

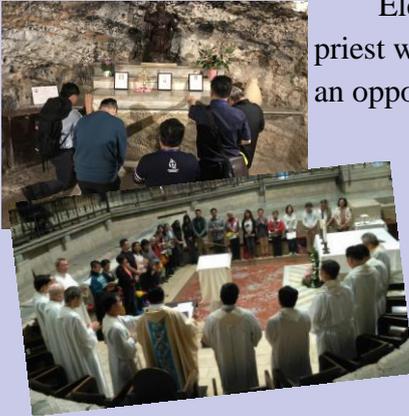


Perboyre Sparks

DECEMBER 2017



Confreres go to Holy Land



Eleven (11) confreres together with twenty-five (25) lay people and a diocesan priest went for pilgrimage to Holy Land on November 6-16, 2017. The pilgrimage was an opportunity for most confreres to understand deeper the roots of Christianity.

Organized by the Province and led by Ms. Catherine Chang, the pilgrimage was first-time for many to be with a group of priests. The combination of clergy and lay made the spiritual experiences more meaningful and enriched. It was through the combined financial support of parishes, community houses and of the Province that confreres were able to participate on this rare pilgrimage.

MM Novena Masses

Leading among Vincentian parishes in Taiwan in promoting the devotion to Miraculous Medal, the church shrine in Lanya organized novena Masses by inviting bishops and confreres as presiders and homilists nine (9) days before the feast on November 27. The two parishes in Taidong - Jinlun and Dawu, also organized novena Masses of their own. Dawu parish invited parishioners to share their life experiences in relation to topic of the day, while Jinlun organized topics according to the pilgrimage experiences of Fr. Budijanto and his catechist in Holy Land.

Confreres help DC-Tianjin Assembly

As the Daughters of Charity of Tianjin prepare for their 25th anniversary celebration, they asked CM's help in providing technical expertise in re-organizing their community. Fr. Kusno Bintoro led the 2-day retreat on November 29-30 in preparation for their assembly and election of new leaders, while Fr. Dandy Labitag, served as facilitator and adviser during the election and assembly held on December 1-3, 2017. They expressed their gratitude for the help CM have been extending to their community during their anniversary celebration on December 8, 2017.



Gov't suspend 400th gathering in China

With a plan to bring parish leaders for a 4-day gathering to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Vincentian charism, confreres in China found themselves in hot spot with religious affairs and police bureaus as they were told to cancel it. The gathering was supposed to be on December 4-7, 2017 in the parish of one of our confreres in Hebei, however confreres and delegates from other sensitive areas were prohibited to travel to Hebei. The incident showed how government still wants to control religious activities.

OGF follow-up for China clergy



Thirteen (13) priests from Dioceses of Beijing, Changzhi, Haimen, and Jiangxi, participated in Ongoing Formation sessions held in Beijing on December 12-14, 2017. Bishop Li Shan of Beijing, as well as Bishop Li Shuguang of Jiangxi, warmly welcomed the participants on first day of the meeting. Fr. Yulius, CM from Indonesia discussed on "Basic Ecclesial Community for Formation and Evangelization". The participants enjoyed sharing their experiences, as well as discussing the possibility to develop BEC in their parishes.

The Chinese Province in partnership with Provinces of Indonesia and Philippines organized a three-year program to answer to great need for on-going formation of clergy in China.

Fr. Gao visits Taiwan

Fr. Thomas Gao Xiang, a young confrere from Jiangxi, China who is studying at De Paul University for his NPO management degree visited Taiwan on November 18 - December 26, 2017 during the school's quarter break. He visited organizations and spent time at Beunen Foundation main office to learn some trades in operating social service organizations. He also spared some time visiting confreres around the island. His coming to Taiwan is a big break for him from freezing winter in Chicago.

Christmas trees, lights and cribs

Vincentian parishes around Taiwan tried to outshine each other with their Christmas decoration as part of celebration of Christmas in a Buddhist-majority Taiwan. The Miraculous Medal Shrine in Lanya, Taipei asked help from Vietnamese youth group to make a giant crib, while the church in Shilin, Taipei was filled with glittering lights. Tainan's NaNing Jie's church and its surrounding brightened with Christmas lights and decorations which were different from last year as these attract many passers-by for pictorials. The annual lighting of Christmas lights event in Taidong's Dawu church was much participated by parishioners especially children. Christmas lights in Kaohsiung's St. Vincent Church shine brightly at night too.



BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 21: Fr. Jan Van Aert (1935)
 Jan. 22: Fr. Cor Willems (1936)
 Jan. 30: Fr. Tang Xiao Hua (1976)

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 2: Fr. Charles Pan (1995)
 Feb. 16: Fr. Paul Pham (2004)
 Feb. 19: Fr. Joseph Lin (2008)
 Feb. 26: Fr. Dominic Hong (2000)
 Feb. 27: Fr. Ferdinand Labitag (1999)

FEASTS AND MEMORIAL

Jan. 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, *memorial*
 Feb. 2: Bld. M. Vailot & O. Baumgarten, *memorial*
 Feb. 3: Bld. Giuseppina Nicoli, *memorial*
 Feb. 7: Bld. Rosalie Rendu, *memorial*

The Chinese Province wish you a happy and meaningful New Year!