sudden cardiac arrest, occasioned by COVID-19. He was 80 years old, 59 years of which was spent in the religious life and 55 years as a priest.

Father Emil was born on November 14, 1939 in Bago City, Negros Occidental. After

graduating from Lambunao Elementary School in Lambunao, Iloilo, in 1952, he became a Recollect seminarian at the age of 12 by entering, on that year, in the erstwhile Colegio Apostólico (Minor Seminary) de Sto. Tomás de Villanueva in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. Together with his batchmates, he continued his seminary formation at San Jose Seminary in Quezon City until he graduated in 1956. In that same Jesuit-run seminary, he also obtained his AB Philosophy in 1960.

He, and two other Filipino postulants, entered the novitiate in Monteagudo (Navarra, Spain) where they took the Recollect habit on July 4, 1960. For his part, he took the religious name Fray Emilio Larlar de San Juan Vianey. On July 5 of the following year, he made his simple profession of vows in the same convent. Then, for his four-year theologate, he proceeded to Marcilla (also in Navarra, Spain) where he made his solemn profession of vows on July 5, 1964; diaconal ordination on January 10, 1965; and presbyteral ordination on July 18, 1965. He received both sacred orders, including the minor orders, from the hands of the Recollect bishop, Most Rev. Arturo Quintanilla.

As a newly-ordained priest, Father Emil's first assignment was at San Sebastian College- Recoletos in Cavite City. Here, he was the School Chaplain, from 1965 to 1967, and the High School Principal, from 1967 to 1969. He was then transferred to the Recollect parish community in San Juan de Bolbok, Batangas to be its assistant parish priest for a year, from 1969 to 1970. The next 12 years (1970-1982) would see him living his consecrated life in Madrid, Spain. He was assigned as the chapel in-charge or sacristan of the Provincialate community in Paseo de la Habana, and did apostolate as teacher in Gaztambide.

From 1982 to 1985, he lived and worked in Mexico City (Mexico) as assistant parish priest of the Parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. The succeeding three triennia (1985-1994) would be a continuing immersion in pastoral ministries, but this time, in the Recollect parishes in USA: as parish priest of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Deming, New Mexico (1985-1988); as assistant parish priest of Parroquia de Cristo Rey in El Paso, Texas (1988-1991); as assisting priest and vocation promoter residing at Casa de San Alipio in Mesilla, New Mexico (1991-1993); and as a member of the newly-established community of Parroquia de San Antonio, also in New Mexico, but he was particularly assigned as parish priest of the St. Thomas More Parish in Chaparral (1993-1994).

In 1994, after 24 years of apostolic works abroad, Father Emil returned to the Philippines where he would spend the remaining 26 years of his religious-priestly life.

From 1994-1999, which covered the transition of the Vicariate of the Philippines and China to being the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, he was the Local Prior of the community of the University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu City, and, at the same time, the Vice President for Finance of USJ-R.

With the establishment of the new Recollect community of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, he was appointed local prior and parish priest, from 2000 to 2003. For the next triennium, 2003-2006, he stayed at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod City to be its local prior and the school's Vice President for

Religious Affairs. With the extended apostolate in Barangay Handumanan, he was President of the Recoletos Social Outreach Center (RESOURCE) Foundation, Inc., from 2003 to 2007.

He was appointed local procurator and first councilor of the St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate- Recoletos (SEMONORE) in Antipolo City, from 2006 to 2009, and during this triennium, he was also appointed National Director of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) and extraordinary confessor of the formands of Recoletos Formation Center in Miranila. Then, from 2009 to 2012, he became the local prior of SEMONORE in Antipolo.

From 2012 to 2015, he returned to the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City to be the vice-prior of the community and the Vice President for Administration of the university. During this triennium, he was also appointed as Director of the Talavera House of Prayer-Recoletos and Assistant to SARF Spiritual Director for the Visayas Area. But in 2014, the Prior Provincial, in line with the Prior General's concern for communications "liberated [him] from some of his office assignments and allow him to have more time to translate documents, especially those that pertain to our ongoing formation."

