



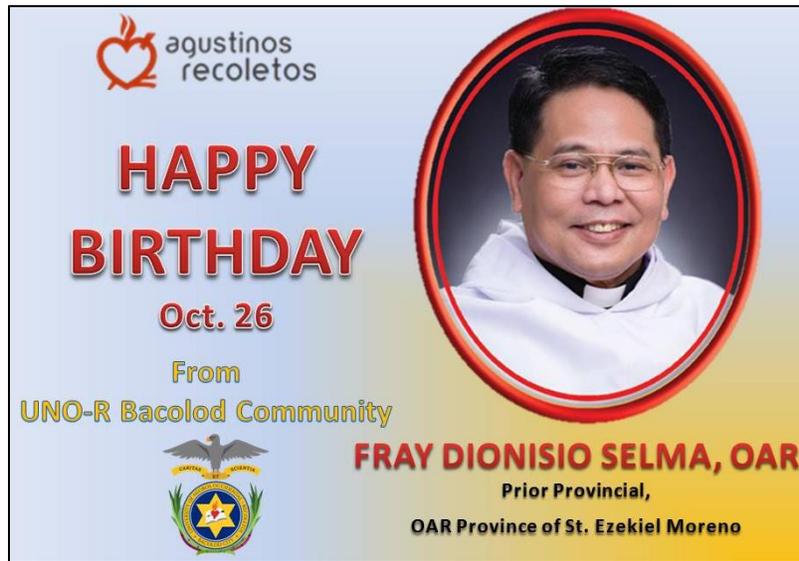
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PR UPDATES

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VIRTUAL MEETING OF EDUCAR

October 23, 2020, the Office of the REAP President called for a virtual meeting with the School Heads and the members of the EDUCAR international work teams with Fray Antonio Carron, OAR, General Councilor and Head of the Educational Apostolate of the Order last October 23, 2020 at 4 pm (10 am ,Rome) The meeting opened with a beautiful prayer by Fray Carron. Prior General, Fray Miguel Miro, OAR gave the welcome address. He thanked the Friars and the lay collaborators for working with the educational apostolate. As the world shrinks because of technology, there is a need for us to do our apostolate with unity of mind and heart. Fr. Carron introduced how EDUCAR has used the social media as platforms of communication and as avenue for unity. He then presented the seven conclusions made in the EDUCAR conference. He 7 conclusions are: Institutional educational project; formation of regional and international teams; promotion of evangelization among educational centers; management of Quality assessment Models; Gradual Integration of the Corporate Identity Manual; international work teams: Ministry, Communication, Pastoral, Projects; Child protection Program. Fr. Carron added that the formation of these teams will give the opportunity to work, learn and collaborate with one another. The teams will have a regular meeting thrice in a year. The resolutions adopted by the teams shall adopt the context of the country. The meeting ended some questions were clarified by Fr. Carron.



VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. MAGDALENE OF NAGASAKI

October 20, the University community in union with the Augustinian Recollect communities around the world joined in the feast of St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, Martyr and Patron Saint of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity. A solemn Eucharistic celebration led by Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR was held after the community rosary at the Oratory. This was followed by the Holy Mass via Facebook live streaming celebrated by Fray Dionisio Selma, OAR, Prior Provincial at 4 pm. After the Mass, a virtual celebration was made by all the members of SARF -OAR Province-wide. Fray Emeterio Bunao, OAR, SARF National Assistant Spiritual Adviser, led the Opening Prayer and opened the program with his Opening Remarks. Sis. Zenaida Lapuz, SAR, SARF VP - Luzon gave the objectives of the celebration and acknowledged the Chapters and guests. Messages were then given by Fray Bernabe Dosdos, OAR, SARF National Spiritual Adviser and by the Prior Provincial. SARF VP-Visayas, Sis. Carmenda Leonoras, SAR opened the gift to the Province by presenting the new SARF Chapter of Sierra Leone, Africa. Fray Jose Prudencio Castillo, OAR gave his response message. Sis. Ceres Alcantara, SAR, National 1st Councilor introduced the guest speaker, Fray Ian Anthony Espartero, OAR, President, Committee on Spirituality and Liturgy, Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno. SARF National President Bro. Edwin T. Ruiz, SAR gave a short message. Fray Regino Bangcaya, OAR; and Fray Vicente Ramon, Jr., OAR, SARF Regional Spiritual Advisers from Palawan and Negros gave their short virtual messages. Fray Leopoldo Estioko OAR, SARF Spiritual Adviser for Cebu, gave the Closing Remarks.

