

# rue neuve

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PARC LA SALLE NOVITIATE 2017-2018

VOLUME 02 | NO. 03 | FEBRUARY 2018

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### WHAT IS RUE NEUVE?

Rue Neuve was a street in Rheims, France where the first house of the Brothers of the Christian Schools was located. The humble and modest abode which the Brothers occupied on June 24, 1682 was where all the transformation happened: teachers became Brothers, seculars turned into consecrated men, a human work became the work of God. As Blain put it, the house on Rue Neuve is considered as the cradle of the Institute.

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### THANK YOU.

### FEEDBACK?

You may send your comments & suggestions to the Editor through e-mail at [jeanoelendaya@gmail.com](mailto:jeanoelendaya@gmail.com).

**B**r. Alvaro Echeverria FSC, in his pastoral letter in 2001, underscored that as we call ourselves Brothers, it is our task to exaggerate Christian brotherhood through our witnessing in the quality of our community life.

Furthermore, it was a call to rediscover the value and the need for community which will allow us to contagiously share it with our partners and students. The month of February might be a little short of days compared with others, but surely, it was not short of exaggeration of fraternal love in the Novitiate.

Our community had all sorts of days to highlight our association with one another. We began with our third Day of Reflection which was centered on celebrating life in community. The novices were able to recollect the values of respect and camaraderie with each member of the community as a practical means of communing with God. Hours later, we were all in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka as they celebrated their 70th Independence Day. It is through various cultures that we get to know more about our brothers, and intensify more the international context of this novitiate, and of the Institute as a whole.

This month, we have been privileged as well to be visited by Brothers David Hawke, Vincent Keating, Jun Estrellas, and Michael Broughton. Their presence and stories served as an inspiration to our community building, in addition to the knowledge and wisdom that were shared in their respective in-house classes.

The last pages of this issue give us a closer look at the quality of our community expressed in words and photos. The reflection entitled as 'You Cannot Save the World Alone', emphasizes the prize and price of working and being together.

To end, allow me to share with you a few (paraphrased) lines from the "RULE of a new brother" that I find very relevant for this issue of Rue Neuve, the same lines that I have continuously reflected upon as we look into the life we are committing to — the life of a De La Salle Brother:

The community is a place  
where you daily share -  
richness and poverty,  
strength and weakness,  
joy and sorrow,  
success and failure,  
faith and doubt.

IN ST. LA SALLE,  
BR. JEANO ENDAYA nFSC

# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LIFE

by Brother Gulfam Gulzar nFSC



**W**

e are halfway through our journey in the Novitiate. The community is a home for all of us. We experience anew each day fraternal love, trust, and respect. Recently, along with the other activities in the house, we had our 3rd Silent Day of Reflection (February 2-3, 2018).

## THE THEME

The theme of the recollection was "Love one another as I have loved you". Our Founder has born witness to this new commandment of Christ so we implored to God, to guide us to follow his example as we started our day of prayer and reflection reciting the words of St. Paul, "how wonderful it is when brothers dwell in a community".

“““

The **community** is a home for all of us. We experience anew each day fraternal **love, trust, and respect**.

- BR. GULFAM GULZAR nFSC



It was the time when, out of the usual routine of the Novitiate, we got extra hours to be in silence with God and talk to Him about our journey. We thanked Him for all the blessings He showered upon us, and especially the gift of community life.

## READINGS

"The community life of the Brothers is, above all, a gift from God, which they receive through Jesus Christ present in their midst. It is He who gives them the Spirit of love who lives in each Brother and unites the community." (Rule 48)

The readings given to us during the different prayer periods were mainly taken from the Rule and the pastoral letter written by Brother Alvaro Echeverria FSC. These excerpts led us to appreciate better our community and the unity in diversity that surrounds it.

As we continued our dialogue with God using His language (I mean silence), we came across the challenging words of St. Augustine "Show me one who loves, he will understand what I say". We realized how crucial it is when we, amidst the hustle and bustle of life, forget the pinnacle of all our motives and the end of all our associations which is love.