For the triennium 2015-2018, he was transferred to the Provincial Curia and was appointed one of the official translators of the Province. He was also appointed as the National Spiritual Director of SARF-Philippines. But with the establishment of a new parish community (i.e., Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish) in Project 6, Cubao, Quezon City in July 2015, he was appointed as its local prior. After a year of service here, he was re-assigned to the Provincial Curia. Here he was able to focus on his other ministries as one of the confessors and spiritual directors of the Recollect seminaries in Luzon.

The beginning of the quadrennium 2018-2022 saw Father Emil staying put in the Provincial House as the local second councilor. He also continued with the tasks given to him previously: as one of the official translators of the Province and extraordinary confessor of the Recollect seminaries in Luzon.

Father Emil, as a religious, has been very observant of common life. He valued silence, togetherness with the brothers during recreation, and punctuality in the performance of duties, particularly prayers in common. He kept his special devotions to Our Lady and the Sacred Heart. As a priest, he was disposed to do ministerial works wherever the proper authority would send him, much like his personal patron saint, St. John Marie Vianey. It was only in these later years that, because of physical illnesses, he was not given much work. Since 2018, the deacon assigned in the community has been designated to accompany him in his apostolate.

However, despite his fragile health, Father Emil would still spend fruitfully most of his free time in his room, doing translation works, in front of his computer. Last triennium, he has finished translating to English, among other minor works, the three-volume opus, with a total of more than 650 pages, of Fr. Francisco Moriones OAR's "Augustinian Recollect Spirituality." And just this August 2020, he has finished singlehandedly translating to English the Ritual of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, with a total of around 535 pages in the new layout.

Father Emil has still a lot of pending works in mind. He was also looking forward to celebrating the diamond jubilee of his religious life next year, and be the second Filipino Recollect to do so. But God has far greater plans for him. Far more beautiful yet mysterious. And his sudden demise somehow gave us a glimpse of those, and brought us a joyful reminder about this special moment in the earthly pilgrimage of every consecrated person "as reaching the beginning of that which is eternally new, in which the fullness of truth and love is revealed" (Add. Code 275).

We pray that our triune God who is rich in mercy and unmatched in goodness welcome our brother, Father Emil, to his heavenly abode where, together with the angels and the saints, he will forever rest, contemplate, love, and praise. (<https://recoletosfilipinas.org/2020/09/14/obituary-fray-emilio-loberiza-larlar-jr-oar2/>)

(Fray Emilio L. Larlar, OAR was laid to rest last September 15, 2020 after the Funeral Mass officiated by Fray Lauro Larlar, OAR with his confreres.)

NIATF PLACES BACOLOD UNDER MECQ

The National Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (NIATF) issued Resolution #69-A last September 7, 2020. In the said resolution, the NIATF placed the City of Bacolod and Lanao del Sur under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) from September 8 - September 30, 2020 as recommended by National Chief Implementer of the Philippines' Declared National Policy against COVID-19. The resolution was signed by Karlo Alexei Nograles, Cabinet Secretary and NIATF Co-Chairperson. After which, Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia issued Executive Order #60 placing the entire City under MECQ. Leonardia further clarified that despite the MECQ in Bacolod until September 30, there is no total lockdown in Bacolod, contrary to a claim in some sectors that there is one. It is clear in the guidelines of the NIATF that many businesses and offices are still allowed to open under MECQ but on a reduced operating capacity. For example, dining establishments/restaurants can only do take-out and delivery but no dine-in, and to operate with only half of their work force, Leonardia said. But if some businesses will decide to close for the duration of this MECQ, that is their option, too, he added. "I know that the suspension of public transport is the main bone of contention during this MECQ.

Many businesses will have a hard time making sales when public transportation is suspended as several of their employees and customers travel to them via public transport,” the mayor said. Leonardia further explained: “Maybe from their point of view, that is tantamount to a total lockdown. I understand that and I sympathize with them, too. However, under the guidelines of the NIATF, suspension of public transport is a must-do under an MECQ. This is a feature of MECQ we cannot escape from. This is the main difference between MECQ and the previous GCQ (General Community Quarantine) where we were before September 7. The LGUs are mere implementors of the measures imposed by the NIATF for each kind of community quarantine. However, it should be emphasized that private cars are still allowed under MECQ as well as commissioned shuttle services for employees of offices and businesses permitted to operate under MECQ. Point-to-point (P2P) transport services shall also be allowed, and the use of bikes and other non-motorized transportation is encouraged,” the mayor added.