WELCOME, FR. POTS AND THANK YOU , FR. JOJO



We warmly welcome Fray Romeo Ben Alteza Potenciano, Jr., OAR to the university community and we thank Fray Teodulfo Jadulco, OAR for his generosity during his stay at the university. Fr. Pots, as he is fondly called, was born on November 5, 1975 in Iriga City. He had his simple profession on April 24, 1999; his Solemn Profession on June 16, 2002, his diaconal ordination was on December 9, 2002. He was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on December 5 2003. He earned his AB Philosophy in 1997 from Casiciaco-Recoletos, Baguio, his Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STh.B) from RFC-UST, Manila in 2003. In 2009, he earned his Licentiate in Patristic Science from Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome, Italy. Today, he is assigned at UNO-R as Director of Religious Education Department and is under the supervision of the Vice President for Religious Affairs. *(President's Memo No. 25, series of SY 2020-2021)*

UNO-R Alumnus is 68th PSME NATCO CHAMPION

Former UNOR Rams and PSME Negros Occidental Chapter member Engr. Jan Danielle Magalona emerged champion in the recent Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers 68th Virtual National Conference online chess tournament. *(by Engr. Herminio Tolentino, Jr. www.lichess.org/teo/psme-chess-club)*



US SCHOOL RECOGNIZES UNO-R ALUMNUS

Arizona, USA - Dr. Roy Basa, College of Education and Recoletos de Bacolod Alumnus was awarded the "Above and Beyond" Award by the River Valley School, Arizona, USA last October 21, 2020. This award is given to who performed above and beyond the District's expectations. In in facebook post, Dr. Basa wrote: "To God be the glory. For a Filipino receiving an award in a foreign land is something to be treasured.

I never expected that I will have this award from a foreign country, (Arizona, USA) and from a foreign school (River Valley High School), but THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Dr. Roy was also a recipient of the Blue and Gold alumni Association as Outstanding alumni achiever in the field of education.

UNO-R AUMNUS IS JIU-JITSU FEDERATION PAN AM GOLD MEDALIST



A NEGRENSE has captured the world with his knack on the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a self-defense martial art and combat sport, successfully earning the championship title (gold medalist) in the recently concluded International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) PAN Americans Championship 2020, Light Featherweight Division, held at Silver Spurs Arena Kissimmee, Florida from October 8 to 11, 2020. Doctor Sunny "Pin" Diego is the first Filipino from Negros Island to become a Master 3 Champion in PAN Americans in history. Pan Ams is one of the biggest Jiu-Jitsu events in the world. Competitors from different countries travel to the USA just to compete at the Pan Ams. Doctor Sunny Diego fought against Ramiro

Morales of Tiburones BJJ Puerto Rico and American Ryan Cramer of Gracie Barra Arizona in the finals which gained him the title of Light Featherweight PAN American Champion for 2020. He is the first Filipino student of Omar Salum Jr. to win the PAN Americans in history.

Diego, the current gold medalist, is the great-grandson of late Santiago "Tagoy" H. Diego, Sr., the founder of the Municipality of Candoni, Negros Occidental, son of Sany Diego and Doctor Crispina Diego and is married to Hannah Robles Diego, a Registered Nurse who are both residing in California, USA. He finished his studies at the University of Negros Occidental Recoletos in Bacolod City. One of Sunny Diego's dreams is to be an inspiration to many people especially to his own "kababayans." He has touched many through his words as he always believes that words with actions are way better than just words. As he is part of the John Maxwell Team, he believes that a leader "knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." His humility to learn, discipline and hard work have given him a name in this martial arts world. He always vows to continue to serve as a motivator and inspiration to many people as long as he lives. He offers this feat all to the glory of God and celebrates his Gold Medal in the good name of his parents, Sany Diego and Doctor Crispina Diego. (*NEWS BY Carla Canet sunstar.com.ph/article/1873677/Bacolod/Lifestyle/Sunny-Diego-wins-gold-in-Jiu-Jitsu-Pan-Ams-Championship-2020?fbclid=IwAR3XnnEUK6FuPL-84zmYqOndJSL0WYfzk4lBhkrh5IZrXHUZpv8s8nDHiDw*)

