



Photos By Jillian Belamide

## FIN Holds Salesian Family Vocation Festival 2024

# WITH DON BOSCO FOREVER

By Ms. Jillian Belamide



After three years of being hosted online, the Salesian Family Vocation Festival, or SFVF, was successfully held in person at Don Bosco Canlubang on April 6, 2024, catering to a total of 284 young people from all across Luzon and attended by 122 Salesian family members.

The theme of "Monk or no monk, I will stay with Don Bosco" brought this event together. It allowed participants to learn about Salesian family groups in the Philippines and urged them to join and stay with Don Bosco forever.

It began with a vibrant opening event with an upbeat flash mob led by the Aspirantate community and Voctok volunteers, which everyone actively

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participated in, raising their energy and desire for the next activities.

After the energy-boosting experience, the participants moved on to the next activities with their assigned groups.

The seven groups were supposed to spend 20 minutes each within the eight stations.

Each station was led by a Salesian Family Group, with their own well-planned activities and speeches promoting and providing information about their place and role in their vocation.

Those eight stations consist of the Salesians of Don Bosco or SDB, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians or FMA, Association of Salesian Cooperators or ASC, Association of Mary Help of Christians or ADMA, the Past Pupils of Don Bosco and Past Pupils of FMA, Caritas Sisters of Jesus, Association Damas Salesianas or DAMAS, and lastly the Women Volunteers of Don Bosco or VDB and Men Volunteers of Don Bosco or CDB.

After the carousel exercise, each person's expression indicated enlightenment and consideration, hoping they might find a place in this family one day.



# inFINity

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As part of the program's aim, the Principal of the Senior High School Basic Education Department of Don Bosco Canlubang, Sir Herbert Delaresma, recounts and discusses his experience as a part of the peculiar and special dream of Don Bosco. He highlighted that Don Bosco's dreams were never crazy; rather, they were special, adding that we don't dream crazy, we dream extraordinary and because of that his visions were guided and shaped by this special dream of his where we, all of us, are part of it. That there is more and more from his dream because each of us is a crucial part of it.

He ended his speech with a memorable statement that everyone in the vicinity was looking forward to hearing. "Be someone Don Bosco dreamt of. Be someone who dreams with Don Bosco." He stated, expressing his pride in being a member of the Salesian family.

This was followed by the talk of Rev. Jojo Valenzuela, SDB, which highlighted his incredible journey from being a member of the Association of Salesian Cooperators or ASC to wishing to be a part of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

The event ended with a Mass and was blessed by the exceptional homily delivered by the Salesian Youth Movement Delegate, Fr. Ramil Maranan, SDB.

His homily highlighted three stories that have similar endings; all of the ones involved in the story choose to stay with Don Bosco forever, signifying their unconditional love and passion for Don Bosco and the youth. "Love is the only reason to stay with Don Bosco despite the challenges, pains, struggles, and difficulties. Despite the problems and suffering, love can make us stay. Monk or no monk, I will stay with Don Bosco."



# PAGHAHABI 2024: Unveiling the Strategic Blueprint for Excellence

By Mr. Roberto L. Delfin

**In August 2023, DBTC sounded off the “Hudyat,” a Filipino term for senyas, tanda or kahandaan, which was the start of the 5-year Road Map to the 75th anniversary of the institution.**

From April 4 to 5, 2024, the President, Vice Presidents, and Directors crafted strategic plans that charted the course for the institution's growth and excellence. This event, aptly called “Paghahabi 2024,” commenced the second phase of redefining the educational landscape by presenting a comprehensive roadmap for the future.

“Paghahabi” literally translates to “weaving” in English, embodies the art and craftsmanship of intertwining threads to create a unified and intricate fabric.

Similarly, “Paghahabi 2024” signifies the weaving together of various insights, ideas, resources, and expertise of the school personnel to create a cohesive and comprehensive strategic blueprint.

The Directors of DBTC showcased the strategic plans of their respective sectors and offices. Their plans encapsulate the essence of DBTC's mission and vision; and delineate the services offered. These are the fruits of conducting a comprehensive situational analysis, defining strategic objectives, outlining lines of action, and projecting anticipated outputs.

“Paghahabi 2024” was not merely a presentation of plans; it signified a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation within DBTC. By aligning efforts across sectors and offices, the strategic plan sets the stage for enhanced effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance in fulfilling DBTC's mission of molding future leaders and establishing a just society.





# EASTER TIME OUT WITH THE RISEN LORD!

By Fr. Bernard Nolasco, SDB

**What better way to spend a meaningful Easter season than to have a spiritual time out with the Risen Lord!**

The lay-mission partners of Word And Life Publications took a two-day “holy break” from their busy work days last April 15 and 16, 2024, for their annual spiritual retreat. They left the Provincial House at 6:00 am, took breakfast along the way, and arrived at Don Bosco Batulao at 9:00 am. They were welcomed by Fr. Edwin Soliva, the Rector of the Salesian community of Batulao, and their retreat director.

