

STRICTLY NOT FOR SALE

JULY 2023
ISSUE

Sinhi

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS
& CATECHESSES



DOMINICAN NOVITIATE OF THE ANNUNCIATION
Manaoag, Pangasinan

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JULY 2023

ISSUE

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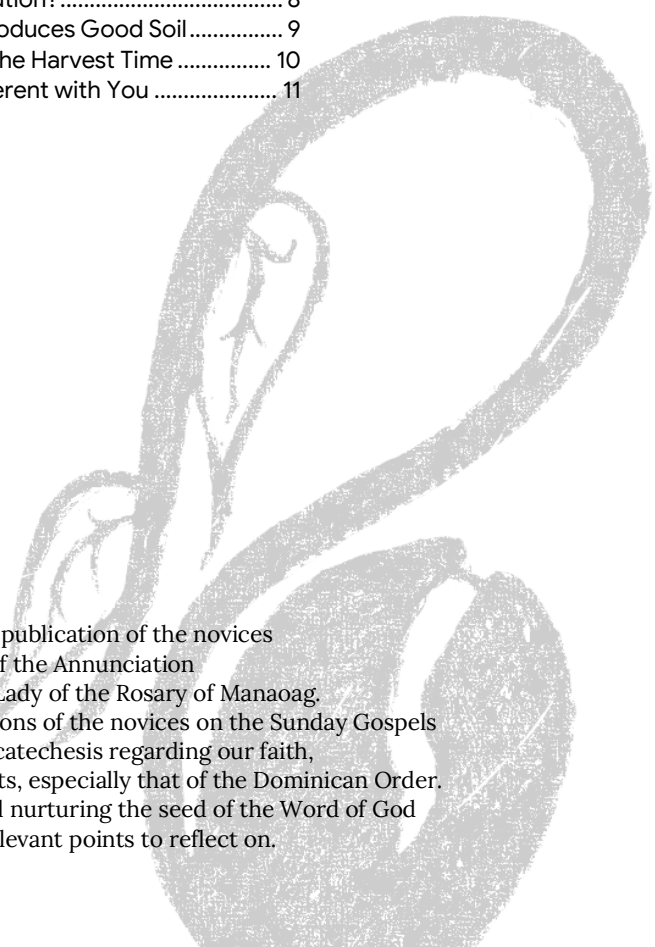
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BINHI is the official monthly publication of the novices of the Dominican Novitiate of the Annunciation at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag. Featured in it are the reflections of the novices on the Sunday Gospels of the current month, short catechesis regarding our faith, and the lives of selected saints, especially that of the Dominican Order. **BINHI** aims to aid the faithful nurturing the seed of the Word of God by providing practical and relevant points to reflect on.

Catechism of the Month

“Mary Magdalene as Patroness of the Order”

CATECHISM OF THE MONTH by Br. Jan Kevin S. Moises



In the gospel of John (20:1-2, 11-18), Mary Magdalene went into the tomb of Jesus early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone blocking the tomb was moved away. She was the first to witness the tomb was empty. The empty tomb signifies Jesus' victory over death. With this she ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved to tell them what she saw. Notice that she ran telling them what she saw. She had the sense of urgency to proclaim what she saw, what she knew, what she witnessed. She is the first preacher of the resurrection, a witness of the risen Lord. This is why Mary Magdalene considered as the patroness of the Order of Preachers, of which her feast day every July 22 is celebrated by all Dominicans worldwide.

We are invited by the Lord to be witnesses. We proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord. We follow the example of Mary Magdalene in proclaiming the truth. Such truth is much needed in today's world. If we are to be a disciple of Jesus, we have to become preachers of truth and combat the lies that continue to distort the world. Through our witnessing and proclamation of the good news, we aid in preaching for the salvation of souls.

JULY

2

Losing Your Life

REFLECTION on the 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Mt 10:37-42) by
Br. French Alfred M. Maaño

In a recent Korean film titled *Soulmate*, two friends start to drift away from each other as one became more and

more insecure of the other.

Though growing up as close friends, they eventually parted ways as both friends closed up from each other. By trying to find their own selves, they have lost the friendship they both held so precious. The same thing could happen to anyone of us. We may hold our own selves so dearly that we miss or ignore the other things that make life



truly meaningful and worthwhile. As Christ says in the Gospel: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Christ, therefore, invites us once again to review our life, our attachments, and our loves. Sometimes, we hold on things that are not good for us because they do not help us mature. Sometimes, we are attached to things that are not worthy of much attention. Sometimes, we love improperly. The Gospel today reminds us that the love of God purifies our ways of loving and attachments. God does not teach us to despise the things we hold dear in life such as family and friends, but are we able to love them in a way that is fully enriching? If we truly love God above all things, then we will start to appreciate things and people in the right manner. We can love our family,

friends and ourselves in a way that is healthy and that leads to a meaningful life.