FR. PRESIDENT ISSUES UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES FOR OCT. 19 - 31

The Fr. President, Fray Don Besana, OAR, issued Memo#026 s.2020-2021 dated October 15, 2020, known as the "University Guidelines for October 19-31, 2020". In the said memo, skeletal workforce scheme will still be followed, where employees will report to work three (3) times a week from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM or a total of 21 hours per week. READS scholars shall not report to duty and are advised to stay at home all the time. And The following employees who have been diagnosed of COVID-19; those who have symptoms of COVID-19; and those who have family member(s) diagnosed of COVID-19 or have member(s) of the family exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, are prohibited from reporting to work. Also, Employees are highly discouraged from visiting hospitals or health facilities. However, should their visit to hospitals or health facilities be inevitable, they have to observe 2-3 days break before returning to work. The 2-3 days break shall be chargeable to their annual leave credits. And In-person transactions and frequent ingress of outsiders to the University shall be highly discouraged. For exigency reasons, telephone or online appointments shall be made prior to their visit to the University. Furthermore, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committee is under instruction to monitor closely and implement strictly health and safety protocols for the protection of the UNO-R employees. Moreover, in compliance with applicable City Ordinance, we are implementing the BaCTrac system for easy monitoring and tracing in the event of COVID-19 contraction inside the campus. So, the Fr. President enjoins everyone to observe the guidelines and observe healthy and safe measures to avert the spread of the corona virus in our campus.

VP -FINANCE ISSUES VPF MEMO No. 05 - 101420

Fray William C. Villaflor, OAR issued VPF Memo no. 05-101420 or the Guidelines for Online Submission of Documents. The said memo states that in view of the pandemic and as a safety measure to prevent the spread of COVID 19, it is advised that submission of hard copies of requests, advances, memos and other related documents be done online through the email address: accountinginfo@uno-r.edu.ph.

POPE NAMES ARCHBISHOP ADVINCULA AS NEW CARDINAL



October 25, 2020, Manila, Philippines - Pope Francis has appointed 13 new cardinals including Filipino Archbishop Jose Advincula. The pope made the announcement during his Sunday Angelus in the Vatican and said the new cardinals would be elevated at a consistory on Nov. 28. Advincula becomes the ninth Filipino cardinal, following cardinals Orlando Quevedo, Luis Antonio Tagle, Gaudencio Rosales, Jose Sanchez, Ricardo Vidal, Jaime Sin, Julio Rosales and Rufino Santos. At 68, he is among the nine new cardinals eligible to vote in a conclave. The four others are over 80s. He will also be the fourth living Filipino cardinals, alongside with Rosales, Quevedo and Tagle, who is the prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Both Rosales and Quevedo are over 80 and are no longer eligible to take part in a conclave when the time comes to elect a new pope. The cardinal-elect has been serving as archbishop of Capiz since January 2012. Born in Dimalag, Capiz, he was ordained priest for the Capiz archdiocese in 1976. In 2001, he was appointed bishop of San Carlos, a post he served for 10 years until he was transferred to Capiz as its fourth

archbishop. In the Philippine bishops' conference, Advincula is currently the vice-chairman of the Committee on International Eucharistic Congress and the Office on Women. Other cardinals-designate include Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Maltese Bishop Mario Grech, who became secretary general of the Synod of Bishops in September, and the Italian Bishop Marcello Semeraro, who was named prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints earlier this month.

Also receiving the red hat is the Italian Capuchin Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, who has served as the Preacher to the Papal Household since 1980. Aged 86, he will not be eligible to vote in a future conclave. Others appointed to the College of Cardinals include Archbishop Celestino Aós Braco of Santiago, Chile; Archbishop Antoine Kambanda of Kigali, Rwanda; Archbishop Jose Fuerte Advincula of Capiz, in the Philippines; and Bishop Cornelius Sim, Vicar Apostolic of Brunei. Also elevated to the rank of cardinal are Archbishop Augusto Paolo Lojudice, former Rome auxiliary bishop and current Archbishop of Siena-Colle di Val d'Elsa-Montalcino, Italy; and Fra Mauro Gambetti, Custos of the Sacred Convent of Assisi. Alongside Cantalamessa, the pope named three others who will receive the red hat but be unable to vote in conclaves: Emeritus Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico; Archbishop Silvano Maria Tomasi, Permanent Observer Emeritus to the United Nations Office and Specialized Agencies in Geneva; and Enrico Feroci, parish priest of Santa Maria del Divino Amore at Castel di Leva, Rome. (By Roy Lagarde WITH REPORTS FROM CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY https://cbcpnews.net/cbcpnews/pope-names-archbishop-advincula-as-new-cardinal/?fbclid=IwAR2S3gacqKoNSfPSsYzns2xsgdm_JblasiEsnmeM-aq7IMnjmKzFMzD_hnnus)