Their spiritual retreat formally began with the first talk of Fr. Edwin at 10:30 am and ended the following day with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11:15 am. After a hearty lunch, they left Don Bosco Batulao at around 1:15 pm and safely arrived at the Provincial House at 3:30 pm.



During these two grace-filled days, there were moments of personal quiet time for reflection and prayer; a time to listen and to share wonderful thoughts and insights through the retreat talks and the group sharing; and a time to encounter the merciful Lord Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There was also an opportunity to have an intimate time with the Lord during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

There were also light moments for fun and relaxation, picture-taking, and rest. They enjoyed the beautiful gardens and other facilities of Don Bosco Batulao. And, of course, they were delighted with the sumptuous meals, refreshments, and the unlimited coffee!!! To their delight, each of them received a mini panettone from Fr. Tuy before leaving.

Halfway through the Easter season, the lay-mission partners of Word and Life Publications left Don Bosco Batulao filled with joy as they encountered the Risen Lord with hearts burning with His gracious love.



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# FIN-HR OFFICERS COMPENSATION ANALYSIS SEMINAR-WORKSHOP

By Ms. Myrna Tolentino

**A learning session on Salary Analysis was conducted on April 11-12, 2024, at Don Bosco House of Spirituality, Nasugbu, Batangas.**

It was attended by 33 participants, comprising 4 SDBs, 29 HR Officers/HR Staff, and some Accounting Staff from various work settings. The seminar workshop was led by the Provincial Economist, Fr. Eugenio Raymundo Inocentes III, SDB, and facilitated by the Compliance Officer, Myrna Tolentino.

Fr. Inocentes provided an economic overview of Senate Bill 2534, which proposes a P100.00 Salary Increase in the Minimum Wage Rate, and House Bill 7568, which advocates for a P750 Across-the-Board Wage Increase for Private Sector Workers. This seminar-workshop was conducted in preparation for the twin bills, which are anticipated to be enacted into law before the end of the year.

The seminar workshop not only focused on the numerical aspects and their operational impacts but also emphasized their crucial connection to other areas of human resource management that should not be disregarded.

The two-day event concluded with Fr. Inocentes presenting "Take Away Items," which are essential topics to be further discussed with their Council of Works for inclusion in their business plan. These discussions are crucial for the preparation of their FY 2024-2025 budget, which will be presented for approval to the Board of Trustees.



Photo by Fr. Marc Will Lim, SDB



# FIN Province Compensation Analysis Workshop 2024

By Fr. Eugenio Raymundo B. Inocentes III, SDB

**The work of administration covers: (a) the introduction and application of sound and effective policies; (b) the design and implementation of efficient methodologies; and, (c) the inspiration, education and training of personnel in performing their responsibilities and tasks. With these comes the need for vigilance in intervening promptly to prevent, if not minimize, problems.**

On April 11-12, 2024, at the Mary Help of Christians House of Spirituality, Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas, the FIN Provincial Economist's Office held a workshop on Compensation Analysis among the Human Resources Officers of its settings, to prepare the FIN Province on its response to the "surprise" legislative agenda of the Philippine government to enact a law to increase across-the-board the existing minimum wage by at least PhP100.00 per day.

Senate Bill 2534, "PhP100 Daily Minimum Wage Increase Act of 2023," has been passed on third and final reading on February 19, 2024, and twin bills, House Bill 4898, "Instituting a National Minimum Wage Based on the Family Living Wage" and House Bill 7568, "PhP750 Across-the-Board Wage Increase for Private Sector Workers," are being shepherded at the House of Representatives.

Considered at 26 working days per month, this means a PhP2,600.00 per month increase to the existing minimum wage. Including the thirteenth month bonus, this amounts to a total of PhP33,800.00 at the end of the year for each wage earner. Barring that it may be arbitrary and politically calculated, the initiative, a hefty rise in the minimum wage – at this time – needs to bear on the capacity to pay of the various enterprises to be affected, i.e., those with employees numbering more than ten (10), and those with capitalization of at least PhP3,000,000.00.

In countries that have succeeded to improve the welfare of their workers, the minimum wage is largely designed: (a) “to protect the most unskilled workers”; and, (b) “to help regulate [it] for the benefit of the youngest and new entrants to the labor force”. The present Philippine minimum wage rate is higher than in Thailand and Vietnam. Should this law be passed, the Philippine minimum wage rate will become much higher than in these countries, whose per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and labor productivity are higher.

Country	Daily Minimum Wage	Per Capita Gross Domestic Product, 2022
Philippines	PhP610.00	US\$3,498.51
Indonesia	IDR232,000.00 (PhP812.00)	US\$4,788.00
Thailand	ThB354.00 (PhP598.25)	US\$6,909.96
Vietnam	VnD151,200.00 (PhP340.96)	US\$4,163.51

The Gustav Ranis Mission, some 50 years ago, was a unique mission of experts from the International Labor Organization (ILO) that was specifically sought by the Philippine government to study its problems on wage and employment issues. The Mission’s wisdom on “Sharing in Development: A Program of Employment, Equity and Growth for the Philippines” (International Labor Office, Geneva, 1974) continues to echo:

“The minimum wage cannot and should not be looked upon as an effective instrument for determining the general level of money wages. Wage policy should have an adaptive character, following and adjusting rather than attempting to lead and control. ... The limited role for government intervention in wage determination is ... founded on the conviction that, in a predominantly private enterprise economy, the proper function of Government is to provide a favorable environment for the development and operation of effective labor markets and healthy collective bargaining.”

