

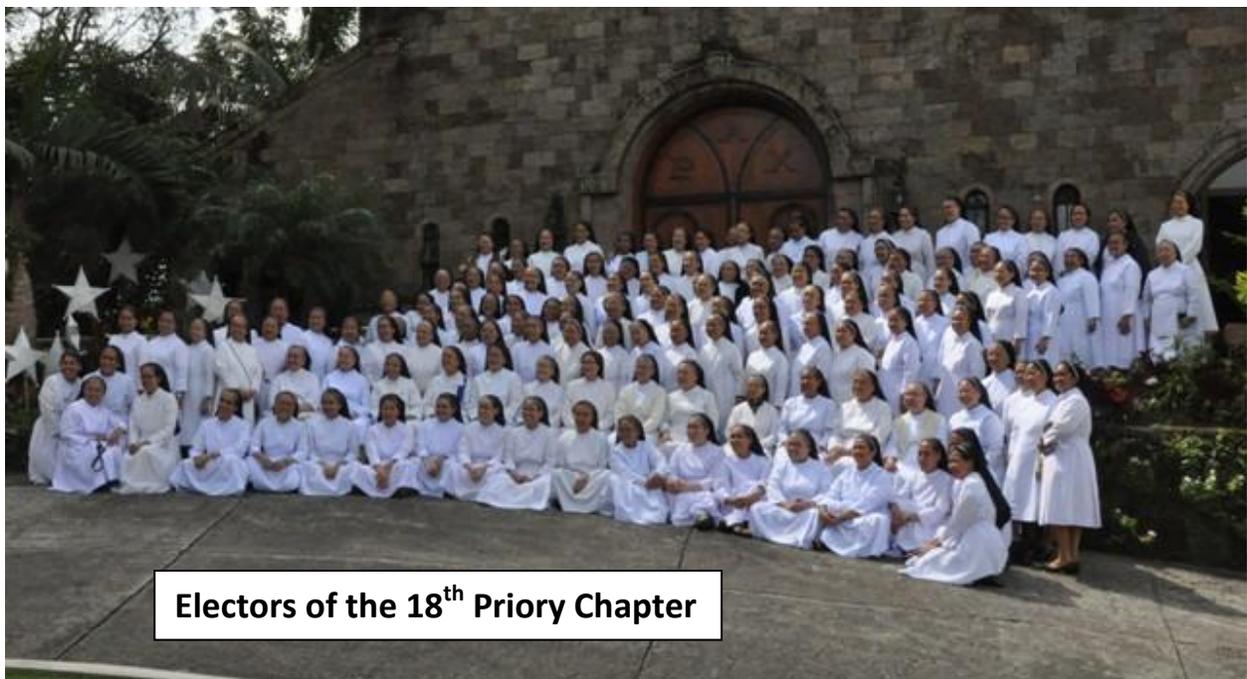
MANILA PRIORY NEWSLETTER

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In Pursuit of a Star

Like the three wise men, one hundred forty-five Missionary Benedictines started the last leg of a journey in earnest quest of a star last January 7, 2012 at the St. Scholastica's Center of Spirituality, *Tagaytay* City. The journey of discerning God's choice of a spiritual leader for the Priory had begun in pre-election discernment facilitated by Sr. Jeanne Ranek, OSB in three clusters last September 2011.



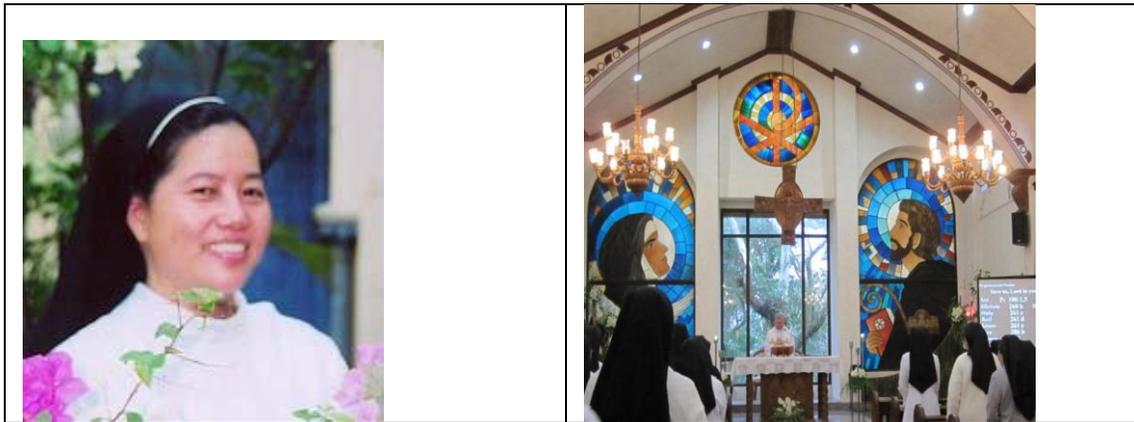
Electors of the 18th Priory Chapter

Listening to discern God's choice was the order of the two days before the election of the Prioress. On the first day, the sisters listened to Mother Vicarress Adelaida Ygrubay's affirmation of the Priory and the greater challenge to be "*powerful channels of grace for*

the people we serve, if we let God do his work in us;” Mother Mary John Mananzan’s comprehensive report of the state of the Priory; S. Ana Maria Raca’s financial report, and the Superiors’ reports of the twenty local communities. In the late afternoon Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle, D.D. of Manila shared the three challenges he perceives facing the Philippine Church, namely evangelization/ renewal of culture, new evangelization for the transmission of faith, and care for the person.

The first half of the morning of the second day included the remaining Superiors’ reports. This was followed by the reading by M. Adelaida of the names to be considered for the Office of Prioress. The rest of the day was devoted to periods of prayer and discernment.

On January 9th, the election of the Prioress was incorporated in a prayer service. M. Adelaida announced before the thanksgiving Mass at 11 o’clock that S. Lumen Gloria Dungca, OSB had accepted the mandate of the Chapter. The Star had been found. Joy and thanksgiving were the sentiments lifted up in prayer for M. Mary John and the newly-elected Prioress, M. Lumen Gloria.



In the afternoon, the Business Chapter commenced. From the 9th to the 12th, the thirty capitulars studied and discussed the proposals of the sisters during commission work and plenary sessions. The movement of the Spirit can be discerned in the chapter output of recommendations, guidelines, and changes in Statutes



Delegates to the 18th Priory Chapter

The fruits of the chapter become manifest as each Sister in the Priory becomes a new evangelizer exuding joy and hope in a renewing Priory that participates in the Church’s mission of new evangelization.

Sister M. Lydia Villegas, OSB