SARF-Sierra Leone is Province's 17th Chapter, joins virtual fiesta celebrations



QUEZON CITY – Aside from the online celebrations of the solemn feast of St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, patroness of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity (SARF) on October 20, the presence and presentation of “SARF de Sierra Leone” as the fraternity's 17th chapter in the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno turned this year's assembly on an unprecedented scale.

The current Covid-19 pandemic constrained the organizers to adapt to the new normal by taking the celebrations to the cyberspace so that, while remaining in their respective geographical unit, the SARF members can still actively participate.

Bro. Edwin Ruiz, national president, said that all the chapters were represented both during the Holy Mass which was streamed live from the San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish church in Quezon City and during the post-missam program that lasted up to 9:30 p.m. Fray Dionisio Selma OAR, prior provincial, presided the Eucharistic celebration with the Provincialate friars as concelebrants.

In the Philippines, there are 16 chapters: 10 in Luzon and six in the Visayas. With the presence of the newly-established chapter in Recoletos de Kamalo in Sierra Leone, West Africa, the total is now 17.

This year's gathering was further marked with "international" atmosphere not only because of the African delegates but also of the participation of the Prior General, Fray Miguel Miró, who virtually delivered his message live from the General Curia in Rome. Fray Raul Buhay, also in Rome stood as his interpreter.

Fray Jose Prudencio "Dennis" Castillo, prior of Recoletos de Kamalo community and spiritual director of the newly born SARF chapter, narrated how the plan to establish a group of secular Recollects in Kamabai and Kamalo had started in 2018. "This was not realized because the missionaries did not see yet the 'it' factor in them, and Kamabai still lacked a good number of married couples." *The "Pre-Trialers" in their local costume: All in all, 5 couples plus 2 widowed mothers. In this picture, one was absent.*

On February 21, 2020, Fray Castillo sought permission from Father Provincial to found a chapter in Kamalo in accordance with the OAR Constitutions 114: "Secular fraternities may be erected ... by the local priors with permission of the Prior Provincial." The major superior gave his approval.

Six days later, on February 27, Bishop Natale Paganelli SX of the Diocese of Makeni where the Recollect mission stations belong, also gave his approval and blessing. The group's first meeting on March 14 oriented the 12 candidates – all sacramentally married couples – to the observance of the SARF Statutes and their "Life and Mission Project" (LAMP).

"Every Saturday I give them input as part of their formation program, thanks to the guidance of Bro. Edwin Ruiz," Fray Castillo reported, acknowledging his being a neophyte in this kind of ministry. He also said that he follows the lecture-type, and not just gives them hand-outs, as most of them cannot read nor write which, in turn, becomes a herculean challenge in terms of the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours. "But we are still trying to solve this," he said with optimism.

Although the birth of this new SARF chapter in Kamalo where the Recollects have been working since 2007 has added a feather in the cap of the Recollect mission in Sierra Leone, Fray Castillo's ardent prayer is: "*Sana mag-persevere po sila.*" ("I hope they will persevere."). (news by Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, OAR, <https://recoletosfilipinas.org/2020/10/24/sarf-sierra-leone-is-provinces-17th-chapter-joins-virtual-fiesta-celebrations/>)

Feast of St. Magdalene of Nagasaki (1611-1634)



The first Augustinian missionaries reached Japan in 1602, the first Recollects twenty years later. Jesuits, Franciscans and Dominicans were also working there. The Orders saw this vast and mysterious empire as a great challenge to their faith and missionary zeal. At first there was a period of success, with many converts and new churches. The Orders received their first Japanese novices and were able to introduce their traditional devotions, receiving committed lay people into their confraternities and Third Orders. Magdalene of Nagasaki was a young girl from a devout Christian background who became an Augustinian Recollect tertiary, died a martyr for the Faith when still in her early 20's, and is now patroness of the Secular Augustinian Recollects, the Third Order of today.