DAY OF REFLECTION





**FIRE.**  
How lovely it is when Brothers dwell in community.



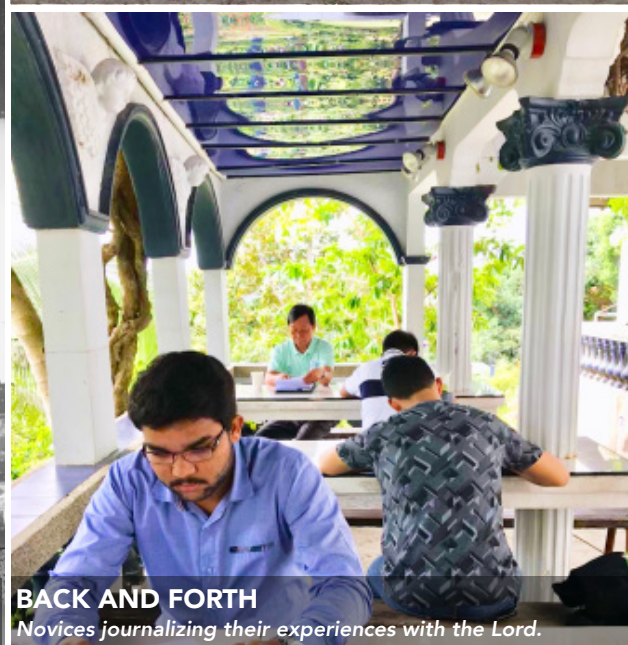
**RULE 49.**  
They enjoy sharing their meals...and the various services made necessary by life in common.



**LIGHT**  
Christ is the light during our dark nights.



**ONE WITH NATURE.**  
God wants us to meet Him alone.



**BACK AND FORTH**  
Novices journalizing their experiences with the Lord.



**MIRRORING**  
Novices reviewing their joys and difficulties in the community to grow humanly and spiritually.

## MIRRORING

During the Mirroring activity we reminded ourselves again of the brotherly bond we have in the community and affirmed each other. We concluded our Day of Reflection with a closing prayer entitled as *“Love Does Not Come to an End”* where we were able to share our stories and treasure once again the role our community plays in our life as a Brother as the Rule expresses: *“Brought together by God for the educational service of young people, and especially of the poor, the community, a forum for dialogue and a home, is the context, the recipient, and the agent of the formation of the Brothers”*. (Rule 81)

“ ”

We realized how crucial it is when we, amidst the hustle and bustle of life, forget the pinnacle of all our motives and the end of all our associations which is **love**.

- BR. GULFAM GULZAR nFSC

To give a poetic touch to our experiences during this Day of Reflection, I extend the following few couplets:

**LET US ACT**  
Br. Gulfam Gulzar nFSC

*Let's make the effort of listening to  
And understanding our Brothers  
Let's accept the fact we are different  
We are different but all brothers.*

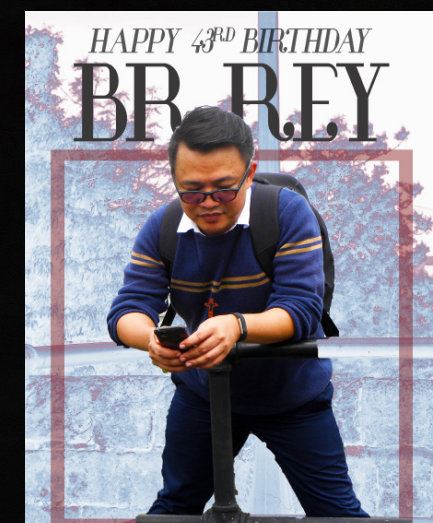
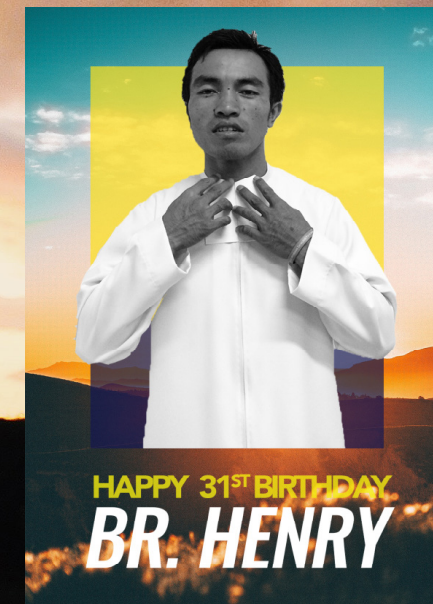
*Let's look for the light in all things  
And all the people  
Let's turn our hearts to One Source  
We are all God's people.*

