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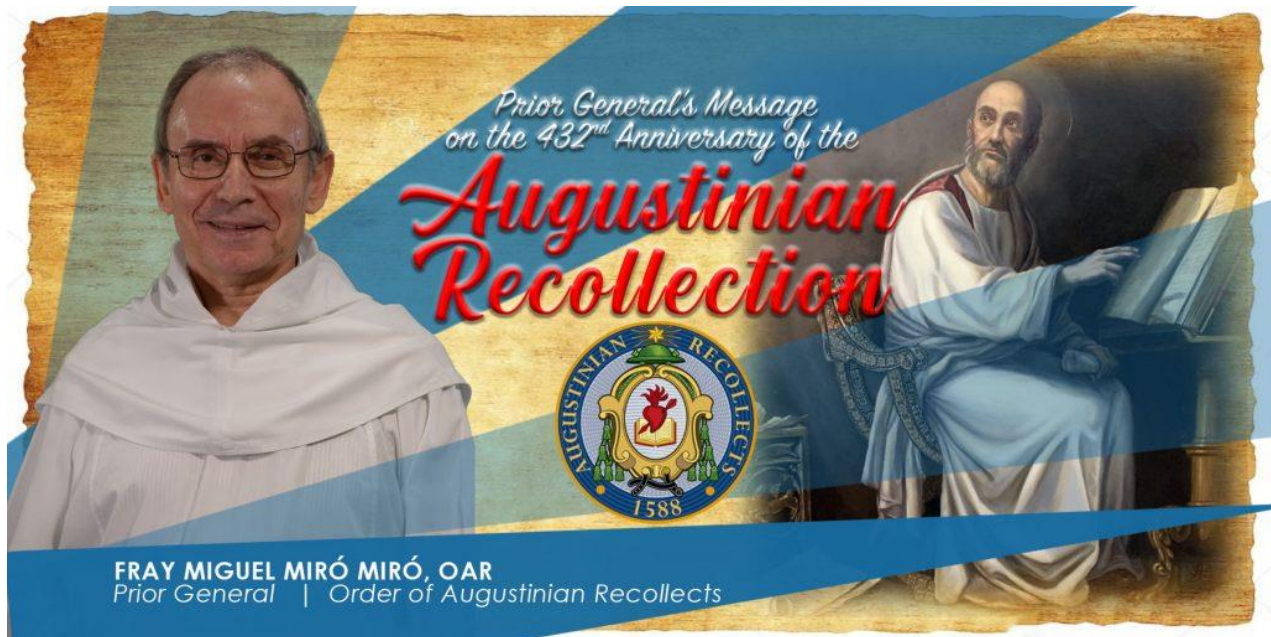
PR UPDATES

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Message of Prior General on the occasion of the 432nd Anniversary of the Augustinian Recollection

Agustinos Recoletos • December 5, 2020



Happy Anniversary!

“With gratitude and hope we celebrate on December 5 the Anniversary of the

Augustinian Recollection. After 432 years, the restlessness of those brothers who at the Chapter of the Augustinian Province of Castile expressed their desire to live a more evangelical life with poverty, prayer and apostolic service, remains alive in our hearts.

The strength of the Order's history is expressed in its ability to generate change. The charism that we have received is a transforming force that leads us to confront ourselves, through stories, with the life of those brothers and sisters who, open to the Spirit, initiated it by living their union with Christ with passion. They made of charism their path of dedication and holiness.

I exhort the entire Augustinian Recollect Family – men and women religious, fraternities, RAY youth – to respond with joy to the Lord's call and to renew our commitment to dedication and service. A renewal that is not mere words, but a project of life and mission that becomes an oblation of love in the life of each day.”

Fray Miguel Miró, OAR
Prior General

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UNO-R CELEBRATES 432nd FOUNDATION OF THE ORDER

The community of the University of Negros Occidental -Recoletos had a significant celebration of the 432nd foundation anniversary of the Augustinian Recollection. The religious community and some members of the academic community joined Sr. Mary Grace Dativas Gicos, OAR in her solemn profession at the St. Ezekiel Moreno Monastery, Tangub, Bacolod City. OAR Religious Friars and nuns, members of the Secular Augustinian Recollect Fraternity, and the Recoletos Augustinian Youth also renewed their vows. Bacolod Bishop Patricio Buzon, SDB, DD led the Eucharistic celebration. This was followed by the launching of the 1st Virtual Conferment of Baccalaureate degrees (April 2020 batch). Caritas: One Love UNO-R, a virtual benefit musicale was staged at 4 pm where the proceeds of the show will go to the Pamaskwa program of the university. The day capped with the lights on ceremony of the university to usher in the spirit of the season.



