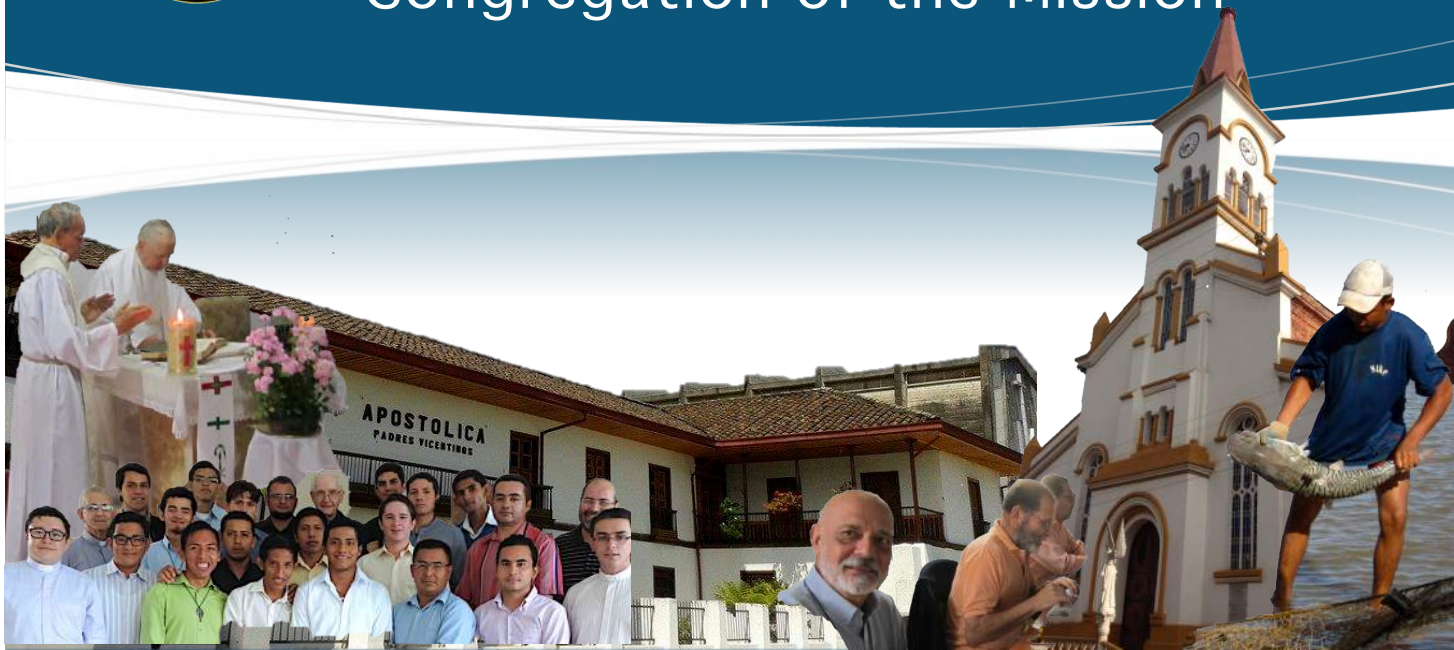




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Congregation of the Mission



Visitation of the Province of Colombia

P. Eli Chaves dos Santos, CM

The Assistant General, Father Eli Chaves dos Santos, made the canonical visitation of the Province of Colombia (June 28th - August 30th): nineteen communities in Colombia and one in Ecuador [last year Father Yosief Zeracristos visited the Region of Rwanda-Burundi and Father Eli visited the two communities in Brazil]. The Province of Colombia is composed of a significant number of personnel: there are 160 incorporated members, 118 confreres live and minister in Colombia and 42 confreres live and minister in other countries.

In the Province there are many pastoral works that involve direct service with the poor: 14 parishes, most of which serve the peasant population; the Region of Rwanda-Burundi; popular missions which are given during Holy Week and the Christmas Season; several confreres are involved in missions *ad gentes*; many initiatives have been undertaken in the area of evangelization and service on behalf of those who are poor; initiatives have also been undertaken together with other groups of the Vincentian Family and these initiatives are connected to the seminaries and the other ministries of the Province. The works of direct service with the poor have a missionary and a Vincentian character. They are located primarily in poor areas and some of these activities take place in areas of great insecurity as a result of the presence of the guerrilla and other paramilitary groups. The Province is also growing in its international missionary presence: it has its own proper mission in Ecuador and Brazil and is cooperating with other Missionaries in the United States, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Alaska, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Cuba, and Rome (the Curia).