*Let's love each other purely  
And avoid all judgment  
Let's walk our talk following  
Our 'Jesus-the-fulfillment'.*

*Let's teach minds, touch hearts,  
And transform lives  
Let's take the step and never look back  
Till the last sighs.*

*Let's make peace with personal traits  
And our own personal history  
Let's manifest the God in us  
The everlasting Mystery. **R.N***

**FEATURED  
NEWS**



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Last February 18 and 19, Brothers Henry and Rey celebrated their birthdays, respectively.

*Feliz cumpleaños, Hermanos!*



# FEATURED NEWS



1/ BR. DAVID HAWKE'S VISIT

A two-day Pastoral Visit was made by Br. David Hawke FSC, Visitor of the ANZPPNG District, last February 12-14, 2018 coinciding with his session with the novices about Circular 461. *R.N*



2/ BLIP3

The third batch of the Brothers' Live-In Program of the Lipa Community for this school year visited PARC La Salle Novitiate last February 4, 2018. After a short tour, BLIP3 participants had an interaction with the novices through a Q & A activity. *R.N*



3/ SINGING WITH BR. MIKE B.

As promised, Br. Michael Broughton FSC had visited us last February 23-25, 2018 to teach us chants and songs for both Lenten and Easter Seasons. *R.N*



## SRI LANKA INDEPENDENCE DAY



*Sri Lanka, also known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean*, was once a colony of different European nations including the Dutch of Holland and the British of the United Kingdom. It was 4th of February, 70 years ago, that it has achieved its independence from the British Empire.

by Brother Shanuka Obris nFSC



**T**oday, I have been privileged to celebrate this momentous event with my community. The Philippines may be far away from home but the joy that we shared made Sri Lanka closer even for awhile.

There was only one goal for me, to make my brothers feel and appreciate the culture of Sri Lanka from dishes to dances.

From breakfast to dinner, all our meals had a touch of Sri Lanka into them, from Chicken Curry to Roti and Papadam. At night, the community gathering was of course all about the Pearl of the Indian Ocean. A meaningful prayer service dedicated to the men and women of Sri Lanka was how we started the program. It was followed by the singing of national anthem by all the members of the community that made me feel that we are one family.

The celebration continued on with dances, a lot of dances (fishery dance, kawadi dance, indigenous dance and Kandian welcome dance). All these different body movements made the community laugh and enjoy the whole night.

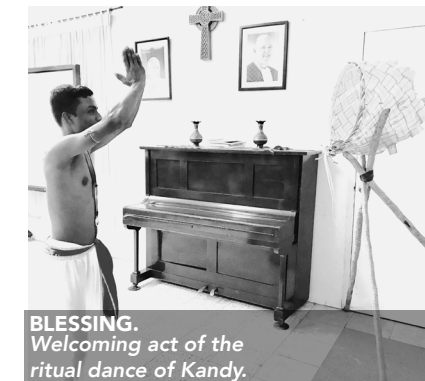
With the smiling faces of my brothers, I guess, I was able to accomplish my goal. At least for a night, we all travelled back to the small yet magnificent island of Sri Lanka. *R.N*

“ ”  
The Philippines may be far away from home but the joy that we shared made Sri Lanka closer...

- BR. SHANUKA OBRIS nFSC



**GIFT.**  
Daladha perahara portrait from the Sri Lankan Brothers.



**BLESSING.**  
Welcoming act of the ritual dance of Kandy.



**SRI LANKAN STEPS.**  
Novices learning few dance moves from Br. Shanuka.



**WADDHA COSTUME.**  
Br. Shanuka in his Waddha costume.



**WELCOME!**  
Opening of the Sri Lankan Independence Day celebration.



# CHURCH COURSES

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

by Brother Luke Thatsaworn nFSC



**“What happened next to the story of Jesus and His disciples after His ascension?”** This question became central to our 4-day session with Br. Gnanasekarem FSC on the Acts of the Apostles. A great highlight, of course, is one of the best conversion story every told, the change of heart of Saul (known now as Paul), from a persecutor to an apostle. The novices followed Paul’s missionary journey which covered Damascus to Rome.