Dear friends: What are the things that you hold so dearly at the moment? Are you missing out on things that could be more valuable in life? Maybe, start by prioritizing God in your life. It may look at first that you are losing your life, but it is the only way you would really find it.

JULY

4

Blessed Peter Giorgio Frassati

CATECHISM by Br. Jose Francisco D. Abella

Peter Giorgio Frassati (or Piergiorgio Frassati) was born in April, 1901 in Turin, Italy. He was healthy, extremely



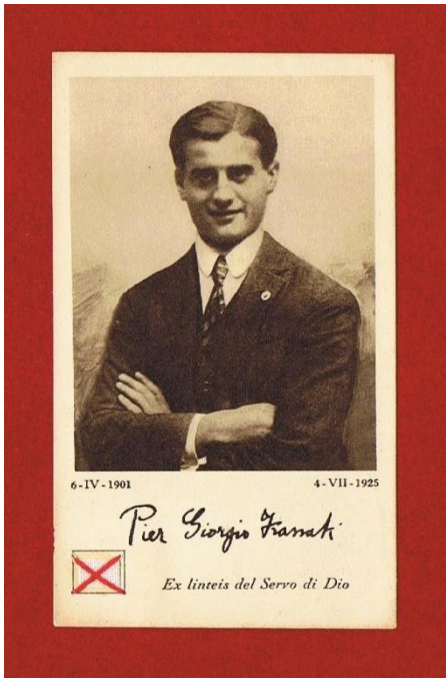
handsome, and excellent in sports. He was joyful and kind, enabling him to make many friends. He was also brilliant in school. He lived a very comfortable life as his father was the owner of a successful local newspaper. But, his social status did not make him selfish and insensitive to the

needs of others. Peter and his sister were taught by their pious mother to imbibe the spirit of obedience, self-denial, and selflessness - a way of life which is very uncommon in today's family.

Soon, he entered a university where he studied for a degree in mechanical engineering. Witnessing the trend of young people drifting away from the Faith and joining socialist and atheistic organizations, he was inspired to join a society that will help him in sustaining his spiritual life. He joined the Third Order of St. Dominic (now known as Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic or Lay Dominicans) on August 8, 1922, the feast of St. Dominic. He continued to live piously even as he struggled in university life. He eventually attracted many of his friends in the university to gather together and discuss matters and issues pertaining to Catholic thought and morality.

As he was moved to "bring to others the fruits of contemplation" in spreading the truth, he then joined an organization that we call today as Catholic Action - a club made up of young people who were fond of mountain climbing. He never preached to them, but his fellow members

became fascinated by his life of poverty and self-denial. In one instance, he half-jokingly said that he would use his inheritance to build a home for the poor and the less-fortunate in Turin. Eventually, he dreamt of becoming a lay missionary and planned to get married.



However, at the end of June 1925, Peter Giorgio was diagnosed with polio. It is said that he contracted the disease from the sick people that he is taking care of. The disease became well-advanced that even the best doctors in Turin could no longer save him. He eventually died on July 4, 1925 at the age of 24. A few years after his death, groups of young men from neighboring cities made a retreat in Turin on the occasion of his death anniversary. He was eventually beatified by St. John Paul II on May 20, 1990. For his holiness and concern for the poor, he was called “a man of the eight beatitudes.”



Blessed Benedict XI

CATECHISM by Br. Dennis C. Amarante

Nicholas Boccasini was born in Treviso in present-day Italy in 1240. Born of poor parents, he was put under the care of his uncle, who is a priest. He was trained in Latin and other ecclesiastical subjects; and by ten years old was appointed as tutor of noble children. Eventually, he entered the Order at Venice in 1254.

He was noted by his brothers for his intelligence, in particular St. Antoninus of Florence recounted that he had “a vast store of knowledge, a prodigious memory, a penetrating genius, and (that) everything about him endeared him to all.” It is said that it was probable that he became a student of St. Thomas Aquinas. At the same time, he was known for his administrative skills, which he demonstrated when he was the provincial of Lombardy and the ninth Master of the Order. His reputation as an efficient administrator prompted Pope Boniface VIII to appoint him as a cardinal.

