



Final Message

Vice-provincial assembly of Asia-Oceania

The purpose of this document is to briefly present the first-ever Assembly of the vice-province of Asia-Oceania, an event to which all of the brothers of the vice-province were invited and which took place in the novitiate house of Cebu-Banawa from January 3-6, 2023. This is not an official “final message” voted by the assembly. It was written to be a tool for giving news to the rest of the Congregation and to use on our websites and social media platforms.

The days preceding the assembly were marked by a temporary halt of all air traffic to the Philippines which gave some stranded brothers an opportunity for unplanned tourism. Despite this apparent setback, brothers from Christchurch and Taiwan arrived safely to the novitiate house of Banawa on the evening of January 2nd in time to begin the event with the Holy Mass, inclusion, and lunch in the new priory of Cebu-Taboan on January 3rd, the solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus.

After we returned to the novitiate, Fr. Justin began the first day of sessions with an exhortation followed by a presentation of some important characteristics of the government of our vice-province. Our knowledge of this new form of government was tested by a fun game with a grand prize of some tasty chocolate from New Zealand!

An important and recurring topic throughout the assembly was forming a vision for our vice-province for the next 15 years. To do this, we shared the lives of our priories with one another, spent time in group discussions, and eventually shared concrete propositions or projects which we felt were the top priorities for the future of our vice-province. Even though the goal of these qualitative moments of mutual listening and discernment wasn't to make decisions, the vice-provincial chapter's votes will surely be heavily influenced by our reflections.

Another beautiful and fraternal part of our assembly were the “spiritual conversations” which allowed brothers to share about how they perceive and live the current state of our Congregation. We spent

one plenary session listening to each brother and another session sharing and listening to one another in pairs of two. This simple effort we made to be attentive to one each other encouraged many brothers to continue listening to the encouraging call of our Lord despite the difficulties we may be going through as a community.

We are grateful for the two evening sessions on Johannine Spirituality animated by Br. Gabriel-Mary.

The reception of the newly-promulgated *ratio formations* was also part of our program. Two brothers from our vice-province, Br. Justin and Br. Jean du Cenacle, were on the team who organized the writing of this essential text and presented it to our assembly. Their presentation was followed by a group sharing on specific texts of the chapter on fraternal life and a sharing of each group to the assembly on how we can better implement the propositions of the text in our priories.

The brothers of our vice-province confide ourselves to your prayers and assure you of ours.