With regard to the formation of the clergy, the confreres in Colombia are responsible for two major seminaries and collaborate in three major seminaries. The confreres also direct major seminaries (one in Ecuador and one in Brazil) and collaborate in another minor seminary in Brazil. The confreres minister on behalf of more than two hundred diocesan seminarians and work in collaboration with the diocesan clergy and are highly esteemed for their dedication.

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With regard to the formation of the laity: this ministry is developed with other members of the Vincentian Family and occurs on both a regional and a national level. Several confreres serve as advisors to the various branches of the Vincentian Family. In the formation of seminarians for the Congregation of the Mission: formation is organized on every level and there are a large number of seminarians (95 in Colombia and 30 in Rwanda-Burundi).

With regard to the on-going formation of the confreres: this is done through professional courses at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellin and various confreres are involved in specialized studies.

The Province has a Pastoral Plan and is concerned about creating a healthy environment for spiritual and community living. The Province has made great effort to finance its ministries (but it still needs outside assistance) and has cultivated an attitude of on-going renewal. The Province has also attempted to confront present challenges and to discern and journey along new paths and to engage in all of this activity in order to grow in creative fidelity to the Vincentian mission.



“Sowers of Justice and Hope”

Province of Barcelona --- Mission of Honduras

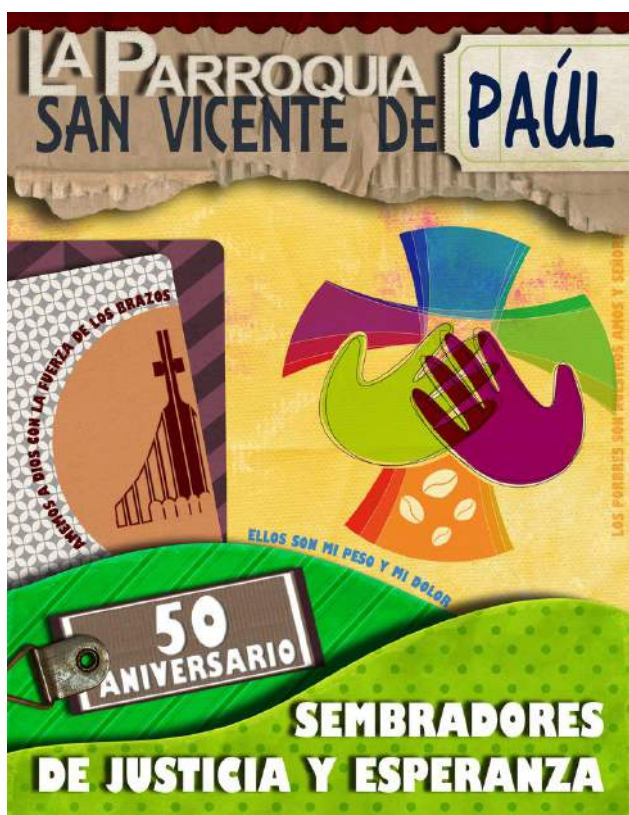
Father Miguel Angel Renes, CM

The motto of the mission is the same as that being used at this time when the parish of Saint Vincent de Paul (San Pedro Sula, Honduras) is celebrating the fiftieth year of its establishment.

The mission, properly speaking, began on Sunday, August 3rd when Bishop Angel Garachana not only sent forth a large number of missionaries but also sent forth the whole parish. Indeed, as each person receives the blessed bread and the Word, they, in turn, have the responsibility to communicate that word to others. In his homily the Bishop pointed out that reality in a very powerful manner. At the same time the Bishop also highlighted some other sad realities that the city and the nation are experiencing, realities that the missionary disciples in the Diocese of San Pedro Sula have to be aware of.

The missionaries: besides the three parish priests there are eight other priests to serve and accompany the people in the villages and towns and urban centers: one from the Diocese of San Pedro, two from the Province

of Barcelona, one from Colombia, two from Central America, two from Madrid (José Louis Castillo and Miguel Angel Renes). There are also seminarians: two Juan's from the house of formation in Salamanca and seminarians from Honduras who are members of the Barcelona Province. There is also a layman from Burgos.