As cardinal, Nicholas defended Boniface against the ill-treatment of the French, in particular Philip the Fair and his ambassador Nogaret. When Boniface died, Nicholas was elected as Pope in 1303, taking the name Benedict. Although short, lasting only for a year, his papacy was marked by numerous successful initiatives. Through his efforts, relations between the Papacy and France was restored, and peace was brokered between England and Germany. His papacy was also characterized as lenient and kind, as manifested in his decision to lift the interdict laid against the French by his predecessor.



There is one anecdote about Benedict which shows his benevolent character. Once, during his pontificate, his mother visited him in his court. The court attendants, who thought that she was poorly dressed, dressed her in unaccustomed finery before allowing her to see her son. Benedict, sensing what had happened, said that he did not recognize the woman wearing fine clothes, and asked where was the little widow, poorly dressed, that he loved so dearly.

Benedict died suddenly at Perugia on July 4, 1304. He was beatified by Pope Clement XII in 1736.





Dominican Novitia

FORMATION YEAR

(from 2018)

top: Br. Stefano **Adi** Negoro Sembiring, Br. **Fren**
Br. Jose Francisco "**Joco**" D. Abella, Br. **Jan**

bottom: Br. **Dennis** C. Amarante, Fr. **Ariel**
Fr. Romualdo "**Boyet**" P. Cabanatan, Jr., OP (MASTER)



ate of the Annunciation

YEAR 2023-2024



(left to right)
Fr. Alfred M. Maaño, Br. Michael Angelus Devaldi P.,
Fr. Kevin S. Moises, Br. Lloyd Eldrick T. Cuevas,
Fr. T. Adolfo, OP (ASSISTANT TO THE MASTER OF NOVICES),
Fr. (MASTER OF NOVICES), Br. Athanasio Jonathan "Jojo" A. Ginting

JULY

9

What's Your Contribution?

REFLECTION on the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 11:25-30) by Br. Lloyd Eldrick T. Cuevas



When I was still studying in college, one of the problems that I faced was what to give as a form of contribution during birthday parties or any other events that I was invited to attend to. Since I am not yet earning at that time, what I do is that I ask money from my parents. Before that, I will first do something good to them and then ask them at the right time in order for them to happily grant my request. Usually, my parents would give only a small amount of money. In that case, what I do is that I ask my friends to include me in their plan of buying their contribution, giving my money as an addition to the amount to be used in purchasing it. With that, I can confidently attend the event without being

empty-handed because I already have my contribution.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” – these are some of the many consoling and sweet words of Jesus to us, which is highlighted in the Gospel reading for today. There are many people who are holding on to these words as they pray for divine consolation. Sadly, there are some who do not believe in them, perhaps because they felt that they did not receive any consolation and help from God.

Let us ponder on these aforementioned words one by one: Jesus addressed those words to those “who are weary and burdened.” This is an invitation by Jesus for all of us who are facing problems to approach Him without hesitation and seek rest in Him. Sometimes, because of our preoccupation with our problems, we seem to forget that there is someone who can aid us in facing those difficulties. Let us be reminded once again that Jesus, in calling us to come to Him, is always ready to help us. All that we need to give is our complete faith and confidence in His handiwork. At the same time, in calling us to “take my yoke upon you and learn from me,” we are reminded to put our trust in Him into action, a sort of a contribution to the ongoing process of God’s handiwork for us. This can be done through works of faith.

Just like me who faced the problem of giving something during a party that I was invited into, all of us who are weary and burdened can seek help from someone who we can be relied upon. Just like my parents, God will surely grant us our petitions, especially if we need it. Just as I did good deeds first before being given what I need, we are called to give our complete trust in Him, putting it into action through our acts of piety. God will indeed give rest to us if He sees our acts of charity.

JULY

16

Good Preparation Produces Good Soil

REFLECTION on the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 13:1-23) by Br. Michael Angelus Devaldi Pradnyadhikka

During my formation in the Pre-Novitiate, one of the gardening projects that we undertook was to plant papaya seedlings. I was specifically assigned to plant seedlings in two gardens. Because of my excitement in seeing the seedlings grow, I watered them too much. After several months, some of them died, while some did not grow well and remained small. Only six seedlings grew well and got bigger. I learned that many of the seedlings died because I watered them too much and it made the roots decomposed. For those which remained small, it was caused by the soil itself.

