

HARALD ADLER, ss.cc.

FOR THE JUBILEE: SS.CC.

***FINTAN SHEERAN 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD
& MARTIN O'LOGHLEN 50 YEARS PROFESSED***

My first Easter in Manila always will stay in my memory. It was in our parish in Bagong Silang where I experienced the Solemn Easter Vigil: Fire from heaven rushed down and enkindled the wood prepared for the Easter fire. Yes, Filipinos like dramatic and illustrative performances. But I also recognized the fire, the ardor of passion and commitment in the SS.CC. community of brothers and sisters which spread into the whole parish, the passion for Christ and for the people, especially the poor...

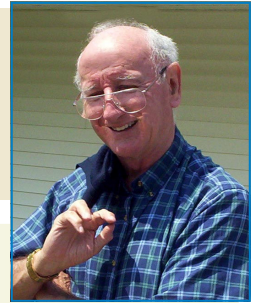
...For the Easter Sunday festive Eucharist the whole Manila SS.CC. family was gathered except those with special obligations. It was there that I experienced how Fr. Fintan connected his fundamental idea of the Christian community and especially of our SS.CC. community and its mission with the Paschal Mysteries. In his homily he asked us to see our life – our personal as well as our communitarian life – in the light of our Easter faith:

“... Do you believe in God the Father, and his love for you?... Do you believe that Jesus lives among us as our companion and friend on the road of life?... Do you believe that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love and forgiveness, the Spirit of joy and goodness, the Spirit of gentleness and peace, lives within us, consoling, guiding and strengthening us?... Do you believe that in spite of differences of race, politics, creed, poverty and riches, all human beings are equal in dignity and form one family under God?... Do you believe in the Church in which we become brothers and sisters in Christ and through which the Gospel is manifested in our world?... Do you believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is also our mother and the mother of Jesus’ community?... Do you believe that gathered by the Spirit in the power of Jesus’ resurrection the Congregation is a manifestation of God’s love for his people?”

Since this first Easter in the Philippines I have experienced the inspiring words and attitudes of Fr. Fintan and Fr. Martin on many occasions. They are a great gift for both the brothers and sisters of the Congregation and for the developing SS.CC. communities in Asia. Both members teach us that personal commitment in a community in mission is the great vocation and chance of our congregation in the new century. Hopefully their passion for Christ and people, their example and their vision, which deepens our personal and communitarian lives and which transgress boundaries, will fall on good ground for our young generation. ▣

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FINTAN SHEERAN, SS.CC.



*“ It was a difficult and painful time in the life of the Congregation; a time of brokenness, of sinfulness, of cynicism. The brothers who gathered together in El Escorial did not come to celebrate great victories. It was 1982; our mood was somber. The Chapter days followed one another quietly. And then, almost imperceptibly at first, an extraordinary event occurred. The General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts was gifted with a singular benediction – a blessing of communal transformation. “As we searched and prayed together in the General Chapter **we began to see ...**” writes the Chapter scribe. Indeed; the beginning of transformation – to see! “We began to see that, despite our brokenness, we had great unity; despite our sinfulness, much holiness; and despite our cynicism, great hope.” The hidden workings of the Spirit broke through the surface like a new spring of clear, fresh water. In the months and years that followed, it flowed out to the whole Congregation gradually animating new vision and new energy about communion and mission, about inspiration and courage; the courage to let go of things past – good things – and the inspiration to take direction for the future.*

Unlike many Chapters, the Chapter of '82 deeply affected our province; it is very much a part of the graced history of the province and of all the members. All of us can count the ways that it has been part of our experience. We can read our history in terms of “before and after” this historic moment. I had the good fortune and the privi-

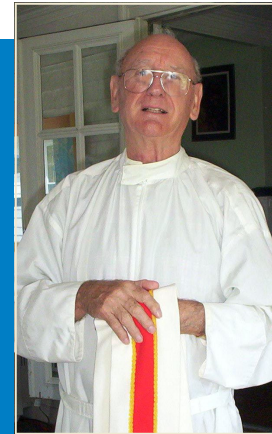
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lege of participating extensively in the preparation and the celebration of the Chapter and to be some part with so many others of its subsequent realizations and development in our province.

I do not recall the Chapter of '82 on this Centennial occasion as an exercise in Congregational nostalgia or to dwell on any of the much that it did. I do recall it as an experience of powerful and enduring confirmation of the grace of our charism and of our

vocation and of the relevance of our charism and our vocation for now and for tomorrow. It is a well from which we continue to drink. The origin of the Congregation was gift; its transformation is in the same order. If it invites us to fidelity in our weakness, reminding us that fidelity to the poor of the spirit of our charism, fidelity to mission, fidelity to each other, requires on-going conversion, it does so from the experience that the gift of transformation is in our hands. ■



**Fr. Fintan
Jubilarian Celebration
June, 2005**

Japan Update

Fr. Michael Coleman, ss.cc.

Rev. Martinus Pariyanto, ss.cc., Ordained into Diaconate

We all gathered at Mito Church, on September 19, to participate in the ceremony where Bro. Martinus was ordained a deacon. The wonderful Indonesian choir added so to the occasion and captured the hearts of all.

Articles from Martinus' home country were presented at the offertory. Bishop Tani also conferred minor orders of Acolyte and Lector on three future permanent deacons.

Close to 40 priests attended, and food and entertainment followed on a very warm fall day. It is hoped that Martinus will be or-

daind a priest back in Indonesia, sometime in the New Year.

The day after the celebration, we all gathered in Tomobe to continue the preparation for our Extraordinary Chapter, which we have scheduled for this coming

November. We examined the results of a questionnaire that was submitted by all the members. Also we talked about our obligations in both prefectures, in the light of our aging, our decreasing numbers and our emphasis on living as a community.



We also discussed our financial situation, as we look to the future. Our annual retreat, directed by Fr. Yamamoto, a priest of the diocese of Fukuok, took place from September 25 to 30. This year it was in Japanese. ■

Left to right: Fr. Gerardus Suyono, ss.cc., from Singapore as the representative of the provincial of Indonesia. Our new deacon, Rev. Martinus Pariyanto, ss.cc., Fr. Francis Xavier Sri Waluyo, ss.cc., and Fr. Michael Narita, ss.cc.

