

Missio Aachen Conference in the Philippines

Dr. Msgr. Klaus Krame, President of *Missio* Aachen, with his team of eight members came to the Philippines to hold a conference on the Situation of the Church in the Philippines last January 12-13, 2016 at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in Manila; the gathering was in coordination with the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Philippines and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). The conference was attended by bishops, priests, sectorial representatives from the Commission on Youth, the Council of the Laity, and the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP). The purpose of the conference was to know the current situation of the Church in the Philippines, because the Philippines will be the focus of the

2016 World Mission Month celebration in Germany. The different activities and events in all German dioceses will concentrate on helping the Philippine Church. The motto of the year-long campaign is "They will be shown mercy" (Matt 5:7).



Mission Animators' Training Program

A Mission Animators' Training Program was held last April 23-24, 2016 at the San Damiano Spirituality Center, Tagaytay City. Participants came from among Christian Living teachers, coordinators and catechists from Metro Manila and the nearby provinces. It was spearheaded by the Pontifical Mission Societies—Philippines in partnership with the Mission Education Commission (MEC). A module on the spirituality and charism of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) was also launched in the said gathering to help the participants to train the children in their missionary role in the Church. The objective of the seminar was to equip the mission animators with tools to become effective in their work of promoting mission awareness, especially among

the youth and children. The task of promoting mission is very important, especially in the light of the nine-year plan for the commemoration of the 500 years of the arrival of Christianity in our country that will culminate in 2021 as "Year of *Missio Ad Gentes*."



Vatican Officials Visit the Philippines

Archbishop Protase Rugambwa, D.D., adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of People and the President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, came to the Philippines last July 7-15, 2016. He attended the sixty-third General Assembly of the Diocesan Mission Directors held in the Diocese of Kalibo, Aklan on

July 11-14, 2016. Msgr. Rugambwa shared his insights on how the Pontifical Mission Societies help in animating and building missionary awareness and cooperation among all the members of the Church. He also listened to the experiences of the Diocesan Mission Directors on how they do their work in their respective ministries.



Father Fabrizo Meroni, the Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU) visited the Philippines from July 16-21, 2016. The highlight of his visit was the meeting with missiologists, theologians and formators on July 19, 2016 at the Pontifical Mission Societies—Philippines national office. The purpose

of the gathering was to dialogue with the different representatives on how the International Pontifical Missionary Union office can help in the formation programs of religious brothers and sisters, lay catechists and missionaries and on how to come up with a regional mission magazine for updating and animation.



PMS Thailand Visited the Philippines

Fr. Peter Watchasin Kritjaroen, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies Thailand and his 14 companions visited the Philippines from May 3 to May 8, 2016 to benchmark the different practices in the office of the PMS Philippines and to see the different projects supported by the PMS international office. They visited the Our Lady of Sorrows Foundation in Pasay City, St. Dominic School in Bulacan, the Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned in Mandaluyong and some chosen projects from the Archdiocese of Cebu.



Augustinian Recollect Student Crusaders Provincial Congress

The three provinces of the Augustinian Recollect Students Crusaders, Inc. held their ninth Provincial Congress with the theme: ARCIANS: Soldiers of Christ. Student leaders from their different schools attended the said congress. The Province of Saint Augustine with 9 school participants held their congress at the Tagaste Retreat House, Tagaytay City last September 12-15; the Province of Mother Cecilia with 10 school participants held their congress at the Talavera House of Prayer, Pardo, Cebu City last October 1-5, 2015; and, the Province of Mother Dionisia with 9 schools held their congress at the Talavera House of Prayer, Cebu City last November 22-26, 2016. The

objectives of the said congresses were to foster harmony and unity among the member schools in the different provinces; to proclaim the Good News to all peoples through Renewed Integral Evangelization; to train Christ-centered Evangelizers and to strengthen their goals in making a difference in the world through an intense prayer life. Different talks and activities on leadership, service, and spirituality were given during the Congress. Father Socrates Mesiona, MSP, PMS National Director, and Brother Anthony S. P. Dameg, PMS Formation Coordinator, were invited to talk on “Gifted to Give: ARCians Witness of Christ in Mission.”



PMS Office 1st Mission Awareness Campaign Contest

Mission Bulletin Board Contest Winners



1ST PLACE
Nazareth School of
National University
(Grade School
Department)

In celebration of the World Mission Sunday 2016, the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies-Philippines launched the Mission Bulletin Board contest for the elementary students and the Mission Film Festival for the high school students with the theme: “Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy.” The said contest was participated in by 14 entries for the bulletin board and 43 entries for the short film. It was judged by the members of the Mission Education Committee members last October 15, 2016 at the St. Paul College of Quezon City. The winners were announced on World Mission Sunday, October 23, 2016.



2ND PLACE
Ateneo de Manila University
(Grade School Department)

Mission Film Festival Winners

1ST PLACE

St. Paul University of Quezon City
Grade 11 – Romans
(I AM A WITNESS OF MERCY)

2ND PLACE

Immaculate Conception Academy of Manila
(High School Department)

3RD PLACE

Colegio San Agustin – Manila
(SINONG TAYA)



3RD PLACE
School of the Holy Spirit of Quezon City
(Lower BED)

Pope Names New Bishop of Puerto Princesa

Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Socrates C. Mesiona, MSP as the new bishop of Puerto Princesa in Palawan province. Mesiona replaces Bishop Pedro Arigo, 77, whose resignation has been accepted by the Pope after serving the diocese for 20 years. The announcement was made at 12 noon on Friday from the Vatican (6pm, Manila time). Mesiona, a known missiologist, will be the seventh bishop of the vicariate since its establishment in 1910. The 53-year old bishop-elect is currently the executive secretary of the CBCP's Commission on Mission and National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in the Philippines.

Mesiona was born in Tagbilaran City, Bohol on September 17, 1963. After his secondary school, he

studied Philosophy at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Tagbilaran and Theology at the Divine Word School of Theology in Tagaytay City. He was ordained a priest on April 14, 1989 as a member of the Mission Society of the Philippines, where he also served as its former Superior General. In 1996, the bishop-elect also obtained a Licentiate in Missiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Mesiona had also served as Rector of the Mission Society of the Philippines in Tagaytay City and parish priest of the Our Lady of the Abandoned in Mandaluyong City. Presently, he is also a member of the International Association of Catholic Missiologists (IACM).
(CBCPNews)



Brother Anthony S. P. Dameg is the Formation Coordinator of the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Philippines.