



Charism - Compass for Montfortian Religious Life

BULACAN, Philippines - The Philippine Delegation of the Montfort Missionaries had their five-day annual retreat at the Montfort House of Prayer in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan from October 25 to 29, 2021. The retreat was in a way special for this year because of two reasons. First, it was the first time for the delegation to gather again physically for retreat during the pandemic. Second, the retreat was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Sherwin Y. Nuñez, SMM who just arrived last June from Canada after his two-year stay for a formation program.

The theme for this year's retreat is "Revisiting my Charism in the time of Pandemic - a compass for my Montfortian Religious Life. It was a time of prayer, rest, reflection, sharing and bonding. For five days, the confreres revisited and rediscovered their personal charism, the charism of Father de Montfort and the congregation's charism in the light of the Word of God shown in the very life of our Holy founder.

The perpetually professed members were divided into four groups for the processing, sharing and animation of the group for the Liturgy during the rest of the retreat. The method used by Fr. Sherwin was light, yet very effective in leading all the confreres to rediscover their giftedness, their worth, and their identity as Montfortians that will guide them as they continue to participate in the realization of the Reign of Jesus through Mary by being docile to the Holy Spirit and always ready to abandon oneself to Divine Providence for the Glory of God Alone.

The last day was spent to discuss and decide on some important matters in the life of the delegation. In the evening, after the concluding Mass to formally end the retreat, the scholastics, postulant and pre-postulants joined the perpetually professed for dinner and recreation. The delegation, through Rev. Fr. Norwyn V. Baydo, SMM, the delegation superior and Rev. Fr. Santiago E. Casing, SMM, the delegation councillor, expressed their gratitude to Fr. Sherwin for accepting the invitation to be the year's retreat master. In return, Fr. Sherwin also expressed his joy for the trust and opportunity given to him by the delegation and for the active participation of the confreres during the retreat.

The following day, October 30, Fr. Sherwin presided over the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in French with the members of the formation communities and with some confreres. After breakfast, everyone went home to their respective communities, bringing with them the joy of this grace-filled retreat and reenergized as they continue their ministry in this time of pandemic in bringing Jesus to others with Mary for the Glory of God Alone!

*Fr. Federick Yumang, SMM
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