The fate of the papaya seedlings that I planted is similar to that of the seeds in the parable of the sower that Jesus told in the Gospel reading for today. The seeds in the parable represent the disposition of those who



hear and listen to the Word of God. Those who do not listen seriously are compared to the seeds that fell along the footpath that was snatched away by a bird. Those who accept it joyfully but cannot cling on to it as they face difficulties are compared to that which was sown on rocky ground. Those who do not live by it because of anxieties or preoccupation toward material things are compared to that which fell among the thistles. Finally, those who faithfully follow them are compared to that which fell on good soil.

Reflecting upon the parable of the sower helps us in identifying whether we truly hear and listen to the word of God. Of course, we want to be a good soil so that we can bear much fruit. However, a good soil should be prepared first before the seed is planted there. Wild grass should be uprooted and fertilizers should be added. Once the soil is ready, seeds can now be planted. The seed will grow well and bear much fruit which can be enjoyed by others. So, a good soil is derived from a good preparation. Like a soil that is prepared for planting, we should prepare to dispose our hearts and minds in hearing the word of God. If we are able to do so, we can absorb what God is telling us through His words and put them into action.

JULY
23

Do Not Uproot Until the Harvest Time

REFLECTION on the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 13:1-23) by Br. Athanasio Jonathan Angkhasa Ginting



When I was seven years old, my mother would repeatedly remind me to always spend most of my time studying. But, being a stubborn kid, I would often disobey my mother's advice. For me, playing is better than studying. I even feel disturbed whenever my playing time is reduced. My mother, in persisting to inculcate in me the importance of studying, would hide my toys and scold me if I did not want to study. Eventually, as I grew up, I realized the wisdom of what my mother has done when I was young. I think my experience is similar to that of many people around the world.

In the parable of the weeds between the wheat, Jesus said that the field of the master was sabotaged by an enemy. Weeds have grown alongside the wheat. The master's servants proposed to uproot the weed, but the master said no. The master instead ordered the servants to reap everything during harvest time, and then separate the weeds from the wheat. The enemy in the parable represents the devil, who cunningly deceives and corrupts people when they are unaware of his workings. The parable teaches us the

value of patience, of waiting and enduring until the appointed time or the expected blessing has arrived. In realizing the value of studying which my mother is trying to inculcate in me, I also learned the importance of being patient. I learned that if I remain patient with studying, I will reap the fruits of my efforts during the “harvest time.” Let us learn from the Lord, who is represented by the master in the parable, in fostering hope even though it seems that goodness is blurred by wickedness.

JULY

30

The Now can be Different with You

REFLECTION on the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 13:44-52) by
Br. Stefano Adi Nagoro Sembiring

These days, the youth are doing and following the latest trends—visiting Instagrammable places, wearing fashionable clothes, watching anime, movies, and videos, listening to the latest K-Pop songs, and playing mobile games. These have become the “food” for a present-day teenager’s eyes and ears. But, they have negative effects, especially among believers. What has become a mere obligation. God has been relegated into a position of near irrelevance in favour of human beauty. He only becomes relevant if one wants to air out his sadness and sorrow and ask for more blessings. Has God turned into our servant whom we always ask for the things we want in order to satisfy our desires?



The Gospel reading for today reminds us of who should be our priority in life – He is God. He is waiting for us, even as we drown ourselves into parties, busy schedule, work, classes, among others. He is waiting for us every second of our life. He is waiting for YOU and ME to come, to pray, and

to tell Him our stories, our joys and sorrows, happiness and sadness, achievements and failures, ambitions and anxieties, gratitude, and petitions. He wants to speak with the persons whom He loves – us.

So now, let us look deeper into ourselves, realizing that the best treasure that we can have is God. To find Him, let us immerse ourselves in a life of prayer. Prayer life is very important for us. Our prayer life will reflect who we are, will represent our character, and will show our true behavior. It gives us the strength to ask God to guide us and to grant us the willingness to value our time with our family, friends, superiors, partner, or other loved ones. Moments with the closest persons to us will inspire us to perform charitable deeds, be obedient, and have a joyful and meaningful life. It all starts with prayer, and hopefully, as you embark on it, your life will be different.

“Prayer is to know Him and to know Yourself” (St. Josemaria Escriva)



13th Century

Dominican Blessing

May God the Father bless us,
may God the Son heal us,
may God the Holy Spirit enlighten us
and give us eyes to see with,
ears to hear with,
hands to do God's work with,
feet to walk with,
and mouth to preach the word of salvation with,
and the angel of peace,
to watch over us and lead us
at last, by the Lord's gift, to the kingdom.
Amen.

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