Government intervention in wage setting and in the labor market will have adverse effects on the national and local economies as it will increase inflation, pull up interest rates, and miss assisting the needy pockets of the Philippine economy.

**1. It will increase inflation.** The wage increase will result in higher prices of goods, as an additional across-the-board wage increase will push firms to charge higher prices.

The subsequent wage-price spiral will erode the people's purchasing power, causing widespread demands for future rounds of wage hikes.

**2. It will raise interest rates.** With inflation jumping, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will cure the situation by hiking interest rates to mop up "excess" liquidity in the market. This will result in people shelling out more to pay for housing, car loans, and credit card charges. Increased interest rates will force companies to reduce investments and reduce employment.

**3. It will not cover the informal sector.** Seasonal workers, fishermen, gig economy workers, and market vendors will suffer from the inflationary impact of legislated wage increases. The bills also do not consider the different employment situations across different regions.



Graphics courtesy of Rappler



# AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF A.I.

## Research, AI, and a Case of Schrodinger's Cat...?

By Miguel James Obispo

**Picture this: a Bosconian uses ChatGPT to do something he couldn't be bothered to do himself. In doing so, he may have inadvertently subjected himself to a little quantum physics.**

How though? Research, artificial intelligence (AI), and the quantum realm appear incongruous. Can the esoteric ideas of some physicists help us understand AI's increasing role in modern research? It hardly seems so!

However, the connections become apparent in the case of the lessons learned at Don Bosco Makati's 6th Research Symposium, held on April 18 and 19 at the Braga Auditorium. The symposium tackled AI as a central theme, including transparency and accountability in dealing with this powerful and fast-rising tool. The quantum connection is all about the thought experiment: Schrodinger's cat.

It posits that if a feline is put in a box with a 50/50 chance of survival upon opening, the animal exists in both a state of



Fr. Jerry Santos, DB Makati Rector, gives an inspirational message

Photos by Kylie Ramirez and Jody Lopez

life and death until the box is opened.

When we investigate the role of AI in research, we find that AI has the ability to positively affect change by boosting the productivity of researchers and enhancing the quality of their work. This is when the cat is alive, relating the analogy to Schrodinger. Nevertheless, there's still the risk of plagiarism and overt reliance on AI. This is when the cat is dead. Opening the box simply means waiting; AI, in time, is bound to improve and become even more relevant.

The speakers for the event had a few to say about this. In the words of Dr. John N. Ponsaran, PHD, a key thought had been echoed in the auditorium: we shouldn't vilify AI.

Rather, AI is subject to cultural lag; the rapid advancement of technology (AI) has made it difficult for society to keep up, resulting in societal problems.

Another prominent speaker was Dr. Deborah A. Javier, PhD. She argued that AI is merely a tool, something that researchers can use but be accountable for.

This leads us back to Schrodinger's cat. While we wait for AI, it is both a friend and foe, just as the cat is both dead and alive. But going beyond the thought experiment, we will eventually have to find out whether or not AI proves to be "alive or dead," not just in the context of research.

At the end of the day, we humans are the reason for AI's being and are the agents for its advancement. We master them, not the other way around. And in the case of the analogy of Schrodinger's Cat and AI, when we open that box, and we will have to open that box, the cat is most definitely going to be alive.





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# The Joint FIN-FIS Practical Trainees' Formative Encounter

By Br. Anthony Rodriguez, SDB

**The Joint FIN-FIS Practical Trainees' Formative Encounter, held from April 8 to 12, 2024, in Lawaan, Talisay City, Cebu, was a significant gathering that brought together practical trainees from the FIN and FIS provinces. This event served as a valuable opportunity for these trainees to deepen their formation and explore new horizons in their learning journey.**

The practical trainees from the FIN province arrived in Cebu on April 8, accompanied by their formation in-charge, Fr. Marlon Eleosida SDB, and Fr. Paul Dungca SDB, who was the resource speaker for the formative encounter. Likewise, the FIS brothers were accompanied by Fr. Andy Mendoza, the FIS delegate for the Commission on Formation and Rector of the Don Bosco Formation Center. The gathering took place at the Don Bosco Retreat House in Lawaan, where the trainees were accommodated and engaged in various formation sessions led by Fr. Paul.

The seminar officially kicked off on April 9 at the St. Francis de Sales hall of the Don Bosco Retreat House, with Fr. Paul delivering formative input centered around Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential applications in education and pastoral ministry. The first day of the seminar began with Fr. Paul engaging the practical trainees in discussions about their preconceived notions of AI, eliciting a range of responses from viewing AI as a mere tool to expressing excitement about its possibilities, as well as concerns about its potential risks.