In order, to be more familiar with the said second part of the Gospel of Luke, Acts of the Apostles, Br. Sega assigned each novice with numerous chapters. The novices then were tasked to come up with five questions for all their assigned chapters and present it to the group through a short report. At the end, a long test was given to check the learning progress of the novices. **R.N**

## VATICAN II

by Brother Sajawal Javed nFSC



**The Catholic faith has very rich stories of prayers,** stories of conflicts, stories of unity and other inspiring stories. But despite all inspirations and profound spiritual renewal the Catholic Church has provided in the course of its history, the Second Vatican Council disputably could be seen as the best one yet. Vatican II was able to show renewed ways in the seemingly traditional approach of the Church. As Saint Pope John XXIII once said during the early days of his papacy, it is time to let the fresh air of the world get inside. This was the image that Br. Jun Estrellas FSC provided for his three-day session last February 22-24, 2018.

The Holy See opened its door literally and figuratively from refreshed ideas on how things work internally and externally for the Roman Catholic Church.

Most notably for inside affairs, the changes in the Liturgy and Sacrament and the emphasis on Baptismal vows of every Christian. Externally, the Church invited and listened to other faith denominations in one of the biggest inter-religious dialogue in the history. These transformations were at the middle of a diversified College of Bishops who graced the said council. In total, 16 documents were promulgated at the conclusion of Vatican II not as an end all, be all resolutions, rather, these texts meant to establish a Church that is ready to respond to a continuously changing world. **R.N**



The context of the Founder’s life and work might be different from ours today but it is still the same spirit of faith and zeal that lives on.

- BR. HENRY GYI nFSC

## DO NOT TOUCH

by Brother Shanuka Obris nFSC



**From the question, “what are the things you cannot touch?”** to a more reflective type of queries such as “why me?”, “why was I chosen?”, “what for?”, “how come?”, the half-day session we had with Br. Armin Luistro FSC, to say the least, was an interactive one. Entitled as Conversations on Consecration, the discussion evolved from the concept of sacrifice as seen in different ancient forms of traditions all over the world to what we know of it today. It was established that one’s context and background affects how one view consecrated life and what it entails.

Having been able to give a concrete idea of the relationship of sacrifice to consecration, the novices dealt with the historical grounding of religious life across numerous faith denomination (Hindu, Muslim, and Shinto) zeroing to the Christian roots of this particular vocation of the Church. Through Br. Armin’s reflections, the novices were even more enlightened to the concepts discussed. To top it all of, the analogy of ‘price and prize’ in relation to the life of Jesus Christ was utilized. Jesus was the price of God’s love for us, at the same time, His life is the prize that we Christians look forward to. **R.N**

# LASALLIAN COURSES

## WRITINGS OF THE FOUNDER

by Brother Henry Gyi nFSC



**Our sessions about the Writings of the Founder has proven very much how zealous, wise, and hard-working John Baptist de La Salle was.** In his life time, he has authored numerous books that continuously inspire people today not only the brothers but as well as our partners and students especially in the area of education and how to procure God’s glory in the school. A general characteristic among his works was how practical it was vis-à-vis its reality. For our class, Br. Rey assigned each novice with a published work of the Founder.

The novices were tasked to focus on four areas: the purpose of the writing, the characteristics of the writing, the educational relevance, and the formation relevance. The context of the Founder’s life and work might be different from ours today but it is still the same spirit of faith and zeal that lives on. We continue to advocate for the educational rights of everyone with preference to the poor, with education as our means to evangelization, not neglecting the educational community through adequate formation and with due respect to their culture. **R.N**

## CIRCULAR 461

by Brother Sajawal Javed nFSC



**“Out beyond ideas of right and wrong there’s a field. I’ll meet you there.”** These were the words of Poet Rumi, which I find central to the discussions we had with Br. David Hawke FSC about Circular 461: “Associated for the Lasallian Mission... An Act of Hope”. The signs of times have been pointing to a direction for the Institute, a new and developing world, the world of Association.

