

## INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 3

June 1, 2023

### **Day 4: Provincial Councilors Elected; Chapter Joins Local Church for Mass**

The morning of Day 4, May 31, opened with the official prayer for the Chapter, after which the minutes and bulletin for the previous day were swiftly reviewed and approved by the body. Fr. Brian Tayag, SSP, provincial bursar, then proceeded to give a panoramic view of the Province's economic standing and related legal and administrative concerns and recommendations pertinent to our finances.

Following this presentation, Superior General, Fr. Domenico Soliman, SSP, spoke to the assembly on particular topics of concern. He pointed out young vocations as a great gift for and of this Province, and that these vocations be formed integrally but always with a global outlook that prepares them for mission, be it for new local communities or other countries where Pauline presence will be most opportune.

Fr. Soliman also commended the Province for making excellent headway in the field of social media for evangelization. But he gave an important reminder that Pauline identity does not only entail being experts in the use of communication instruments, but more importantly to be the ones putting out content themselves—the Gospel given with a distinctly Pauline color. He encouraged the Province to continue boldly after the pandemic, restarting past successful initiatives like the Bible Quiz.

The Superior General also highlighted two projects that were of concern to his predecessors: creating a school of communication and prospects and challenges of the Macau and China missions—inspiring a lively discussion on the latter. To end, the general exhorted all members to love the apostolate through simple expressions such as dedicating their time to it instead of outside ministries. The meeting adjourned for a break after which the secretary, Fr. Celso Godilano, SSP, led the review of the Chapter's first draft, which was unanimously approved.

In the afternoon came another key moment of this gathering: the election of Provincial Councilors. After praying the traditional *Veni, Creator Spiritus*, the review of the electoral process and oath-taking of the president, the scrutineers, and the capitulars, votes were entered and tallied. The fruits of the delegates' discernment and the Spirit's guidance resulted in the following people to share in the responsibility of governing the Philippines-Macau Province:

1. Fr. Celso C. Godilano, SSP
2. Fr. Cris Robert C. Cellan, SSP
3. Fr. Khris Emmanuel L. Llacer, SSP

#### 4. Fr. Angelo Paolo O. Asprer, SSP

Later in the day came a truly rare occasion as the capitulars, joined by other members of the Province, celebrated Holy Mass outside the Chapter premises, at the Chapel of the Sacred Heart in Rockwell, Makati. In this historic assembly led by the Provincial Superior, Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, SSP, with Fr. Soliman and the Master of Juniors, Fr. Khrist Llacer, SSP, and other Pauline priests present as concelebrants, the local Church bore witness to the renewal of vows of the Junior SSP members—a pivotal event in religious formation scarcely witnessed by the general public. The congregation extended special gratitude to the chaplain, Fr. Rolando Garcia, for the use of the chapel, and the members of the Mary's Way for the dinner that followed.

For a Chapter seeking to reinvigorate and innovate how it is to be Pauline today, this exceptional coming together between Paulines, the diocese, and lay people felt both fitting and prescient.

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Information Officer