Fr. Paul then delved into a detailed explanation of what AI is, its components, and highlighted specific AI applications such as ChatGPT, which are generative and learn from user prompts. He also discussed the broader implications of AI and its use as a tool to assist in various contexts. Throughout the session, Fr. Paul showcased multiple AI applications and websites that utilize AI for teaching purposes.

He then demonstrated how to design learning experiences for students using these AI-infused applications, emphasizing the importance of adapting to young people's new learning framework. In group activities, the practical trainees worked together to design their own learning experiences, primarily using ChatGPT and Canva, and presented their creations to the larger group.

The second day of the seminar focused on the use of AI in pastoral ministry. Fr. Paul demonstrated how AI applications like Canva and ChatGPT can enhance pastoral work, particularly in planning activities such as Recollections, Retreats, and First Holy Communion. With the assistance of AI, the practical trainees were able to easily craft themes and scriptural references for these activities, streamlining the planning process and enhancing the overall effectiveness of their pastoral work.

In addition to the intellectual and formative aspects of the seminar, the Joint FIN-FIS formative encounter also provided an opportunity for the practical trainees to reconnect with their peers at the same formation stage.

Their informal gatherings and bonding moments within and around Cebu City offered them much-needed respite and an opportunity to share experiences from their work as assistants in their respective settings.

Returning to Lawaan also gave the brothers a chance to revisit the novitiate house, where they interacted with the novices and the formation team led by Fr. Ronel Vilbar, SDB, the novice director. The five-day encounter was not just an intellectually enriching experience but also a fraternal one, as evidenced by the shared meals, bonding moments, and liturgical celebrations that brought the practical trainees together in a spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose.

Overall, the Joint FIN-FIS Practical Trainees' Formative Encounter was a resounding success, providing the practical trainees with valuable insights and experiences that will undoubtedly enrich their formation and ministry moving forward.



Contributed photos



ICYM2024 featured engaging panel discussions on youth culture and empowerment. Experts from various fields shared their perspectives on connecting with young people effectively. Topics included understanding the digital generation, addressing mental health challenges, and fostering leadership skills among youth. These discussions encouraged participants to think critically and adapt their approaches to meet the evolving needs of today's youth.

On the final day, Fr. Johnny Go SJ, a dynamic speaker from the Ateneo de Manila's Gokongwei Brothers School of Education and Learning Design, led a special session. He focused on youth ministry program design, planning, and strategic thinking. Attendees left inspired and equipped with practical tools to enhance their ministries.

The collaboration between LST and DBST played a crucial role in organizing ICYM2024. Together, they ensured that the conference provided valuable insights, practical skills, and networking opportunities for all participants. Their joint efforts exemplified the spirit of cooperation and commitment to youth ministry.

## The collaboration between LST and DBST played a crucial role in organizing ICYM2024.



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## My Palawan Missionary Adventure

By Fr. Rene Lagaya, SDB

**I celebrated my Golden Jubilee of Salesian Religious Profession last 26 April 2023. Before the end of my jubilee year, I thought of doing something special. Thus, I sought the approval of my local community and the consent of my Provincial Superior to spend some days at the Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay (North Palawan). I was actually the first Salesian to render pastoral assistance to Bishop Broderick Pabillo, who warmly welcomed me and instructed me on what to do.**

I landed at the Lio Airport in the town of El Nido, formerly known as Bacuit, on 18 March 2024, Monday. On the way to the Bishop's House in Taytay, we passed by Barangay Bagong Bayan, under the care of the Canossian Fathers. Bishop Broderick remarked that he intended to give that place to us. But it did not materialize due to the ban on opening new presences. I somehow felt sad because it could have been a real implementation of the Rector Major's appeal to go to the peripheries.

Bagong Bayan would have been a promising place for a Salesian presence in Palawan. At the Bishop's House, I was surprised to find an air-conditioned room with a water heater. I was later informed that that room was refurbished for the visit of the Papal Nuncio the year before.

Bishop Pabillo took me to the Mission Station of St. Joseph at Sandoval for the Fiesta the next day. That afternoon, I was already at the Sto. Niño Parish in Abongan for the Lenten Recollection of the people, the Eucharistic celebration, and confessions. Bishop Pabillo wanted me to speak on the 2024 Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. The next day, I was brought back to Taytay for the Lenten Recollection at the still-unfinished St. Joseph the Worker Cathedral. There was a good attendance of young people. The day after, Thursday, was the turn of the Sta. Monica Parish, also in Taytay. It coincided with the 9th day of prayer for the eternal repose of their Congressman, Edgardo Salvame; so there was good attendance.

Come Friday, 22 March, I was brought to the St. Francis of Assisi Parish at El Nido for the Lenten Recollection. The members of the Parish Pastoral Council were very visible. The next day, we went to the Sta. Potenciana Parish at Sibaltan, a place with no electricity. But we managed rather well when they put on the parish generator. Amazingly, the place was teeming with youth. That night, I went back to El Nido with the parish priest who helped in hearing confessions. The next day, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, I celebrated the 5 p.m. Mass. I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of foreigners who were attending with genuine devotion.

