



Perbayre Sparks

April 2014



Provincial Visitor visits China, again!

Our Provincial Visitor, Fr. Kusno Bintoro was in China last March to give series of retreats to clergy and religious and to attend the ordination of one of our confreres. He was in Nanjing Diocese last March 10-14 for the retreat of diocesan clergy and in Tianjin last March 16-23 for the retreat of 24 sisters of Tianjin-DC. In recent years, our Provincial Visitor has been a sought-after retreat facilitator and seminar-giver to diocesan clergy and religious in China. Most of the time, he grabs these opportunities to promote vocation for our congregation. So far, results are slowly coming out.

Taidong SSVP meet Beunen Foundation

The SSVP conferences of Jinlun and Dawu joined in meeting Beunen Foundation for the first time to discuss future cooperation. The historic meeting was held in Dawu Parish Hall last March 21 with the presence of Jinlun's pastor, Fr. R. Preuss and Beunen Foundation's executive director, Fr. F. Labitag. Among the things they discussed were the future plans of Beunen Foundation in the area and how this social welfare foundation could support in capacity-building and services of SSVP groups.

Taidong parishes prepare for 1st popular mission

The two Vincentian parishes in Taidong are preparing for the first-ever Vincentian popular mission to be held in Taiwan. Confreres, catechists and lay leaders of two parishes held series of meetings since February to plan for the event which would be held on August of this year. They are expecting 10 priests and 15 nuns to join the mission as they already coordinated with some priests and nuns from China who are studying in FuRen University. Let us pray for its success.

Finally, Thomas Gao becomes priest!

After long years of formation, Rev. Thomas Gao Xiang was finally ordained priest last March 25 at the Cathedral of Jing Xian Diocese, Hebei Province in China. by the bishop of said diocese with two other deacons. The ordination was supposed to be simple due to security reason. However, it turned grandiose when 75 priests concelebrated and several hundreds of lay people attended the ceremony. The province on the other hand,

decided to send Chinese confreres only (with the exception of Fr. Bintoro) so as not to make the situation more complicated.

A day after his ordination, Fr. Thomas said his 1st Mass in one of the churches in Tianjin. FamVin members, immediate families and parishioners attended the simple yet solemn thanksgiving celebration for the gift of ordination given to him by God.

It's 60th Sacerdotal Anniv. for Fr. Tsai

Fr. Johannes Tsai chose to celebrate his 60th sacerdotal anniversary with no fun-fare last April 3. Months before, the Provincial Visitor talked to Fr. Tsai personally to convince him to celebrate with the whole province,



but he still refused. However, his refusal did not stop confreres in Tainan in greeting him and offering a very simple celebration on that day. The Provincial Visitor went down to the south to celebrate with them. May God bless his simplicity.

St. Francis Home starts construction

St. Francis Home for Elderly began its new beginning by having a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of its new building last April 20. Local government leaders, parishioners, supporters and leaders and staff of Beunen Foundation attended the ceremony to officially start the tedious process of constructing a building for 42 elderly, of which 4 rooms are reserved for elderly confreres.



St. Francis Home is formerly under the legal responsibility of Congregation of the Mission. However, in 2013 it was given to Beunen Foundation in order to make its services more professionally-managed.

Renovated community-based home opens



After some major repairs, St. Louise Community Home was formally opened last April 27 to receive 6 people with mild mental and physical disabilities who are at least 18 years old and are able to work. Through a simple ceremony attended by parishioners from Tianmu and supporters of Beunen Foundation, the community-based home offers its services of helping people with mental and physical disabilities be integrated with the society and live normal lives. Although the house

was bought in 2005, it was only recently that Beunen Foundation tried to professionalize its services by renovating its building and preparing its personnel for effective program implementation.

2014 Pilgrimage-Exposure starts registration

After months of planning, the first pilgrimage-exposure activity to be organized under the program *Pilgrimage-Social Exposure for Lay People* is now being promoted and ready for registration. For this year, the pilgrimage-exposure will be held in France and Italy on Sept 29 - Oct. 12. Frs. H. O'Donnell and J. Wang will lead the group of 30 pilgrims to significant FamVin places.

The aim of the program is to let lay people deepen their faith and broaden their knowledge on doing social services through exposure to faith of other cultures and to FamVin social services of other countries. Thus, every year there will be at least one pilgrimage-exposure activity to FamVin places in other countries, especially in Asia.



BIRTHDAYS

June 1: Fr. Matthew Thundiyil (1951)
June 25: Fr. Thomas Sendlein (1944)

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

May 27: Fr. Thomas Sendlein (1972)
May 28: Fr. Robert Chap (1966)
Fr. Hugh O'Donnell (1961)
Fr. Pawel Wierzbicki (1994)
May 29: Fr. Paul Liang (1970)
June 2: Fr. Richard Preuss (1973)
June 4: Fr. John Wang (1984)