

The three-and-a-half week seminar was given by Sister Dr. Aquinata Boekmann, OSB, retired professor of the Ateneo di Sant' Anselmo in Rome. This is the third in the series of the RB Study Weeks she has conducted in Tagaytay since 2009. Forty four participants to the RB Study Weeks - Phase VI came from six countries: Germany, Italy, Australia, Indonesia, Namibia and the Philippines from October 12 to November 6, 2013 at St. Scholastica's Center of Spirituality, Tagaytay City.



S. Aquinata, OSB shared her latest research in her newest book entitled "Pariter in Christo" and thoroughly led the participants in an in-depth study on the following:

- PRAYER
 - * The Arrangement of the Divine Office: RB Chapters 8 to 18
 - *The Praying Monastic: RB Chapters 19 and 20
- COMMUNITY
 - * Organization within the Monastery
 - Correction and Discipline: RB Chapters 21 to 30
 - Administration of Goods: RB Chapters 31 to 34
 - Concerning Meals: RB Chapters 35 to 42
 - Satisfaction: RB 43 to 46
 - Arrangement of Work, Lectio and Prayer: RB Chapters 47 to 52

As requested by the group, RB Chapters 6, 71, 72 and the Prologue were included in the study. RB 80 with Latin text, Cassian's Institutes and Conferences were available for reference. Questions for every chapter were challenging especially comparing the RB with the RM and colors were at the same time fun and relaxing.

The daily schedule started with Lauds at six thirty a.m. followed by Holy Mass. Sessions started at nine o'clock in the morning and ended at eleven forty five a.m.

The afternoon was spent for personal and group study from two thirty to four thirty. For the common group recreation every Monday, Tuesday and Friday, there was a sharing of the life and apostolate (with a power point presentation) of the different congregations: Trappists, Guimaras; Trappistines, Matutum, OSB monks, and Benedictine Nuns, Malaybalay; BNEK, Davao and Mindoro, BSEK, Vigan and Cubao, OSB Mexico, Pampanga; Jamberoo Abbey, Australia; Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Australia; OSB Tutzing, Manila priory, Philippines, Windhoek priory, Namibia, Ndanda priory, Tanzania and from Monte Virgine, Italy.

Meals were taken in common: breakfast in silence, lunch with recreation and dinner with table reading. The seven groups took turns in preparing the refectory for dinner.

The group visited Calaruega on Sunday, October 27 and

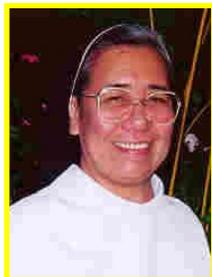
had lunch at Big Bean on the way back to the spirituality center.

Wednesday, November 5 after dinner was the culminating program held at Building 2 main lobby.

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 was the closing Holy Mass.

INTRODUCTION: By S. Mary Ignatius C. Aquino, OSB

After the days of intensive study on the Rule of St. Benedict, we would need a lifetime to digest the text, allow it to penetrate our whole being until we can live it out naturally in our personal and communal lives. The exegesis on the Rule taught us literary analysis and criticism and at the same time, we got to know a bit of its sources, its history and its context.



We will constantly remember:

- * the primacy of the Work of God
- * the love of neighbour
- * the balance between manual work and study
- * the service to the poor
- * stewardship and
- * discipline

Yes, we know that the way is bound to be narrow at the outset, yet, we can attest that this way of life is “overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love: especially for us who have celebrated our silver and golden jubilees. The challenge to all of us now is how to persistently and perseveringly make the Rule alive in our hearts, in our communities and among the people we serve.

Thank you so much S. Aquinata, OSB for sharing with us your wisdom and expertise on the Rule of St. Benedict. Your scholarly work, the expanse and the depths of your research on the Rule is a precious contribution to monasticism all over the world. You are indeed a Benedictine woman of substance and excellence.

Distinct to us as Benedictines when we gather at meetings and international conferences such as this is the feeling of at-home-ness which we so much felt towards each other especially with the Tagaytay community who lavishly served us with everything that is BEST! For being CHRIST-like to us, may GOD reward you a hundredfold!

Now, that our ashes have been blown and the flames have been ignited, let us cast out fire on earth; let us, then, run on the path of God’s commandment, prefer nothing whatever to CHRIST and may HE bring us all together to everlasting life.

By S. Mary Ignatius C. Aquino, OSB