Holy Monday morning when I was brought back to the Bishop's House in Taytay. That very afternoon, Bishop Pabillo accompanied me to the Resurrection Mission Station of Tumarbong, another place with no electricity. But the priest in charge has installed a good generator and an efficient Internet. I conducted the Lenten Recollection, celebrated the Eucharist, and heard confessions. Since I was a stranger in the place, I had a good number of penitents. Regarding the talks, the priest in charge remarked that his people had never laughed so much in their lives.

On the morning of Holy Tuesday, Bishop Pabillo brought me to the San Isidro Labrador Mission Station in Caruray, a truly remote spot in Palawan with no electricity.

It could be reached only by negotiating rather dangerous roads. We celebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Pabillo presiding. Holy Wednesday morning, I helped in hearing confessions. That very afternoon the priest in charge brought me by pump boat to Sitio Sta. Cruz, Barangay Caruray.

I stayed at the house of the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. His wife was a lector and the Teacher in charge of the local Elementary School. I was helped by Rodel, a graduate of Religious Education at the Holy Trinity University in Puerto Princesa City. We had recollection and confessions for the people on the morning of Holy Thursday. Rodel gave the Aral Pananampalataya prepared by Bishop Pabillo while I heard the confessions of the people. We celebrated the Last Supper at 3 p.m. The liturgical services for the Paschal Triduum had to be celebrated at 3 p.m. due to the lack of electricity and the need of some people to go back to the homes at a nearby island before dark.

Good Friday morning saw us celebrating the Way of the Cross. Attendance was unexpectedly good. The men vied with one another to carry the cross. The 14 stations were beautifully decorated. I praised the people for this. The celebration of the Lord's Passion took place at 3 p.m., all with the dramatized reading of the Johannine Passion and the solemn veneration of the cross.



The author led the people in praying the Way of the Cross at Sitio Sta. Cruz, Brgy. Caruray

The Salubong was put for the following morning at 6 a.m. Everything was improvised. The statues of the Risen Lord and of the Blessed Mother were carried in the arms of the people from two opposite sides of the sitio. The angel had to stand on top of 5 chairs in order to lift the black mourning veil of the Virgin. Mass followed immediately. Some time before noon, we were fetched by pumpboat to go back to the Mission Station. Leaving the place was a bit emotional due to the happiness we experienced with the people during our short stay there.

We found the people of the San Isidro Labrador Mission Station at the beach, celebrating Easter. We joined them in their simple joys. The next day, Easter Monday, we were fetched by the Bishop's car for Taytay. We stopped awhile at the Bato ni Ningning in San Vicente, a place popularized in the 2015 ABS-CBN show Ningning. That very afternoon Bishop Pabillo sent us to El Nido for an Easter treat, complete with island hopping.

As I was flying back to Manila via Air Swift Airlines, I felt a great sense of gratitude to God for an amazing missionary adventure.

Article 19 of our Constitutions speaks of Initiative and Flexibility as an essential element of the Salesian Spirit. I found Palawan as a place where this can truly bloom. There was an abundance of need which Salesian Initiative can address. Inconveniences abounded. Salesian Flexibility can really be tested. I felt happy that at 70 years of age and 50 years of religious life, I could still adjust well to the heat, the lack of electricity, the absence of the Internet, the inconveniences of travel, and the simple accommodations. I told a priest there, "If you can live this frugal life and if our people are happy with it, I must be able to live it too with joy. Otherwise, I would be a great embarrassment to God, to those who know me, and to myself." I am actually looking forward to another bout of Palawan missionary adventure.

A splendid view of El Nido Beach from the Canopy Walk





# School Heads Train for Curriculum Development & Supervision

By Lovely A. Cruz

**As part of our efforts to future-proof our institutions, the school leaders of Don Bosco Technical Institute - Tarlac and Don Bosco Academy - Bacolor attended a three-day intensive training on April 8, 15, and 22, 2024.**

This first phase of strengthening our curriculum capabilities centered on planning and designing with Dr. Amelia Fajardo, an Associate Professor from the Curriculum Studies Area of the College of Education, University of the Philippines - Diliman.

Toward responsive and effective curriculum supervision, the training aimed to generate improvement in the academic management system and to administer a more effective and efficient program implementation.

Dr. Fajardo emphasized the importance of systematic implementation of the curriculum, school policies, and practices in ensuring the effectiveness of educational settings and in meeting the expected standards for quality education.

Meanwhile, Fr. Daniel R. Gonzales, SDB, the Deputy Principal for Academic Affairs of DBTI - Tarlac, highlighted that the training is an investment with the goal of equipping school heads with the necessary skills in curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation under the careful guidance of an expert, referring to Dr. Fajardo.

The said training addresses one of the recommendations of the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) and serves as preparation for the implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum.

Contributed photos





# 11 Lessons I've Learned in my Zatti Soujourn (so far)

By Fr. Carlo Villegas, SDB

File Photo: The author enjoys a light moment with the Vicar of the Rector Major, Don Stefano Martoglio.

