

EVENTS IN THE FORMATION HOUSE

The week from May 18 to May 25, 2014 brought significant events in our Priory, events that we consider GOD-SENT for the continuing Benedictine Mission in the world:

- Three (3) young women were admitted to Aspirancy May 25, 2014
- Three (3) Aspirants had the Rite of Passage to Postulancy in the afternoon of May 18, 2014
- Three (3) novices made a **“free and unreserved commitment to the Lord”** for three (3) years, committing themselves to follow Christ in the life and mission of the Church.
- Novice Antonette was admitted to the second year of novitiate on May 20, 2014. She is alone in her stage of formation but she has remained firm in her desire to serve the Lord as a Missionary Benedictine Sister



Nov. Antonette Morales with Prioress Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB Mo.

The ASPIRANTS :



(L-R) Gina Oracion, Kris Alcantara, Ciedelle Honey Lou Dimalig

Aspirant CIEDELLE HONEY LOU DIMALIG
from the Archdiocese of Palo:

Ciedelle had her schooling with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Peter's College, Ormoc City from Kindergarten, Elementary and High School years until 1st year College.

She took up BS Nursing and passed the Board Exams for Nurses. While working in hospitals and other

health centers, she took up a course in education. She spent time teaching the marginalized people . . . it is in this service of teaching the people that she got attracted to “seek God in the mission with the people, especially the marginalized.”

Aspirant KRIS ALCANTARA
from the Diocese of Legaspi City

After her graduation from college, Kris Alcantara applied for a teaching position at St. Agnes' Academy. This opened new avenues for Kris. She spent three years teaching and tutoring students. At the same she engaged herself in various school activities . . . It was in a Vocation Search-in that Kris felt God's call to follow Christ and to devote herself to something greater than what the world can offer.

Aspirant GINA ORACION
from the Diocese of Tagum City

At the age of 14, young Gina heard a song that gave meaning to her life. **“Lord, I want to know you more!”** This song and its words had a strong appeal to Gina. She faced the feeling of emptiness in her life : an emptiness that needed to be filled.

Gina got to know the Missionary Benedictine Sisters through the **Internet** and wrote Sister Mary Bellarmine who, in turn, forwarded her letter of inquiry to our Vocation Directress, Sister Mary Paul.

THE POSTULANTS



(L-R) Cherry Grande, Ma. Teresa Tusi, Jennifer Longa

In the afternoon of May 18, Mother Prioress Adelaida admitted the following Aspirants to Postulancy:

Postulant CHERRY GRANDE from the Diocese of Bacolod
Postulant Ma.TERESA TUSI from the Diocese of Iloilo
Postulant JENNIFER LONGA from the Diocese of Bacolod

In the presence of the Formation House Community, Mother Prioress gave the new postulants a copy of the Rule of St. Benedict with these words:

“Listen to the Master’s instructions with the *ear of your heart.*”

She challenged them to continue living the Benedictine way with an assurance that the Lord will bring to perfection whatever he has begun in them.

1. MANDATUM



On the evening before the First Profession of Vows, the three communities here in Marikina gathered together in the Formation House Chapel for the MANDATUM.

Mother Prioress Adelaida, assisted by Sister Pauline, **washed the feet of our three novices who were preparing for the Rite of First Profession.** Reverently, she kissed the feet of each one of them while the song **“Love one another as I have loved you”** was being sung. It was very touching to see how our elderly sisters knelt down or bent over to show love and respect to our young novices.

2. EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION WITH RITE of FIRST PROFESSION of VOWS

At a Eucharistic Celebration held at the School Chapel of St. Scholastica’s Academy, Marikina City on May 18, 2014,

Novice REDONE MARIE MACKAY
of the Military Ordinariate of the Philippines
Novice GRACE MARIE HUSMILLO
of the Diocese of Legaspi
Novice MICHELLE DUNGCA
of the Diocese of San Fernando Pampanga

made their First Profession of Vows for three (3) years in the presence of the Prioress, Mother Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB

Presiding at the Eucharist was **the Rt. Reverend Abbot Eduardo Africa, OSB.** In his very touching

homily, he related how he grew up in a family steeped in the Benedictine heritage of love and respect for one another and the spirituality of *“ora et labora”*. His mother was a Scholastican and remains a Scholastican in spirit.

Sister Angelica Leviste, OSB gave an Introduction before the start of the Eucharist, an introduction that stirred the hearts of the people gathered in the Assembly:

“Today, we have three (3) young women who, with undivided heart, are leaving behind persons who are very dear to them : their parents, family members, and friends. They are leaving behind possibilities that life offers them: a promising career, a significant position in society, and many attractive things that the world can offer . . . They are leaving behind all these because **they heard another call: JESUS CALLS THEM TO FOLLOW HIM and TO LIVE A LIFE OF SERVICE TO GOD AND TO GOD’S PEOPLE.**”

3. PROFESSION OF VOWS

One by one, the novices read their profession of vows (a public proclamation of their self-offering to God) before God and His saints in the presence of Mother Prioress Adelaida and the Sisters and the Assembly.

Then, Mother Prioress gave them their religious names:

Novice Redone Marie Mackay : **Sister Mary Peter Mackay, OSB**
Novice Grace Marie Husmillo: **Sister Agatha Marie Husmillo, OSB**
Novice Michelle Dungca : **Sister Marialuz Dungca, OSB**



(L-R) Sr. Marialuz Dungca, OSB, Sr. Agatha Marie Husmillo, OSB, Sr. Mary Peter Mackay, OSB

This day was indeed a beautiful day and we thanked God for all His blessings!

By: Sr. Mary Bernard Lansang, OSB