Magdalene was born about the year 1611 near Nagasaki, the city where most of Japan's new Christians lived or sought refuge on the outbreak of persecution. Her family appear to have been reasonably well-off and very much involved in the life of the Christian community. But she was still very young, probably about thirteen, when her parents and older siblings were arrested and martyred for their faith. She found a new family in the close-knit Christian community and its missionaries and she gave her young life to helping them.

She was particularly close to the Augustinian Recollects Francis of Jesus and Vincent of St Augustine. She assisted Francis as interpreter and catechist and he later received her profession as a member of the Third Order. But Magdalene was orphaned a second time

when Francis and Vincent – among the beatified martyrs we remember on 28th September – were burned to death on Nagasaki's «Hill of the Martyrs» in 1632. She would have witnessed the horrific deaths by burning, beheading, crucifixion and dreadful torture of many more missionaries and lay Christians.

Her faith held strong and she continued to exercise a ministry of catechizing, caring and encouraging among the persecuted Christian community that gave her the reputation of a deaconess. After the martyrdom of Blesses Francis and Vincent, quickly followed by that of two other Recollects, Blessed Martin and Melchior, Magdalen was helped and

guided by Dominican missionaries. After two years ministering to the persecuted Christians in the hills around Nagasaki, witnessing heroic martyrdoms but also sad betrayals and desertions, Magdalene felt she could best serve this community by handing herself over to the authorities and taking the consequences. This she bravely did in September, 1634.

In ways reminiscent of the martyrdoms of young girls like St Cecilia in the days of the Roman Empire Magdalene had to face all kinds of promises and threats from her persecutors. When all this failed to produce the apostasy which was the main aim of the authorities she was subjected to horrendous torture and death. First she was left hanging for several hours by her arms until the ropes broke and she fell to the ground. Then she had bamboo spikes stuck under her fingernails and she was forced to scratch and claw the ground. Next came sadistic variations on the water torture, forcing the victim to swallow large quantities of water and then applying pressure to force the water, tinged with blood, out of mouth, nose and other organs. Eventually the torturers had to give up. Magdalene was returned to a cage in the gaol and left in dreadful pain to await execution. The day arrived in early October. Magdalene was taken from her prison and paraded on horseback through the streets of the city with a placard hanging from her neck announcing her crime as refusing to abandon her Christian faith. Witnesses later testified that she was dressed in her habit and cincture as an Augustinian Recollect tertiary.

Ten other Christians, of whom she seemed to be the leader and inspiration, were to die with her. On reaching the «Hill of the Martyrs» the executioners hung Magdalene upside-down from a gallows over a pit dug in the ground. Hers was to be the most dreadful of all the barbaric forms of execution used in the persecution. With her arms bound to her sides she was lowered up to her waist into the pit which was then covered over with boards to make breathing even more difficult. Blood would naturally flow to the head but to prevent a quick death from congestion cuts were made with a knife to her temples and blood trickled out.

The executioners waited in vain for any sign of recanting, but Magdalene only continued to pray, even sing hymns, according to witnesses. She was said to have survived in this terrible state and without food or drink for thirteen days. She was let fall into the pit which had partly filled with rainwater and she died from drowning. To avoid having relics kept by the Christians Magdalene's body was burnt and her ashes scattered on the sea in Nagasaki Bay. Her martyrdom made a great impression on the Christian community as well as on a number of Portugese merchants who frequented the area. Many of these were later deported to Macao where number of Japanese Christians would also be exiled. As a result evidence could be collected from numerous witnesses about the life and martyrdom of the Augustinian martyrs of Japan and Magdalene in particular. Though this was done in the 1630's it was not till 1981 that Magdalene of Nagasaki was beatified, together with a number of Dominican martyrs, by Pope John Paul II. She was canonized with the same companions and by the same Pope in Rome on 18th October, 1987. (<https://www.agustinosrecoletos.com/events/st-magdalene-of-nagasaki-virgin-and-martyr/?lang=en&fbclid=IwAR1x6f2tsDgL9HeJ2Ho9E2YPtFax0zn7ig81LNgGrvxtZAhzMF3qowgBM5w>)