*The author has been a 'bedspacer' in the Zatti Clinic since 2017.*

*He also volunteers a disclaimer: The content of this article is the personal and sole view of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this publication.*

## 1. WHEN HAVING THOUGHTS OF INVINCIBILITY?

*Remember, O Man, what you are now, once was I; what I am now, you later will be. It's just a matter of time, not if.*

Take it to HEART or even plant it in your BRAIN. Double hydrate! (Pun highly intended)

## 2. WHEN ITCHING TO COMPLAIN?

*Remember, "Something to suffer, something to offer, plenty to suffer, plenty to offer."*

*G.Ma.Rizzato, SDB missionary to the Philippines*

And when the suffering becomes more intense, add a longer list of people you can offer prayers for.

## 3. WHEN TRYING TO CONSIDER A REGRET IN THE PAST?

*Remember, the service of authority is a big responsibility but not an eternity.*

Don't Forget To Prepare Successors Before You Assume Office.

## 4. WHEN EXPECTING SOME APPRECIATION FOR THE WONDERFUL SERVICE AND SACRIFICES WE OFFERED IN OUR PAST LIFE?

*Remember, we are (mere) useless servants; we just fulfill what we were meant to do... even if we sometimes may be really of good use.*

Learn to appreciate first: anyway TBT (truth be told): *Nemo Dat quod non Habet*

## 5. WHEN GETTING BORED IN YOUR BED OF SUFFERING?

*Remember, being made quiet can be a blessing (not only for others); But also for you.*

Only in Silence do you receive the honor of savoring Solitude.

## 6. WHEN TERRIFIED OF PHYSICAL SUFFERING?

*Remember that most corporate training sets you up for a promotion and a raise. If you claim your 13th month now, what is left for you to receive on Christmas day?*

Embrace your earthly purgatory now so as to skip it later.

## 7. WHEN CONFUSION SETS IN?

*A word of advice: realize early on that a year of depression is a culmination of 365 days of losses & incremental moments of Sadness.*

When asked to choose between Physical and Mental Health, choose the former on any day of the week.

## 8. WHEN ENDURING YEARS OF SUFFERING CAN BE A TORTURE?

*It is best not to grumble for all you know you are doing others a favor by giving them a respite. (reverse engineering "Mea Maxima poenitentia..." La mia più grande penitenza è la Vita in comunità ma potresti essere tu la più grande penitenza della vita comunitaria)*

[My greatest penance is community life, but you could be the greatest penance of community life.]

## 9. WHEN WONDERING WHY GOD DOESN'T FETCH YOU SOONER?

*Realize then that Paradise does not accept freeloaders.*

Yet a viable and operant answer so far realized is: Marunong ka pa sa Diyos!

## 10. WHEN ANNOYED BY THOSE WHO painstakingly insinuate with a joke: BAKIT MATAGAL MAMATAY ANG MASAMANG DAMO?

*Gentle Clap-back by saying: Kasi mas malalim daw ang ugat nila.*

Or an apostolic Clap-back: To give you a chance to practice at least one of your annual corporal works of Mercy (visiting the sick).

Marunong pa KAYO sa Diyos!

## 11. WHEN PREPARING YOUR OWN TURN TO BE INVITED BY THE LORD TO EMBRACE YOUR BED OF SUFFERING?

*Never ever bother to form a habit of asking WHY? Because The Lord's first response is Silence, the Lord's second response to your insistent stubbornness is "Shut up." And gently adds an invite "accept ka na muna kasi"*

Then, sit back and Hope in the vision of God's Magnanimity. Like an eagle God's wisdom extends beyond an army of his mice. ...MARUNONG KA PA SA DIYOS!



File Photo: Don Stefano Martoglio, Vicar of the Rector Major, offers a prayer for Fr. Jose 'Pepe' Reinoso.

**To the Eternal Liturgy:** Members of biological and Salesian Family gather to send off +Fr. Cris, SDB



## Salamat at Paalam, +Fr. Cris!

By Rev. Jogar Villanueva, SDB

**Every Funeral Mass for a deceased confrere gives meaning to our lives and vocation as Salesians—to tell the story of how a confrere touched the world and what the world would be like without them.**

A liturgist, +Fr. Crisostomo “Cris” Eugenio Magbitang, SDB, 61, was called by the Father on April 25, Feast of St. Mark, to celebrate the eternal liturgy.

He left a great vacuum in the hearts of many people, especially the parishioners of the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians Parish—Better Living Subdivision. Parañaque, which was his last post as its rector and pastor.

On the morning of 29th April, +Fr. Cris was laid to his resting place at Don Bosco- Canlubang, it was preceded by the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Provincial Gerardo Martin, SDB, and concelebrating with him are Bishops

Leo Drona, SDB, Bishop Emeritus of San Pablo, and Jesse Mercado, DD of the Diocese of Parañaque. Also present is the EAO Regional Councillor, Fr. Joseph Phuoc, SDB, and more than 50 priests at the Diocesan Shrine of Mary Help of Christians.

