



BENET Conference 2013



Having happy memories of what happens in a Sisters' Congress, the Sisters all looked forward to the getting together as Priory. What a sight to behold when the Sisters exchanged pax hugs and greetings of peace. S. Lydia, our Sub-Prioress and her preparatory team planned the activities months before the said activity to ensure a unique and unforgettable experience for each participant.

Mother Adelaida, OSB opened the congress before supper time on October 3, 2013. The Sisters were grouped according to colors (13 groups) during the meal. They were also made to memorize some sentences and significant phrases from the "Porta Fidei" as a means to unite their group.

S. Martha, OSB started the games for the night by letting the groups complete a puzzle of the logo of the Year of Faith. The first three groups who completed the puzzle were declared winners. Throughout the evening, the Sisters played games. All were winners especially during the Special Bingo time. The Tacloban community prepared the cards in a way that the Sisters remember former superiors, name of stations and other information about our Priory. Special prizes were also given: example: for the one who is oldest in profession years. The candies, chocolates, tote bags, key chains, herbal teas, etc prizes donated by the different communities gave much joy to the Sisters who all won not just once but as S. Constance puts it..." win as many as you can". S. Ma. Gabrielle, OSB and S. Eliza, OSB rendered a song and the Angeles community also performed a dance number. The "HALLELUIAH Prayer" prepared by the Mati community ended the night gathering.

The morning of October 4 begun with the Eucharistic celebration for the 50th year of Religious profession of S. Mary Rose Zamudio, OSB. A common breakfast to celebrate the feast followed.

All feastday and birthday celebrants during the days of retreat were "formally" greeted (the Sisters were instructed not to greet the celebrants during the re-

treat days). The Tagaytay community prepared chocolates and special orchids for the celebrants.

Mother Adelaida started her conference by remembering Pope Francis' feastday which was on that day (October 4). She emphasized the significant role of the Pope during our times whose call is for the updating of the structures of the Church. With a great smile, she also thanked the Sisters for being "good" because it is now her 9th month as prioress but have not encountered any problem with the Sisters.

Mother Adele shared about Management and Leadership. She gave stress to the continued call to Conversion as Benedictines. With the situation of our time as becoming more secularized...even some groups are having "Sunday Assembly without God". She pointed out the significance of choosing what is meaningful in ones life. She echoed the message of Pope Francis through his life witness to "live with the people", "reaching out to those who have been hurt" (Article from the National Catholic Reporter). She further said that "knowing the Creed is not enough" but "to be authentic witness that includes the cross"...being what we preach and by being MORE.

Questions were given for the group sharing:

1. In this year of faith, what is the "more" to which the Priory is called?
2. How, specifically, is the priory called to Conversion?
3. What changes would you need to personally make to respond to the call for conversion?
4. What help would you need in order to bring about this/ these change/s?

The Sisters then proceeded to their groups (13 groups) to share about their ideas and experiences. A gallery of the result of the discussions was created to allow the Sisters to learn from the discussions of the other groups. The main content of the Sisters' discussions were prayer and the apostolate of presence.

At near midday, the official signing of the documents of the turn-over of the PIME property as purchased by the MBS took place. The PIME Fathers confidently entrusted the original title of their property to Mother Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB, Prioress. The signing of the transfer was a joyful one witnessed by S. Lydia Villegas, OSB; Sub-Prioress and the Priory Councilors: Mother Irene Dabalus, OSB, S. Angelica Leviste, OSB and S. Mary Thomas Prado, OSB. The Sisters assembled sang the “ Te Deum” as a thanksgiving.

A deeper sharing took place in the afternoon which allowed the Sisters to learn from each other and be encouraged to keep on moving on our journey of faith with God’s grace and our cooperation to that grace... as communities.... in our different apostolates.

S. Lydia, OSB closed the Sisters’ Congress with words of inspiration and thanked the Sisters for their generosity in giving time and importance to the Sisters’ Congress that highlights the Year of faith.

By: Sr. Evangeline Madayag, OSB

The Superiors-Formators’ meeting was held at Millar Hall of SSCS, Tagaytay City from October 5-7, 2013. Aside from business matters, the following topics were discussed during the three days.

First Day: “The Benedictine as Theologian or Contextualizing the Challenges of the New Evangelization” The talk of Fr. Freddie Dulay, MJ cen-

tered on “Contextualizing the Challenge of the New Evangelization” as Benedictines in today’s world. He called the Benedictines “Theologians” in the context of determining our role of facing the challenges of the new evangelization in the contemporary local and global



Left: Sr. Emily Macharia, OSB
Right: Sr. Margaret Mary Mbithi, OSB
Nairobi, Kenya



Sr. Anuarite Haule, OSB
Peramiho, Tanzania



Left: Sr. Mary Helen Medairos, OSB
Right: Sr. Xaveria Bang, OSB
Sorocaba, Brazil



Sr. Judette Pulle, OSB
Jinja, Uganda



BENET 2013 Participants