

member, Rev. Fr. Edgardo O. Enverga, CRM last October 10, 2021. He arrived in Manila in August 2021 from his previous assignment in Jesus Our Risen Savior Parish- Spartanburg, South Carolina where he served as Pastor from August 1, 2015 to May 2021. After being a pastor for several years, he was appointed as the new Seminary Administrator.

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# Three celebrations in one day for Adorno Fathers USA-Phils. Delegation

October 13, 2021, Vinzons, Camarines Norte—The Clerics Regular Minor (CRM)-Adorno Fathers USA- PHILIPPINE Delegation held a triple celebrations namely: the official opening of the 20th Anniversary of the Adorno Fathers' presence and mission in the Philippines, Solemn Professions of Religious vows of the first two Coadjutor brothers, and the Blessing of the Caracciolini House of Prayer and Spirituality.

## Adorno Fathers: The Caracciolini **House of Prayer and Spirituality**

The Adorno Fathers in Vinzons, Camarines Norte now provide a place for retreats, recollections, or just simply to be in solitude, spending most of our time with God. The Caracciolini House of Prayer and Spirituality is located on the seminary compound. The building is a former Novitiate House and is a well-suited space for spiritual growth. This facility has been upgraded

to a retreat house and a place for days of recollection.

The building is composed of 12 rooms and at present, two of these rooms are air-conditioned and all other rooms have private bathrooms and shower facilities. There is also a beautiful air-conditioned chapel, dining room and conference room. This house also provides a complete kitchen. With regards to meals, retreatants have the option of cooking their own meals or our staff will provide the meal, as you desire.

The main location of this retreat house is at the very back of the seminary. This means that the retreatant will not be disturbed by the schedules going on in the seminary. The place is very peaceful and this is why the Order chose it as the place for the Novitiate program. It is God's providence and His will that the building was turned into a House of Prayer and Spirituality because of its very structure and due to the calmness of the place.

We encourage the faithful to visit here to experience the benefits that one would get amidst the challenges and difficulties that we all face. The building is under the management of Br. Everhisto Cavite, CRM. \*MERCADO



### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Dearest Friends,

I greet you all in the spirit of good faith and hope because "God is with us!".

As Christmas day is almost within our arm's reach, some of you may feel sentimental and a bit nostalgic. This is the second Christmas in the time of pandemic. What does it mean? This means we may have to spend it in our homes. The grandiose, big parties may now be an intimate one with just family and maybe some close friends. This means we can only see our families and relatives through video calls. I know this may sound a little bit sad, the Christmas that we have known before has become something that is domestic, and familial. Christmas during the time of pandemic is no different than any other day. The Christmas festivities are not the same. We always hope that one day, a miracle will happen. We hope that we can go out whenever we want to without the threat of sickness.

What is Christmas really about? Is it having the time of our lives and going to far-away places and destinations? No. Christmas is all about waiting for Jesus to come in our lives. This is what Advent is all about, WAITING and PREPARING with expectant faith for Jesus. As the Prophet Isaiah says The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD anointed me To bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim release to captives And freedom to prisoners." This points to Jesus Our Savior. The reality of this joy should enliven our hearts as we recall that the Lord will never abandon us.

Yes my friends, this is what Christmas is all about. Jesus coming to us. We do not prepare for this by going to lavish parties or dressing up with new clothes. We prepare for the coming of Jesus by waiting in joyful anticipation for his coming. Do not let the restrictions of the pandemic dampen our spirits. Be grateful that we are still alive to welcome Him. Let us develop in ourselves the eyes of faith. Saint Bernard wrote in one of his reflections that, with reference to the coming of Jesus "In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty".

We no longer need to look for our joy someplace else or for something material. Joy is not a destination, it is already within us; we just have to search our hearts. Material things just give us fleeting moments of happiness, but once acquired we always want more than what we currently have. The greatest and most profound celebration of Christmas is the fact that Jesus came and found us. It is not that we have gone out and searched for him, rather the King who is ever powerful is alive in our hearts. Yes, Christmas is always domestic. It happens within the auspices of our life and our home.

Friends, I wish you all the merriest Christmas. May you find Jesus Christ in the most ordinary and most remotely domesticated activities. May the profound presence of the Emmanuel, inspire you to seek his presence in your life. May we rejoice not on what we have found, but rejoice because he desires to come to us and we have discovered the richness of his presence. Merry Christmas to all and may the blessing of this season always remain in our hearts.

Very Rev. Fr. Teodoro O. Kalaw, CRM Clerics Regular Minor Generalate, Rome, Italy



## CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

by Rev. Fr. Edgardo O. Enverga, CRM

**SCRIPTURAL:** 

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that GOD IS LIGHT, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (I John 1:5-7)

The Pandemic taught us that what this world offers will not last forever, such as job, security, fame, power and even wealth. Losing these worldly values made people fell like living in darkness.

darkness. If one lives fully in the Light of Christ, one can be freed from such experience. Sadly, most of us, even though we believe that Christ is the Light, still continue to be attached to our own shadows. We have not allowed ourselves to be totally immersed in His Light, Christ our LIGHT means we entrust everything, our family, our jobs, and life's decision to him. Knowing Christ our Light in the midst of pandemic is NOT enough. Our hearts and minds should desire to be with the divine Light.

