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THE RB AND ITS PATRISTIC ROOTS IN EAST AND WEST

Running into its 7th year the series of RB Study Weeks at SSCS went on to its 7th phase this year under the title: “The RB and its Patristic Sources in East and West.” It was held from October 15-30 under a team of Benedictine lecturers from Our Lady of Montserrat Abbey (San Beda), and St. Scholastica's Priory, including a guest lecturer from the Augustinian Sisters of our Lady of Consolation. Some 40 Benedictine Men and Women from all over the country, among them a Tutzinger sister from Tanzania, another one from Ndanda, and a Japanese sister from the Good Samaritans of Bacolod, attended the study weeks. As such, the participants showed much energy and enthusiasm in delving into the primary sources of the patristic tradition in which the Holy Rule had its roots.

The array of patristic sources ranged from the monastic rules of the Desert Fathers and Mothers in the East to the mother rules of the fourth and fifth century in the West. Sr. Pauline Trivinio gave two talks on the socio-political and economic world of the RB, followed by Fr. Savio Siccuan, OSB, on the fathers and mothers of the desert and their legacy of prayer and solitude. Then for two days Abbot Eduardo Africa, OSB, took up with the group St. Athanasius' Life of Antony and the Rule of Pachomius, monastic stalwarts of the early centuries. Five full days went into readings and commentaries on the volumes of St. Basil, John Cassian, and the RM analyzed by Fr. Gerard de Villa, OSB. Finally, Sr. Maria Luz Mijares, OSA-SOLC, enlightened the



group on the Rule of Life written by St. Augustine, monk and bishop.

Although it proved to be like a “speed reading” course on the patristics, the group came out of it with delight and amazement. It was a study and a renewal all in one. They realized with awe how St. Benedict – nurtured by Scriptures and the Fathers of the monastic world – wrote for us a rule of life which has transcended millennia, marked as it is by wisdom, balance and humanity.

By: Mo. Irene Dabalus, OSB



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Sr. Pauline Trivinio, OSB