FR. PRESIDENT: CHRISTMAS SEASON IS A MOMENT OF JOY

Fray Don H. Besana, OAR, university President gave his advent message during the “lights-on ceremony” last December 5, 2020 at the university lobby. He said that there are a lot of things to thank God, especially the graces we have received as we celebrate the 32nd Foundation of the Augustinian Recollection. To start with, we have to thank the Lord for the gift of vocation. The day started with the solemn profession of Sr. Mary Grace Gicos, OAR. She received her vocation from God and with her solemn vow, she returns it to God. Members of the Augustinian Recollect family renewed their vows to God. “It was an expression of commitment to the Lord and to live a life of chastity, poverty and obedience”, he added. Secondly, the on the virtual conferment of Baccalaureate degree, Fr. President said that today, we have launched UNO-R graduates to the world. After training them with the value of the Gospel, the values of St. Augustine, and with “caritas et Scientia”, our graduates are now ready to take on the responsibilities of the world. The skills, knowledge, and capabilities will be used to build the edifice of Love. He also shared the inscription at the entrance of the Capuchin nuns in Brgy. Cabug, “One child evangelized, one generation redeemed”, this gives us the inspiration for evangelization. The graduates are our gift to the world. Thirdly, the Caritas: One Love UNO-R musicale is a manifestation of God’s Love. This was a concert for the benefit of the poor members of the community. Sharing of talents and gifts are sharing God’s love. The “Boxes of love” are always full. This shows that we could still afford to give and share despite the pandemic. And lastly, the Lights ,although simple, austere and humble, are symbols of the Light of Christ. Christmas lights and parols remind us of Jesus Christ as the Light of the world. It is God’s love that endures forever. We have to share the Light of Christ to others. Our Hearts must be burning with the Love of God. Fr. Besana closed his message saying, “Christmas Season is a moment of Joy.” The “Lights-on” at the Founders’ Park was done by Fray Besana and Fray William Villaflor, OAR; at the Paseo Rekoletto by Fray Ronel Gealon, OAR; Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR and Fray Persiuz Joseph Decena, OAR; at the main Lobby by Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR; Fray Amadeo Lucero, OAR; Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, OAR and Fray Joaquin Jamelo, OAR.

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UNO-R LAUNCHES VIRTUAL CONFERMENT OF DEGREES

The launching of the 1st Virtual Conferment of Baccalaureate degrees were held last December 5, 2020 at 2:30 pm. The program opened with the invocation led by Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR and the opening Message of Fray Jose Alden Alipin, OAR, UNO-R VP-Academics. University President Fray Don Besana, OAR gave his message to the graduating batch. The Deans of the Colleges respectively recommended to the Father President their candidates for graduation. Fr. President conferred the Degrees. Presentation of the graduates of April 2020 followed. A second part, which shall include the first semester, 2019 and summer 2020 graduates, will be aired soon.

UCDO holds Online Benefit Musicale

The University of Negros Occidental- Recoletos held an online benefit musicale dubbed as "Caritas: One Love UNO-R" on December 5, 2020, at Nuestra Señora dela Salud Activity Center, Integrated School Building, UNO-R and a live-stream in Heart Media Production Facebook page. The concert raised funds for 234 READS scholars, 34 security personnel, 30 janitorial staff, and 99 RESOURCE- Handumanan (UNO-R's adopted community) families. Event spearheaded by the University Community Development Office (UCDO) and UNO-R's Supreme Student Government (UNORSSGO). Caritas: One Love UNO-R, showcased the different talents of UNO-R's own students, faculty, and staff, together with special guests, nationally renowned artists: Kokoi Baldo (The Philippines' Bob Marley from The Voice PH Season 2) and Jaylloyd Garche (Grandfinalist of The Voice PH: Teens Edition Season 2). UCDO emphasized that it has been ten months since the outbreak of Corona virus, which disturbed and frightened the world, placing everyone's life at stake. The UNOR community wishes to reach out to our brothers and sisters who are in most need and who are affected much by this pandemic. The month of December heralds the birth of Jesus, our Savior and with this, everyone desires to share the spirit of love, joy, and hope to them in a special way. The office had extended its sincere gratitude to the School Board for the trust and confidence by approving this initiative which served as a platform to foster Augustinian Values of loving, sharing, and caring in the time of Covid-19; to showcase UNORian talents that surely gave joy and enlightenment to the online community, and to raise funds to support the most affected members of the community by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, UCDO will continue to be an instrument in providing programs and services for those in need and by fostering Augustinian Values in the spirit of "Caritas et Scientia". (By: Sergs Niño D. Samson I UCDO Volunteer)