Interestingly, Circular 461 presented both the challenges and successes of the concept of association in the Lasallian world. It has highlighted the reality that is still an evolving idea and we can only anticipate with hope for its final outcome. For now, we remain grateful for the gift of mission we have been bestowed upon by the Spirit and we acknowledge that through the Spirit and the Mission, association exist. Today, we are invited more than ever to go beyond our borders, together and by association, not only with our brothers but with our partners and students as well. **R.N**

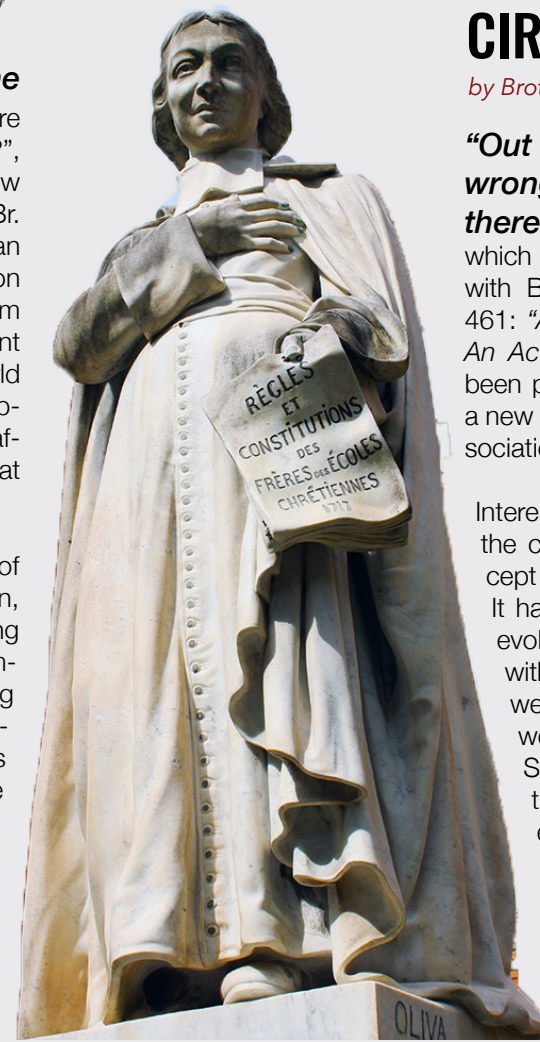


PHOTO TAKEN FROM WWW.LASALLE.ORG.

EDUCATION



ST. PETER'S BASILICA. PHOTO TAKEN FROM BR. JEANO nFSC





**SESSION ON CONSECRATION.**  
Br. Armin and his team facilitates the conversations on consecrated life.



**THANK YOU, BR. VINCENT.**  
The Novices pose for a picture with Br. Vincent Keating after his session on Twelve Virtues, and Methods of Interior Prayer.

## GET TO KNOW-VICE

### 1./ WHERE AND HOW DID YOU MEET THE DE LA SALLE BROTHERS?

I first saw the De La Salle Brothers when I entered De La Salle Lipa in the year 2010 but I got to know them more when I joined the Live-in Program of the Brothers in October 2011.

### 2./ WHAT WAS THE INITIAL ATTRACTION TO THEIR LIFE?

I was inspired by the Brothers' life of service to the people through educational ministry, and their community way of living.