Remarkably, the chapel was packed with a huge number of mourners whose lives were touched by the kindness of +Fr. Cris.

In his homily, Fr. Provincial recounted how +Fr. Cris received the last sacraments on a Sunday before his demise. He also put stress on our being a resurrection people, that a death is a doorway to be with the Risen Lord in the after life. Quoting Don Bosco, that a piece of paradise fixes everything. +Fr. Cris, who has been a Salesian for 42 years, inspires and urges us to persevere in our vocation.

The Province just lost another dedicated priest, one who smelled like his sheep– he has been in parish work for 13 years and for 19 years as a formator and professor.

+Fr. Cris labored as a true and tireless servant of God, switching from teaching theology on weekdays and pasturing his flock on weekends. Although +Fr. Cris' life came to an end; we expressed confidence that he is now at peace with God, with Don Bosco, and especially with Mary's Help of Christians, whom he loved and honored so well in his lifetime.

**Salamat po Fr. Cris, hanggang sa muli!**





NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS  
PARANAQUE CITY

By Mr. PJ Cumpas

*I am from Heaven*

**A MARIAN EXHIBIT FEATURING MARIAN APPARITIONS  
AND OTHER TITLES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**MAY 4 - 31, 2024 | MARIAN CENTER,  
NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**



THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO  
INVITE YOU TO THE

# PERPETUAL *Profession*

1 MAY 2024 I 09.00 AM

NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



LKC

CL. KINGSLYN  
ANTANITHAS SDB



INA

CL. NAVARETE  
ALFONSUS SDB



FIN

CL. SORIANO MARK SDB



LKC

CL. SUJANTHAN,  
PAULRAJ PANKIRAS SDB

# YOU ARE MINE!

ISAIAH 43:1

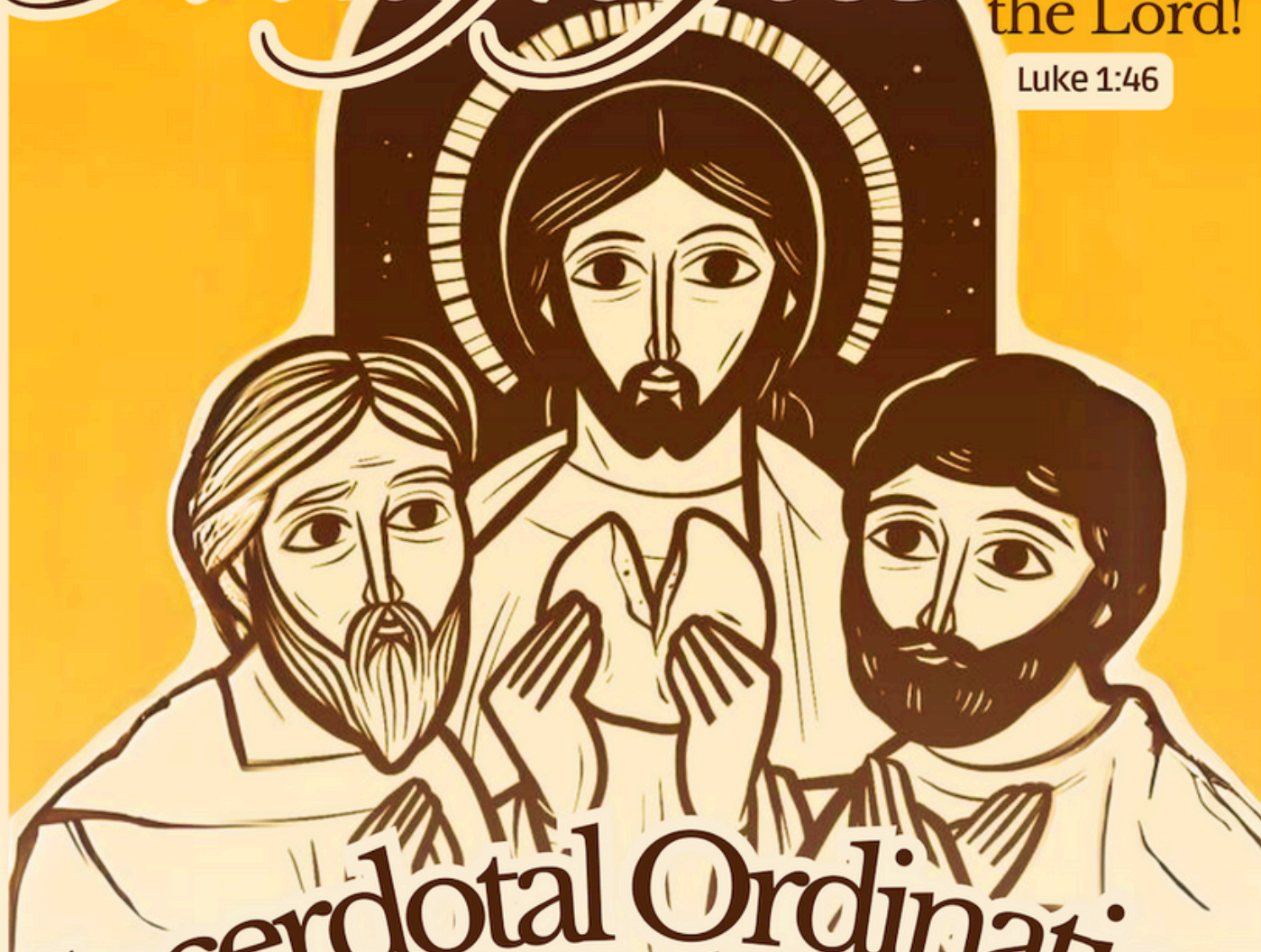




# My Soul Magnifies

the Lord!

Luke 1:46



# Sacerdotal Ordination

FRIDAY

24 May 2024

9:00am

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians



**Rev. JJ**

Rev. John Joseph Aguila, SDB

[fb.com/DonBoscoFIN](https://fb.com/DonBoscoFIN)



Ordaining Prelate  
Most Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo, DD  
Apostolic Vicar of Taytay, Palawan

National Shrine of  
Mary Help of Christians Parish  
Better Living Subdivision,  
Parañaque City, Philippines



**Rev. Rico**

Rev. Enrico Mercado, SDB

[sdb.org.ph/fin](https://sdb.org.ph/fin)



**Passionate about Jesus Christ,  
Dedicated to the Young People**

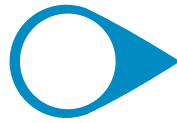
<https://gc29.sdb.org.ph/resources>

# PC24/GC29 Timeline

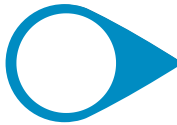
Infographics by CSCCom

**Feb**  
Community reflections  
and contributions  
on the GC29  
Reflection Questions

Feb



**Mar 31**



Election of  