At the same time we must also mention here the many religious women and lay people from the parish of San Jose de Medina (in San Pedro Sula) who at one time had been served by the members of the Congregation of the Mission. We must also make reference to the large number of lay people from the towns and villages and urban centers who lead various groups in morning prayer, the Eucharist and meetings of the Base Communities of Faith and who engage in other forms of ministry such as home visitation and visitation of the infirm. All of this is done in the spirit of Sunday's gospel where it was stated that Jesus *saw the vast crowd and was moved with pity for them and he cured their sick* (Matthew 14:14). This was also the focus of the Bishop's homily.

One of the confreres from Madrid, José Luis, traveled up and down the hillsides in order to serve and accompany the people in the surrounding villages. Roberto Adrian accompanied the people in the towns closer to the parish and I, "happily retired", accompanied the people in the urban center.

On August 10th, we gathered together in a soccer stadium and processed to the parish church which, as on so many other occasions, was quite small to receive the large multitude of people that no one was able to count.

Each morning began with prayer at 6:00am and was followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at 7:00am. There is a saying that those who rise early are helped and protected by God and so at 5:00am we were up and about.



Popular Missions in Venezuela – Missionary Experiences

Venezuela Province
Fr. Jesús Amable Bravo

In **2008** the ministry of popular missions was resumed and initiated in Jajó Estado Trujillo. The parish that received the missionaries was San Pedro Apóstol (Saint Peter, Apostle) and there were 216 missionaries from various parts of the country.

In **2009** the popular mission was extended to Zaraza Estado Guárico, the parish of Sagrado Corazón de Jesús (Sacred Heart of Jesus). Here 246 missionaries from throughout the country participated in this mission.

In **2010** a mission was given in Cariaco Estado Sucre, in the parish San Felipe, Apóstol (Saint Philip, Apostle) ... at that time the Missionaries of the Congregation served the people of that parish. The mission was also given in San Bonifacio Vicaria (Saint Boniface Vicariate) which was under the direction of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. On that occasion we were accompanied by some 396 missionaries from throughout the country. The motto of the mission was: *Open your heart to Christ!*

In **2011** the popular mission began on August 27 and concluded on September 4th and was given in the parish of the Virgen Milagrosa (The Miraculous Medal) in Valencia, Estado Carabobo (this parish is administered by the Vincentians). We were accompanied by 278 missionaries and the theme of the mission was: *For to me life is Christ* (Philippians 1:21).

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In **2012** the popular mission experience was lived in el Tabor Estado Miranda as a result of the support of the Congregation of the Sister Servants of Jesus. We had the participation of 176 missionaries from various parts of the country. The theme of the mission was: *one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all* (Ephesians 4:5-6).

The popular mission experience of **2013** was lived in Buena Vista Eestado Trujilli, the Parish of Nuestra Señora de Perpetuo Socorro (Our Lady of Perpetual Help). Some 160 missionaries gathered together under the banner: *Have faith in God* (Mark 11:22).

2014: Vincentian Popular Mission in Tucupido

From August 1st to the 14th and under the banner: *blessed are those who have not seen and have believed* (John 20:29), 125 missionaries gather together --- 123 from various parts of the country and two missionaries from Colombia: Sister Marcela, DC and Francis Aya (a member of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association). Every missionary experience confirms in us the need to proclaim with joy the gospel of Jesus Christ. This year the mission area was very extensive and was composed of two parishes, Santo Tomás, Apostol (Saint Thomas, Apostle) where Father Marcos Graterol is the pastor and San Rafael Arcángel (Saint Raphael Archangel) where Father Orlando Arteaga is the pastor. As we reflected on the reality of that area we had to question ourselves in light of the gospel passage: *the harvest is great but the laborers are few* (Matthew 9:37). We pray that every day the Lord will raise up missionaries to serve the church in Venezuela and also strengthen our Vincentian Family.

The missionary team

As a result of the various experiences in our Province with regard to the Vincentian Popular Missions we were motivated to organize ourselves as a team. The objective of this team was to animate and coordinate the work of the mission. The experiences of 2008-2013 led us to develop this initiative of a missionary team. The team was organized into commissions: liturgy, finances, formation, secretariat, logistics. Each commission was composed of members from the various branches or associations of the Vincentian Family. During the year of preparation for the mission each commission met numerous times and the members of the commission also visited the homes of people in the area where the mission was to be given. The members of the team were: Sister Carina Rojas, DC; Angélica Gómez (Vincentian Marian Youth Association), Carmen Colmenárez (AIC), Daly Delgado (Miraculous Medal Association), Carolina Boada (MISEVI), Helena Mendoza (MISEVI) and Father Jesús Bravo, CM.

