



E-BULLETIN #131

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 248



The Pallottine Fathers thru *Fr. Binay Barwa* and *Fr. Sarjit Kaleo* invite you to the Concelebrated Mass, Blessing and Inauguration of the *First Formation House of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottine) in the Philippines.*

The **Bishop of Bacolod**, the *Most Rev. Vicente M. Navarra, D.D.*, will officiate the Mass and Blessing, and the **Rector General of the Pallottine**, the *Very Rev. Jacob Sampudakam* will preside the Inauguration Rites, to be assisted by the *Very Rev. Shanti P. Panna, Provincial Khrist Jyothi, Raipur, India*, and the *Very Rev. Peter Sticco, Provincial Immaculate Concepcion, U.S.A.*, and the *Very Rev. Eugene San, Regional Superior, Mary Queen of the World, Australia.*

on July 22, 2014, Tuesday at 5:30 in the afternoon
at Marapara 1, Bata Subdivision, Bacolod City

...the impelling WORD of love...

Our first reading today takes us through the startling tale of the boy, Samuel. It is an account, I believe, that befits this occasion, the inauguration of the Pallottine Seminary here in the Diocese of Bacolod.

The passage opens with a somewhat bleak remark because it sets the context of the story as happening during a time of spiritual aridness, when there is a scarcity of visions, a depressing silence and absence; a poverty of God's word in the midst of his people. This season of barrenness occasioned one of the greatest call-stories of all time.

Moving on, we know that Samuel was awakened by a still, soft voice calling out to him persistently. And so, light-headedly and fresh from a deep slumber, he stood up seeking from whence it came only to finally discover that it was God's! From this point on, Samuel became acutely aware of a loving preference for him by God.

That 'voice' represents a choice. Young Samuel was awakened by the gentle urgings of divine love.

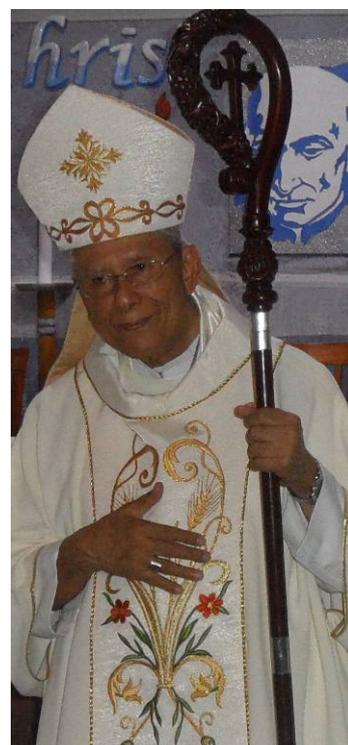
In like manner, this seminary is dedicated for such purpose. This is not a factory for missionary vocations. Rather this is a place where the young are to be awakened by love and urged by it to go beyond the slumber of self-centeredness, and only then can a priestly and Pallottine vocation become possible.

Secondly, Samuel received the word of God when he was ready to listen. He allowed the Lord to speak, and in utter docility welcomed the irresistible WORD of love which impelled him to be who God wanted him to be. Such transformation happened because of the presence of the impelling WORD of love that he received. This leads us to realise that a person becomes a prophet not because he prophesies, but because he receives the impelling WORD. Such is the further purpose of this institution. It should find the meaning and source of its mission in the reception of the WORD through prayer, study, and common life, the three time tested vehicles of transmission of God's word; only then can we offer to Christ and the Church a rich harvest of prophets.

Finally, Samuel's story concluded with him being established by the Lord as a prophet of Israel. The presence of the Word in his life suffused him with power to do the good he was called to do. This empowerment by God is the final assurance of grace, that a missionary is, in the end, not alone. A missionary is not a solitary worker but one who labours with the power of God, affirming what St Paul in our second reading tells us, that all mission does not rest on persuasive words of human wisdom but is accomplished through the Spirit and Power of God.

May Christ, whose gentle urgings of love you have heard, inspire and awaken a spark in you. May his WORD impel you towards a smouldering blaze of missionary zeal and finally empower you to bear witness to the borrowed words which you took as your own: "Caritas Christi urget nos". (2 Cor. 5:14)

I congratulate the Pallottines for this notable achievement. As Bishop I assure you of my support and prayers. It is my hope that this crucial work will foster the growth of Pallottine vocations, thereby gracing the Church with worthy missionaries coming from the Diocese of Bacolod.



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item 249

“we are exploring...”

There are historic links of Australia with the Philippines, a relatively close neighbour, which go back to the 1800's, and right across the so-called Top End of this country. In particular the first Pallottine missionaries to the Kimberley, in 1901, came across many connections through mixed race aboriginal-filipino families involved in the fishing and pearling industries. Names like *Puertollano*, *Corpus*, *Rodriguez* are current reminders of earlier migrants who travelled south, and have enriched our community through their strong faith tradition. A body exists in this country called SPAN – Solidarity Philippines Australia Network – made up

of individuals and organisations who “support the struggle of the Filipino people for independence, freedom and democracy”. In Broome’s annual iconic SHINJU MATSURI festival the Filipino community enter their own float.



On the other hand the history of a formal SAC association with the Philippines is far more recent. And the initiative has come from India – the Khrist Jyothi [Light of Christ] Province. Their first appointee – **Fr Binay Barwa Barwan sac** – took up his post in 2010.

As one of the E-BULLETIN’s first contributors he wrote, in #2 (!), describing his ministry as a “chaplaincy”. Binay is based in a poor village, 6 kms from the capital of Negros Occidental Island – Bacolod City. “The people here are settled to work in the sugar cane fields by their landlords”. The donor of the land on which his chapel was constructed expressed the wish that it be named St Antonio de Padua.

Quite soon, and with impressive confidence, he sought out an additional block on which to build a house of formation. That initial plan came to nothing but, more recently, the foundation has been blessed with 5 students and a modest building has now been purchased to accommodate them. Our Regional, **Fr Eugene San sac**, was invited to be part of its opening and blessing. He writes:



“The house was purchased with money from Rome, Germany and USA [Immaculate Conception Province]...The project has the [strong] support of the local ordinary and local Filipino priests...We are exploring the possibility of establishing a combined novitiate for students from the South East Asia region”.



He indicates that the new formation team in Bacolod will take the responsibility for recruiting, background checking, psychological screening, education and formation of candidates and he is hopeful that, in time, Australia itself may benefit from the assistance of suitable vocations.

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01.08.14

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you commented...

on #130 It is very nice to read Asia Oceania E-Bulletin every Sunday morning after Mass. The articles are good and enriching. I am sending to all the members in our Province. Thank you...

SY 27.07.14

Thanks... What a remarkable duo! I hadn't realised Bishop Jobst was the last German bishop to attend Vatican II (though, of course, at least one other German who was a prominent figure at the Council and who was to become a bishop, Joseph Ratzinger, is still very much with us).

MB 27.07.14

correction: In the intro to last weekend's item on Bishop Heinrich Vieter the source, **Fr Jan Koryski sac**, was incorrectly described as our Society archivist. I am advised that he is in fact the Postulator General. Apologies Jan!

RH