PC2024 Province  
Delegates

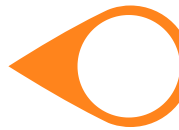
Deadline of submission  
on March 31, 2024

**Jan 31**



Deadline of  
submission of PC2024  
Local Delegates to the  
Moderator

**Apr**



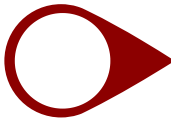
Creation  
of the PC2024 Working  
Paper by the  
Preparatory  
Commission

**May**

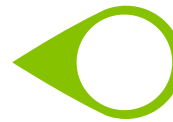


**Jun 16-22**

PC2024 Assembly  
and Celebration



**Jun 23-29**



Finalization by the  
PC2024 Secretariat of  
the PC2024 documents  
for submission to GC29  
Moderator

**Jul 1**

Deadline of  
submission of  
PC2024 documents  
to GC29 Moderator



PC 2022 CSCCom File photo



# Methodology of Community Discernment

**CORE AREA 1 & 2: Communities may start the reflections on the proposed Reflection Question Guide already provided.**

**CORE AREA 3 & JURIDICAL QUESTIONS: We will wait for the reflections of the General Council before we can start our community deliberations on these.**

**CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT: We shall attempt to use this Synodal process in our community reflections.**

*An EYE on the lives of conferes, communities, EPC, young*

*Identify new ways of living the Salesian consecrated identity*

*Identify causes of wellness & discomfort*

**LISTENING**

**INTERPRETATION**

**CHOICES**

**DON BOSCO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

# SHARE THE DREAM: GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING

WEDNESDAY  
AT 4 PM

**1**

MAY  
2024

## DBST MULTIPURPOSE HALL

MAIN CELEBRANT

**HIS EMINENCE VIRGILIO CARDINAL DO CARMO DA SILVA SDB DD**  
ARCHBISHOP OF DILI (TIMOR-LESTE)  
DBST BATCH 1999

CO-CELEBRANT WITH ALL PRIESTS

**HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REV MSGR PETER BAQUERO SDB DD**  
ORDINARY OF THE DIOCESE OF KEREMA (PAPUA NEW GUINEA)  
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# GOT QUESTIONS?

## FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS

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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
*We Accompany. We grow.*



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**3, 10, 17 & 24 MAY 2024**



**TIME**  
**7:30 - 8:30 PM**



**PLATFORM**  
**Zoom Conference**

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**Speaker**

**Fr. Francis Gustilo, SDB**

Doctorate in Sacred Theology  
Pontifical Salesian University, Rome  
Member of the International Theological  
Commission (2009-2013), Vatican

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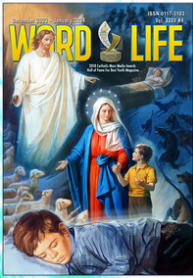
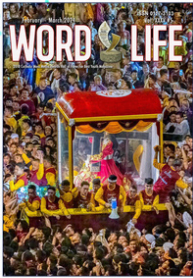
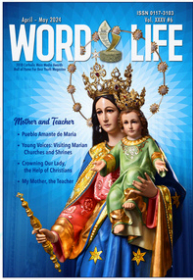
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