We express our thanks to all the Daughters and the Vincentian who encouraged the laity to participate in and live this time of mission.

Encounter of the young men and women of the VMY in Benagalbón

Fco Javier López López, CM
VMY SPAIN

Once again during the month of July we had the annual gathering of young men and women which was held in Rotte de Benagalbón. As a delegate of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association for the Province of Saragoza, I was able to participate in that gathering after several years of being absent. I am happy to share with you the news that this time together was basically organized and directed by the young men and women who are members of the National Council of the VMY. The gathering was developed in an environment of community, responsibility, group work and prayer.

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Under the banner, *a step forward*, almost four hundred fifty young people from every part of Spain were invited to become part of this “dance school and take one step forward” in their relationship with Jesus Christ and with the Church. Some thirty Daughters of Charity and eight Vincentian Missionaries, as well as a number of young catechists assisted the participants deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. All of these young participants were helped to discover the fact that the poor are waiting for them just as the poor awaited Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac and that the poor expect them to commit themselves as bearers and proclaimers of the Good News (just as Mary bore and proclaimed the Good News).

A daily motto guided the reflection of each day, mottos such as “dare to give a glance” (Jesus Christ), “the vocation of a glance” (Vincent de Paul), “make an effort to give all” (the Blessed Virgin), “another glance is possible” (commitment-witness). Daily morning prayer gave meaning to the rest of the day and the various dynamics helped the group to reflect on the daily theme. The evening celebrations encouraged and rooted the participants in the material that had been discussed during the day.

This was a gathering that was worth all the effort that was put into making it possible and I am wholly convinced of this fact as I shared in this time during which so many young men and women began to ask questions about their mission in the Church and in society. Yes, it was worth the effort to take to time in order to be present to and to minister to young people on behalf of God and on behalf of the poor. It is precisely these young men and women who today give witness in the midst of our world and who are the Church today and will be the church of tomorrow.

I was to express my gratitude to the Visitor, Father David Carmona for his presence during two of days of this gathering. I also want to thank the Daughters for their kind and generous service as well as the Missionaries and one of the diocesan priests who accompanied and served the young men and women in so many different ways. I am also grateful for the sacrifice and the ministry of so many young catechists. This gathering concluded on July 20 and then the School of Catechists began their work.



Formation Session on “The Theology of the Mission”



CLAPVI
Fr. Lauro Palú, CM

From August 25-29, the formation session on “the theology of the mission” (promoted by CLAPVI) took place in Fazenda de Engenho/Caraça (Brazil). Forty-seven persons participated: twenty-nine priests, three deacons, one brother, seven seminarians in their first year of studies and seven Daughters of Charity.

Day One: During the morning Father Getúlio spoke about what Vincent referred to as “the state of the missionaries” and characterized that state as an apostolic and a Christian state. In the afternoon he spoke about the state of the missionaries as a “state of exodus” because we are called to go out, to go forth. He also spoke about this missionary state as one in which we are present to those who are poor. He concluded his presentation with a second part in which he identified the state of the missionaries with the state of charity.

Day Two: Paulo Suess, a Missionary from Germany who has ministered in Brazil, presented the understanding of mission from the colonial era up to the time of Pope Francis. He presented some theses, challenges and proposals:

- The mission is a priority among all our theological and pastoral priorities.
- Faith has a distinctive identity and is intimately related to the extensive identity of love.
- There has been a move from proselytism to a respect for both oneself and for others.
- Mission has a twofold focus: geographical exodus (going forth) in order to encounter the poor.
- Where there is a lack of missionary activity there is a lack of ecclesial life.
- The missionary community is a welcoming community that sends forth its members.
- Formation for the mission and prophetic formation are a means to live each situation as a missionary opportunity.

Once those elements were presented there was an opportunity for the participants to speak about their concerns and an opportunity to comment on the elements that had been presented. Then some further elements were presented ... elements that should characterize the disciple-missionary:

- Courage to accept that which is central and essential: Jesus Christ.
- Acceptance of diversity.
- One should not want to do and or control everything.
- Live life from a spiritual perspective (charism).
- Nourish the missionary spirit.
- Share one’s bread, one’s time and one’s gifts.
- Be responsible in those matters concerning the poor.
- Accept and embrace the reality and live in accord with the gospel ideals.