VERDEPRADO IS PASWI OUTSTANDING SOCIAL WORKER

UNO-R alumna Dr. Richelle Verdeprado, RSW, MSSW, a College of Arts and Sciences professor and Sowing Legacy Movement, Inc. chairperson, was hailed as the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI) 2020 Outstanding Social Worker of the Philippines in the Field of Academe. "I am honored and, at the same time, humbled for this recognition. I became a Registered Social Worker in the year 2011 and ever since I had nothing in mind but a conscious desire to uphold the nobility of our profession and to truly create an impact in the lives of others. I hope this would inspire the students to sustain their passion for service and in learning the science and the art of helping," Verdeprado said. She also encouraged her colleagues and future colleagues in the profession to continue doing what they can as agents of social change and as advocates for human worth and dignity. Verdeprado is an alumna of the Bachelor of Science in Social Work program of UNO-R where she graduated as a Summa Cum Laude of Class 2011. She also ranked top 2 in the National Licensure Examination for Social Workers in 2011. Affiliated with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PASWI is a national organization for professional social workers in the country (*news by Alea Villabermosa*)

DEAN VILLASOR JOINS SUMMIT

The U.P. College of Law, through Professor Raj Palacios, cordially invited all faculty and students of the UNO-Recoletos School of Law to attend the Junior Scholars Symposium on International Law Solutions to Philippine Law Problems, 7 December 2020 (Monday) and 9 December 2020 (Wednesday) via Zoom. Professor Palacios is the convenor of the Junior Scholars Symposium. Juris Doctor students of the U.P. College of Law presented 60 case studies on how international law may be applied to Philippine cases. The case study topics are varied, and include, inter alia, VAWC temporary protection orders for transgenders, contraceptives for minors, medical marijuana, freedom of assembly during quarantine, the OFW's right to travel, liability of social media influencers, collective bargaining by government employees, legitimate child from a void marriage, DOLE home inspection for kasambahays, and bans on

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free public access to Facebook. Dean John Paolo Villasor of the UNO-R School of Law gave the Opening Remarks in behalf of the Philippine Association of Law Schools.



DR JAPUS GIVES TRAINING WEBINAR TO RBGS FACULTY

December 5, 2020- Dr. Genaro Japus gave a training webinar via zoom, entitled “The New Trend in Thesis Writing and their Impact to Advisers”. This was participated by the faculty of the Recoletos de Bacolod Graduate School headed by the Dean, Dr. Dennis Madrigal. Dr. Madrigal gave the opening remarks and hinted the importance of the webinar in the endeavors undertaken by RBGS. The first session was on the “Changing the Landscape of Research in the New Normal and New Methods and Technologies of Research. The next topic before lunch was on the “RRL as DA of Research and Determining Good Questionnaires”. In the afternoon, the topics were “Tips on Research Advising and Paneling and “Membership in Global and National Research”. Dr. Merlita Caelian of the Public Administration Program thanked the speaker while Dr. Madrigal awarded the certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Japus.



UNO-R CELEBRATES FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The university community celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception last December 8, 2020. The celebration opened with the advent recollection which was given by Mr. Howell Horrilen, LPT. This was followed by a Concelebrated Mass led by University Chaplain and VP-Religious Affairs, Fray Cristituto Palomar, OAR. The feast day is a commemoration of the devoted handmaid of the Lord, who is exemplifying purity and servanthood. In his homily, he said, "If your kind is good, then you must multiply. . . so we need to multiply our own kind so as to serve the Lord." The observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived by St. Anne, is a preserved woman who is free from original sin. *(with news from Leslie Marie Banaban, Tolentine Star correspondent)*

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agustinos
recoletos



SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARIES



**FR. ROMEO BEN
POTENCIO, OAR
DEC. 5**



**FR. JOSE ALDEN
ALIPIN, OAR
DEC. 8**



**FR. DON BESANA,
OAR
DEC. 8**



**FR. PERSIUZ JOSEPH
DECENA, OAR
DEC. 11**

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



**Socorro Victoria L. De Leon, PhD, CPA, FPCHA
UNO-R BOARD OF TRUSTEE
December 11**