### 3./ WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR LIFE IN LA SALLE NOVITIATE?

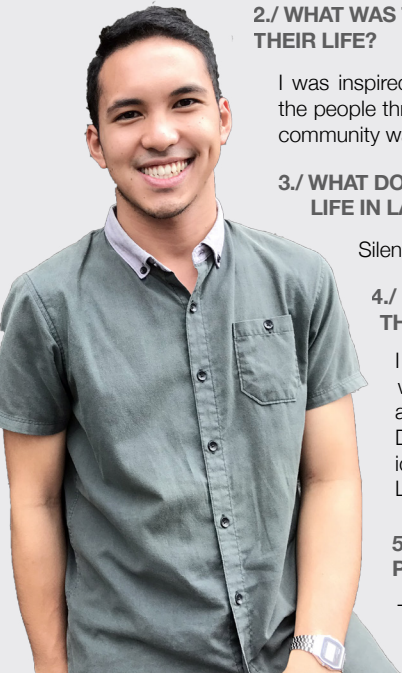
Silence, solitude, and community life.

### 4./ EXPECTATIONS AT THE END OF THE NOVITIATE.

I expect that I will be a better Brother with a more mature faith in Christ and an appreciation of the vocation of the De La Salle Brothers and integrated identification with St. John Baptist de La Salle.

### 5./ DESCRIBE NOVITIATE IN ONE PHRASE OR ONE WORD.

Transformative.



# VIRTUES OF A GOOD MASTER

by Brother Ivan Karlo Umali nFSC

**Br. Vincent Keating FSC of Australia, conducted a series of classes last February 22 to 27, 2018.** He began his rich discussion with the list of the Twelve Virtues of a Good Master, which De La Salle included in his *“Collection of Various Short Treatises”* (1711) without any commentary. These twelve virtues – gravity, silence, humility, prudence, wisdom, patience, gentleness, zeal, vigilance, piety and generosity – later on were developed and further explained by Br. Agathon (Joseph Gouilleux, 1731-1798) during his stint as the fifth Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools from 1777 to 1795 with his book entitled the *“Explanation of the 12 Virtues of a Good Teacher”*.

Each virtue was given thorough explanation by Br. Vincent, which includes practical applications of the virtues in class, the overlapping and relationship of one virtue with another, and what could be the mindset of the Founder when he wrote these virtues. But more than these, the novices deeply appreciated how Br. Vincent elucidated some virtues based on his personal experiences and the experiences of some Brothers that he knew, which furnished a more personal touch on the hearts of the novices as they envision themselves in the actual teaching ministry as professed Brothers. In conclusion, Br. Vincent underscored that the twelve virtues must always be looked upon with eyes of faith, for the spirit of faith must always be the driving force which will oversee the virtues of a good teacher. **R.N**

# EXPLANATION OF THE METHOD OF INTERIOR PRAYER

by Brother Ivan Karlo Umali nFSC

***Lasallian Spirituality in the Novitiate goes deeper and more interior as Br. Vincent Keating FSC of Australia discussed with the novices the Method of Mental Prayer*** which was developed by St. John Baptist de La Salle himself for the early Brothers during his later years. The class, which began on February 27 and ended on March 1, initially clarified that the mental prayer the Founder used did not refer to intellect alone but it actually meant interior activity, and also involved recognition of affections. The prayer basically is a practical application of the Scriptures in the meditation of the Brothers, which the Founder described as “the first and principal of the daily exercise.”

Br. Vincent made it clear that the whole mental prayer aims to penetrate the person’s innermost being, the depth of his soul, with the work of the Holy Spirit, which calms, unifies, and redirects one to God. Furthermore, in the mindset of the Founder, there should be no distinction between the ministry and personal sanctification, hence, the mental prayer and his meditations must always bring the Brothers to a more loving and personal relationship with God, which will send the Brother back to his day-to-day ministry of announcing the “Good News” to young people. **R.N**

# YOU CANNOT SAVE THE WORLD ALONE

by Brother Kino Escolano nFSC



**L**ooking at our life plainly, we are like clouds in heaven – passing by. Yes, maybe its true but there can also be something more beyond that. We maybe passing by this planet, we maybe just passing by the lives of others and perhaps others may also be passing by our lives, but if we make the most of the time that we are existing, we connect and make a difference.

One of the greatest desires of the human heart is connectedness. We find meaning to life when we learn how to relate to others. As what Br. JJ Jimenez said in one of our in-house classes in the novitiate, part of our identity will always depend on how we connect to others. The community life for us is one of the constitutive elements of our identity as religious Brothers.

