



*His Excellency, Bishop Tissier de Mallerai, stands before the new shrine of St. Joseph with the newly confirmed faithful of Our Lady of Victories.*



*“Now get down on your knees and pray to St. Joseph ...and that’s an order!”*

#### LETTER FROM THE PRIOR

My Dear Faithful,

Ave Maria!

This year, we were happy to have visits of His Excellency Bishop Tissier de Mallerai and Rev. Fr. Alphonsus, Redemptorist, in the District of Asia.

#### Parish Missions

Fr. Alphonsus preached retreats for the brothers and priests as well as four Parish missions between Sep-

tember 27th and October 20th. Many people made great efforts to attend the missions. For instance, one of our faithful in Hindang, Leyte, is a pedicab driver. He pedals two hours from Hindang to Bato, to attend the Mass every mission. He faithfully attended the Parish mission and when another faithful had to go to Hindang on Saturday night, he drove for her at night and early morning he came back to continue to attend the mission.

### Confirmations

His Excellency Bishop Tissier gave the sacrament of confirmation to 22 faithful in Seoul, Korea, 20 faithful in Jaro, Iloilo, 17 in Cebu, 48 in Cagayan de Oro and 53 in Davao, 50 at Our Lady of Victories Church in Manila, and 50 again in Maasin, Leyte. The total number of the confirmations by Bishop Tissier, this year, was 260 from 13th—22nd October!

### Coronation

At our Church in New Manila, after the Confirmations and just before the Mass, his Excellency performed an Episcopal Coronation of an image of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary according to the Pontificale Romanum (Ordo ad imaginem B. Mariæ Virginis coronandam). After the coronation, his Excellency officiated at a Sung Mass.

### St. Joseph's Shrine

Immediately after the Mass, Bishop Tissier made a procession to the newly built shrine of Saint Joseph and blessed it. Please allow me to tell you about the origin of the Shrine of Saint Joseph. When I was asked to take the charge of Our Lady of Victories Church by Fr. Couture, District Superior of Asia, in August 2010, I receive also the responsibility to pay for the newly contracted land for the school in March 2011. I had to beg people to be given more than 17 million pesos (USD 400,000) within



*Rev. Fr. Tim Pfeiffer, says a quick word before benediction on the women's retreat in Manila.*

several months. I thought it would not be possible without divine help. So, I asked Saint Joseph to help us. And I promised to Saint Joseph that if we could make a payment without incurring heavy loan, we would make a shrine in honor of him as a sign of our gratitude. We prayed to Saint Joseph. We gave up also ice cream as dessert for instance until full payment. That year, we made special novenas for the feast of Saint Joseph, March 19th. A few days before the scheduled payment in March 2011, Fr. Couture informed me about a donation received just in time. I went to the bank to check it, and yes, we received it. It was March 25th, 2011. Since then, spontaneously donations came to us for the intention of building the Shrine. It reached more than

one million pesos (USD 23,000) in the past two years.

When we had the honor of receiving many superiors (especially Bishop Fellay, Fr. Pfluger, Fr. Nely, Fr. Couture, Fr. de Cacqueray, and many other priests), I asked each one of them their advice about where the best place for the shrine would be. I had many discussions on the location, but these discussions did not reach any concrete conclusions. Again, I asked Saint Joseph the place where he wanted to have his own shrine. I promised to make a set of Mass vestments if he indicated to me his place through my superior. Then already trusting in Saint Joseph, I asked our good Bethanians and sisters in Jaro to make a set of vestments with the motive of honoring Saint Joseph. (They





*The Blessed Sacrament carried by Rev. Fr. Thomas Onoda*

made it free of charge for us!) When the vestments were finished, we blessed them and used them on March 19th, 2013. Meanwhile, the General Chapter of the SSPX in 2012 decided to consecrate the SSPX to Saint Joseph. It was the happy date of the consecration. Then, after this consecration, I spoke with the District Superior about the Shrine and the location was indicated.

Originally I proposed a tiny shrine with just a statue of Saint Joseph. But with the encouragement of Fr. Couture we were allowed to build on a bigger scale (and it was proposed to bless it on May 1st, 2013). The plan was submitted for the approval of the Superior General, who agreed.

Since our best friends, the workers of the Dominic Construction have done an excellent work for our basketball court, naturally we asked them to build the Shrine. I requested the Dominic Constructions two things before the contract: (1) no work on Sundays, (2) make a prayer to Saint Joseph composed by Saint Pius X, together with our workers every morning at 9am. And they made a really beautiful work in honor of Saint Joseph. This is why on this October 20th, at the occasion of the visit of H.E. Bishop Tissier de Malle-rais we had the honor of asking Milord to bless the Shrine of Saint Joseph.

The statue of the Saint was made

in Iloilo with the care of Rev. Fr. Cacho. I thank heartily Fr. Cacho for helping us. When it was shipped to Manila from Iloilo, accidentally the statue was left in Bacolod. It arrived on Sunday night after the ceremony of blessing and his Lordship blessed it next day.

We still have to pay the remaining balance for the shrine. I promised Saint Joseph, if he helps us to pay all, we will gladly print a book on Saint Joseph in order to spread the devotion to him.

#### Novitiate Needs Help

I would like to mention also at the end, the Novitiate needs financial help very urgently. Fr. Daniels, superior and Master of Novices, needs 4 million pesos (USD 92,000) by the end of this year 2013 and 20 million pesos (USD 460,000) by next year. This is to finish the Church of the Novitiate. Today, on this special occasion of the blessing of the Shrine, please pray to Saint Joseph for the Novitiate. With the approval of Fr. Couture, Fr. Daniels also made a solemn promise last September 29th, to make a shrine, if Saint Joseph would help the Novitiate to make it possible to pay the necessary 24 million pesos on time. Saint Joseph, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Thomas Onoda  
Prior



*Tragedy: the intricately-designed facade of the 18th century Church of San Pedro Apostol in Loboc, Bohol completely collapsed in the earthquake of October 15th 2013. ....*

*.... The Church of San Pedro Apostol was first built by the Jesuits in 1602 and was then rebuilt over 150 years after a fire in 1638. It was finished by the Augustinians after the Jesuits were expelled in 1768.*