Day Three: Father Paulo Sues began this session with a reflection on the meaning of our witness/example in the Church and in the midst of the world. His reflection was based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis. He pointed out that following Christ will often mean that we find ourselves being unpopular. He also spoke about the need to understand and evangelize the culture. It appears that the church has difficulty in accepting other theologies as a result of cultural confrontations and of her defense of her own identity. On many occasions the Church has closed herself to others way of coming to know God, namely, through different forms of theological reflection and through different cultural rites ... all of which deal with the relationship between the human person and God.

Pope Francis has pointed out new paths of evangelization. As members of the Vincentian Family we have to travel along those new paths. Pope Francis refers to evangelization as the reason for the Church's existence and therefore she rejoices in her ministry of evangelization (Paul VI). When the Church does not go forth to evangelize she becomes a prisoner to herself. The evils that have arisen in recent times in the various ecclesial institutions are rooted in different forms of theological narcissism. Continuing with his presentation, Father Paulo focused on *Evangelii Gaudium*. He explained the content of this document addressing what we might call its lights and shadows. He emphasized the fact that this document is intended to lead to a true transformation of the Church, that is, the church is to become one that is missionary and that is in a state of permanent conversion. Father also referred to the social dimension that ought to characterize the process of evangelization, namely, the inclusion of the poor in the work of evangelization. He also affirmed that the Pope dreams of a social/missionary dimension that includes all people and the Pope invites everyone to take seriously their mission and to understand that the very nature of the Church is to be missionary. As Vincentians we must be mindful of Vincent de Paul who has called us together and exhorts us to opt for the poor in the same way as Jesus did ... the poor are to be loved and promoted and served.

Day Three: continued. The participants shared their missionary experiences:

- The missionary work in the Prefecture of Itaituba (Curitiba Province)
- The missionary presence in Honduras, Region of San Pedro Sula and La Mosquita (an interprovincial mission coordinated by the Province of Barcelona)
- Two distinct missionary experiences in Peru were explained by Father Javier Balda and Father Walter Crespo.

Day Four: Tour of the historic city of Ouro Preto.

We want to thank the Province, the Provincial, Father Gerardo Mól Santos and all the confreres of the Province.

The Vice-Province of Mozambique

The Vice-Province of Mozambique is an expression of the international dimension of the Congregation and of the existing interprovincial cooperation in the Congregation of the Mission. At the present time there are twenty-four members of this Vice-Province: some confreres are natives of Mozambique, one is from Equatorial Guinea and the other members come from the Provinces of Salamanca, Portugal, Nigeria, Mexico, Eriteria, Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro and Fortaleza. In recent months the Vice-Province has had many reasons to celebrate and to be encouraged in its missionary endeavors:

- The Internal Seminary has begun to function this year in the community of Chirundzo: there are four seminarians and the Director is Father Incencio Sipoia. In the overall process of formation, the pastoral experience with the poor has been very enriching. That pastoral ministry includes: visiting the families who live in Chinhacanine, participation in the ministry of charity, accompanying the orphans at the "Center Renacer para Esperança and a pastoral presence in the Mission of Massingir during the weekends.

- On June 23rd the seminarian Guilherme Schelbauer was ordained a priest in Curitiba. Guilheme studied philosophy and made his Internal Seminary in the Province of his origin, Curitiba; he studied theology in Mozambique and now he wants to serve as a missionary in the Vice-Province of Mozambique. Father Guilherme was appointed to the Mission of Mavudzi Ponte, where he will minister together with Father Bonifacio (a Brazilian Missionary from Fortaleza).

- “A dream has become a reality” ... those words express the lived reality of the people of the Mission of Saint Vincent de Paul of Caniçado who participated in the blessing of their new and beautiful church in Guijá. The church was blessed on August 23rd, 2014 by Bishop Lucio, the bishop of Xai Xai. The new church, the seat of the mission, was built with the financial support of “la Iglesia que Sufre” (the church that suffers), the Vincentian Solidarity Office, benefactors from Brazil and the active collaboration of the faithful, the men and women who are members of this mission. All of this was coordinated by Father Luis Roberto.

- The Vice-Province of Mozambique is able to rely on the solidarity and the support that sustains its missionary ministry. For some years the Province of Portugal has promoted an initiative on behalf of this mission: “La Renuncia Cuaresmal” [the Lenten renunciation]. Various communities and parishes engage in this Lenten initiative as a way to express their solidarity with the mission in Mozambique. This year almost 8,000 euros were sent to the mission. The Missionaries and the Daughters of Charity are very grateful for this gesture of solidarity which enables them to provide for those persons who are most in need.

