



Presbyteral Ordination of Ronald Baruela, SMM and Lester Bonete, SMM

MAKATI CITY, Philippines - On May 31, 2022, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, the Montfort Missionaries and its communities witnessed and celebrated the presbyteral ordination of the deacons Rev. Ronald B. Baruela, SMM, and Rev. Lester C. BONETE, SMM at Sta. Teresita Parish. The celebration was presided by Bishop Roberto Gaa, the prelate of the Diocese of Novaliches, together with the Montfortian and guest priests.

During his homily, Bishop Gaa emphasized the significance of the Feast of Visitation to the ordination of the two deacons to priesthood.

"The Blessed Virgin Mary, who bore Christ in her womb, went hastily to her cousin, Elizabeth, to offer her assistance and to proclaim the mercy of God. Mary serves as a model of the Church's mission. Just as Mary brought Jesus into the house of Zechariah, the 2 ordinandi also have the mission to bring Jesus to God's people as it is the highest objective of a genuine apostolate. The seed of vocation imparted on the two ordinandi may blossom and prosper as an instrument for their service and love for God and the people entrusted to them." He emphasized.

Bishop Gaa also remarked that as the Holy Spirit descended on them, they have received a great blessing as well as a huge responsibility to care for what the Lord has bestowed on them. He stated that they should commit themselves to serve God and His people. He concluded his homily by wishing them steadfast love for their ministry, for God and for what they have been entrusted with.

Before the celebration ended, Rev. Fr. Ronald BARUELA, SMM, and Rev. Fr. Lester BONETE, SMM, delivered their message of thanksgiving to Bishop Gaa, to their families, friends, benefactors, guests and Montfortian confreres who were present and to all who have accompanied them throughout their journey. Rev. Fr. Norwyn BAYDO, SMM, the Delegation Superior of the Montfort Missionaries Philippines, thanked Bishop Gaa for gracing the special occasion. He also announced the new assignments of the ordinandi. Fr. Ronald and Fr. Lester will be assigned together in Cebu Community, Philippines.

The celebration concluded with a dinner shared by the members of the Montfortian family, the ordinandi' families, friends and the guests present.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!" (Luke 1:46)

Sis. Jackielou D. Foster, AMM