

Information Bulletin no. I

Day I and 2: To Be “Pauline Editors” Led and Renewed by the Spirit

As the Universal Church celebrated the beginning of her life and mission, the Society of St. Paul Philippines-Macau likewise commenced its 9th Provincial Chapter seeking renewal through the transformation of minds and hearts. Leading the celebration held at the Sanctuary of St. Paul the Apostle in Makati on May 28, Fr. Domenico Soliman, SSP, Superior General, compared the new mission received by Mary and the Apostles from the Spirit as being editors who will give the Gospel to the world, adopting the eternal Good News of salvation to the languages native and distinct to ever-changing times and places. To do this, Fr. Soliman directed the members’ gaze to our Founder and our Patron as models:

“These five days of the Provincial Chapter are important not because everything should remain as before, but to dream of our future, to see tomorrow and to give rise to new processes. Our mission is always bigger than what we think it is; let us look at the Apostle Paul and Blessed James Alberione!”

The perpetual and junior members of the Province were joined by representatives of the Pauline Family and other lay collaborators and guests, including the day’s guest of honor, Ms. Maria Goolsby, who was awarded a special citation for her invaluable contributions to the Pauline apostolate. The occasion ended with a festive lunch for everyone in attendance.

After moving and settling down into the Chapter’s official site that afternoon, the delegates came together for their first meeting, opened with the Enthronement of God’s Word, after which the new Provincial Superior, Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, SSP, declared the Chapter officially open. This was followed by the Superior General’s continued exhortation to surrender to the Spirit’s leading and be open to its surprises so as to find new expressions of Pauline charism for the future. The roll call and oath-taking of delegates and a final song-prayer imploring help from Mary, Queen of the Apostles wrapped up the first day.

Fr. Mario led the Mass to commence day 2 of the Chapter, May 29. The first order of the day was to hear the final report along with certain clarifications and recommendations from former Provincial Superior, Fr. Rollin Flores, SSP. The guest speaker, Fr. Antonio M. Pernia, SVD, then took the stage for a timely input on the new way of doing mission as *Inter Gentes*, a disposition that champions dialogue, mutual enrichment, and the voices from the peripheries as crucial to successful mission today.

After a quick break, the methodologist, Fr. Norman Melchor Peña Jr., SSP, presented the proposed schedule as well as the iter for the Chapter, both of which were unanimously approved after only some revisions, most notably the addition of a Juniorate Community representative for all Chapters henceforth. The afternoon session then began with the election of the Central Committee members—the officers tasked to ensure the proper proceedings of the Chapter. Guided by the Spirit, the capitulars elected the following:

President (ex officio): Fr. Mario S. Sobrejuanite, SSP

Secretary: Fr. Celso C. Godilano, SSP

Moderator: Fr. Gil A. Alinsangan, SSP

Actuaries:

Fr. Angelo Paolo O. Asprer, SSP

Fr. Anthony B. Capirayan, SSP

To prepare and officially relay this and all succeeding information from this historic assembly, Fr. Albert Garong, SSP, was voted as Information Officer. Reports from the different communities as well as the Apostolic and Vocation Promotions/Formation sectors were then heard by the body.'

The second day of the Chapter concluded with the solemn celebration of Vespers followed by dinner. With all essential roles and rules in place and with a clearer perspective of the Province's present realities and concerns, the Chapter delegates can now turn to the most crucial task at hand: to envision and express the best path forward for the Philippines-Macau Province of the Society of St. Paul—as led, renewed, and empowered by the Spirit.


Fr. Albert O. Garong, SSP
Information Officer