*“For each Brother the community is the privileged place for being evangelized, to develop as a person, and discern educational needs.” (Rule 45.1)*

The religious life is a kind of lifestyle that a person freely chooses to live out his baptismal vow and living in a community is one form of expression of our consecration. In the community, we live life in common.

“ ”

One of the greatest desires of the human heart is connectedness. We find meaning to life when we learn how to relate to others.

- BR. KINO ESCOLANO nFSC





However, it doesn't exist for itself. Our apostolic purpose gives us the aim of community life and in our ministry, I would say we cannot be someone that we are not. We cannot give something we don't have. It is in the community that we develop and nurture our vocation and allow ourselves to be evangelized. We learn how to be authentic Brothers within the radius of our religious community and from that, we now learn how to be Brothers to the young entrusted to our care. The Guide for Formation (GF) tells us that the life of the holy Founder demonstrates clearly how he met God and Christ through his Brothers.

In as much as we take responsibility to our own formation, we are also responsible for the formation of our Brothers in the community. One reflection that continuously inspires me to be a better Brother is the fact the we are co-formators of each other. We start assimilating asceticism and simplicity of life through the community. This kind of lifestyle entails sacrifices of course, but just like what Br. Armin Luistro shared in his class, together with the sacrifice is the pain that we wholeheartedly embrace. Life in the community gives us the taste of drawing ourselves into a process of not being self-centered. Our own interest becomes secondary and yields central position to the maxims of the Gospel.

“ ”

We may not be super heroes , but I would say we also have the mission to be collaborators of Christ in saving souls.

- BR. KINO ESCOLANO nFSC

Example plays a vital role in the time of the Founder. As what Br. Leon Lauraire wrote in one of his writings on the Conduct, example has a contagious nature. Personally, I am grateful for the delightful community that we have in the Novitiate. Part of our initiation to community life is living with wonderful Brothers in the formation team. I would say it's a perfect combination of sugar and spice. More than being source of inspiration, they provide unique experiences of accompaniment in our journey of discovering God and nurturing our vocations in the novitiate.

In the parable of the wheat and the weeds, they both grow together side by side. In the same way, the fraternal love we are developing towards each other grows together with some sort of mutual annoyance. The Holy Spirit who's always at work unite us together as one. Through the working of the Spirit of the Lord, we learn the meaning of making sacrifices and living by the pain of self-forgetfulness. Community life doesn't happen overnight. I am convinced that we have to take our own extra miles to make it work. The things that we lose when we make sacrifices make our sacrifices more meaningful.



**THE FORMATION STAFF.**  
Br. Rey, Br. Lucas, and Br. Mawel pose for a wacky photo. Their witness of a healthy community life is inspiring to the Novices.



**COMMUNITY OUTING.**  
One of the things the community enjoys is having group photos. This was taken at a mall in Manila.



**COMMUNITY GATHERING.**  
Every Wednesday and Saturday, the community gathers for games and socials.



**THE WALLED CITY.**  
The Novices pose for a "candid" photo inside Fort Santiago in Manila.



*"But the way to maintain union in a community in spite of all these different personalities is to bear up charitably with the defects of each other, to be ready to make allowances for others just as we want others to make allowances for us."* (Letter of the Founder)

Grace binds us together us Brothers. Just like the rainbow, each has distinct colors. We openly acknowledge the differences of each other. In our differences, we learn that we cannot do the mission alone. We discover that harmoniously blending together is possible through complementarity.

Similar to music, different instruments blend together to create a melody. Being brother to my Brothers also entails allowing my Brothers to be a brother to me. We learn to embrace our own limitations and to humbly accept assistance from them. In as much as I am willing to carry them, humility teaches me to let them carry me in moments that I am weak.

Community life is one of the constitutive elements of the Brothers' life. In the novitiate, this is where we learn to be Brothers to one another, and at the same time, to celebrate our individual giftedness. Just like what the movie Justice League is saying, *"You cannot save the world alone"*. We may not be superheroes but I would say, we also have the mission to be collaborators of Christ in saving souls. Together and by association, we become stronger and more authentic witnesses to the mystery of Christ. **R.N**

# AHAPPY COMMUNITY





# the nerve

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