- On August 30th, a day of great joy in Matola, four theologians took vows: Ernesto A. Zunguze, Joao Paulo N. Ochoga y Agostinho Neto Cipriano. For many years the Vice-Province has engaged in the ministry of promoting vocations and in the ministry of formation. Now the Vice-Province is able to celebrate with joy as it begins to see the fruit of its ministry which was developed with great dedication.

*Oh, what a happiness to do on earth the same thing Our Lord there,
which is to teach poor persons the way to heaven! (CCD:XI:284).*

Translated by: Charles T. Plock, CM

RELIGIOUS WOMEN FROM CHINA GO FOR LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

P. Dandy Labitag, CM
Chinesse Province



During the past summer De Paul University welcomed 25 sisters from China to a month-long workshop on leadership. It was called The Chinese Leadership Initiative and aimed at compassionate and collaborative ecclesial leadership. It is a collaborative effort of De Paul University, the Faith Institute for Cultural Studies in Shijiazhuang and the Chinese Province through the leadership of Fr. H. O'Donnell.

Themes on vocation and consecrated life, spiritual leadership, relational leadership and on pastoral and community leadership were discussed for each week.

During the four weeks, afternoons were spent visiting the city, parishes, families, and the works of communities. A Columban priest familiar with the face of poverty in Chicago arranged visits to sites where religious and laypeople reach out daily to people living in poverty. The Vincentian community at De Paul each Monday evening invited six sisters to dine with the community and, after dinner, share their stories with confreres.

The sisters, though from 20 different communities, bonded very well throughout the course of the program. Their openness and energy made a deep impression on all they met.

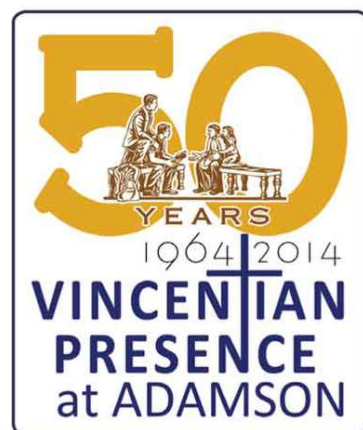
50th Year at Adamson University



P .Rolando S. DelaGoza, CM
FILIPINAS

Although entitled “Hindsights, Insights, Foresights,” the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of Vincentian Presence at Adamson University was not lacking in surprises. For one thing, Fr. Joaquin Gonzalez, CM, the Provincial Visitor of the Madrid Province, was present with Father Teodoro Barquin, CM who was a witness during the early years of the Vincentian take-over of the University from the Adamson Family. Father Barquin talked on the turnover, Fr. DelaGoza on the general history of the 50 golden years, Fr. Manimtim related the educational apostolate of the Philippine Province to the overall educational sponsorship in the world and Fr. Banaga delivered some forecasts for the future. Fr. Randy Agner, the Provincial Visitor, delivered a very inspiring closing remarks.

The five hundred seat auditorium of the Adamson University was full of people, mostly students, but with a scattering of Vincentians, administrators, guests (including Dr. Bernardita Churchill, the President of the Philippine National Historical Society) and some Sisters from various congregations. The open forum was quite animated and some of the questions were very revealing and some answers were eye-openers. It was also announced that the opening of the Vincentian wing of the Adamson museum would be postponed to August 15.



Nominaciones / Confirmaciones

GUTIÉRREZ NAVA Aarón	19/08/2014	Visitor Mexico
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Ordinationes sacerdotales

DUNGDUNG Valerian	Sac	InS	09/02/2014
NGUYEN VIET Joseph Ut	Sac	Vtn	04/08/2014
FAHANTSOA Jovier Edwin	Sac	Mad	08/08/2014
DÍAZ SÁENZ Daniel	Sac	Col	16/08/2014
GARCÍA GARCÍA John Mario	Sac	Col	16/08/2014
LÓPEZ OSPINO Breiner Enrique	Sac	Col	16/08/2014
RUDA CELIS Alcide de Jesús	Sac	Col	16/08/2014



Colombia Province

Necrologium

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
FLOERSH Philip M.	Sac	13/08/2014	Occ	78	61
GONZÁLEZ CAMEAN Juan	Sac	14/08/2014	Arg	87	69
BRAGA Carlo	Sac	16/08/2014	Rom	87	71
CANTORE John A.	Sac	19/08/2014	Occ	80	57
REVIGLIO Aldo	Sac	23/08/2014	Tau	77	60
GÓMEZ PÉREZ José	Sac	28/08/2014	Sal	93	74