Sadly, we spend more time looking for money, things, and friends in Facebook, criticizing others, complaining and self-glory rather than being intimate with the Lord.

When we enlightened by Christ; life becomes more simple. We desire less things and worry less about what people say about us and avoid comparing ourselves to others. We stop being envious of others and accept the truth that Christ the Light is the ONE ultimate treasure.

Fr. "Egay" or "Ed" as his relatives, friends and confreres call him and known as "siga" and for his frankness; was born on April 20, 1961 at Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte. Hewas ordained as a diocesan priest of Daet by Most Rev. Celestino Enverga, D.D. on June 7, 1986 at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Daet, Camarines Norte. He belonged and served the



Diocese of Daet when he went to the United States to visit his family. With God's providence, Fr. Ed met one of the Clerics Regular Minor (CRM)- Adorno Fathers in the person of Rev. Fr. Nicholas Capetola, CRM, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish- Goose Creek, South Carolina. Fr. Nicholas gladly welcomed him and provided him in the parish house with the best accommodation for a long period of time. During his stay, the CRM charism, mission and way of life inspired him. His vocation to embrace community life and to maintain, upbring, and uphold his priesthood came quite natural to him. In 1995, Fr. Egay decided to join the Order and on June 18, 2000 solemnly professed his vows and became a full pledged Adorno. As the first Filipino priest, he took interest with the priests in Ramsey, NJ, in looking for vocations from the Philippines. Among the many young men who applied, were Rev. Fr. Nony Villaluz, CRM, and Rev. Fr. Jun Abog, CRM. They were the first two Filipinos ordained priests of the Adorno Fathers. By the grace of God, others followed. The idea to open a new foundation, a seminary in the Diocese of Daet finally became a reality.



Fr. Egay's loyalty to the Adorno Fathers is quiet usual. He devoted himself to the pastoral works of the Adorno in the United States serving as Pastor and Spiritual Director of other religious communities there. His love for the Order and for Jesus in the Eucharist is exceptional, as witnessed by those who know him. His 35 years as a priest and the example of his commitment to the community will surely become an inspiration and a guide for the aspirants, professed brothers and priests of his new community, even though he is not a formator by appointment in his new assignment. May the Lord continue to bless Fr. Egay in his new ministry all for the Greater Glory of the rising Christ. \* ESTELLA & ABUEG

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# **NEWS IN PHOTOS**



**CELEBRATING ST. MICHAEL'S DAY**: Community lives the tradition of having novena & costume party in honor of St. Michael.



**WALKING TOGETHER:** A visit to the Bagasbas Boulevard as part of the community recreation after COVID-19 vaccination.



**SHOWCASING BEST SMILES:** Brothers from the Lipa and Vinzons Community pose for a souvenir shot after profession.



**DEEPENING SPIRITUALITY:** Fr. Giovannie Nuñez, CRM, gave the community points to reflect about Advent and St. Joseph.



**GLORIFYING CHRIST THROUGH MUSIC:** Br. Ever and Br. George play in tandem during community liturgies and prayers.

# ADORNO participates on the Diocesan Synodal Orientation

November 13, 2021, Daet, Camarines Norte— In preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Daet held an orientation in a form of a workshop on synodal consultation. This is a part of the diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality that began last October 17 and will last until April 2022 through the initiative of Pope Francis.

Each parish in the diocese appointed delegates to attend the diocesan orientation workshop. Other delegates include representatives of religious communities and Catholic schools. During the seminar workshop at Daet Cathedral, Bishop Rex Andrew C. Alarcon offered a short talk on synodality. The highlight of the Bishop's talk on Synodality was how the paradigm of understanding shifted with regards to the Church's growth strategy. He stressed that during the period of pre-Vatican II, the Church portrayed the exclusivity of its mission and journey by focusing on the clergy and its hierarchical members. On the other hand, the lay faithful were set aside when it came to the mission of the Church. However, in the spirit of Vatican II, the Holy Spirit led the Church to new ways of thinking. The church acknowledged the role of each of the faithful in their journey towards holiness. This movement of the Church into the Paradigm Shifts became a new avenue of the faithful to reach the Church. The grace of baptism for the faithful pointed to the fact that all members of the Church belong to the People of God.



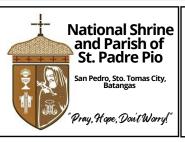
Bishop Alarcon encouraged the faithful who are joining the synod to have an attitude of "Parrhesia" (a Greek word which means to speak freely, to speak boldly, or speak everything). He explained that in acquiring this attitude, the Spirit will help the faith speak the truth openly and fearlessly. In this way, the Church will be helped to open the wounds of the past and work to heal them. The orientation workshop was successful because of the participation of all delegates. This activity will help them to equip themselves in opening the Synodal process of consultation. This is a way for all to walk together on this way.





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Congratulations on your Simple Profession of Religious Br. Rafael M. Estella, CRM

