



Entrance to the Pre-Postulancy and Postulancy Programs 2021-2022

QUEZON CITY, Philippines - In the afternoon of August 5, 2021, the Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, the Congregation of the Company of Mary-Philippine Delegation accepted the new candidates for the Pre-Postulancy and Postulancy programs.

The ceremony for the rite of entrance to the Pre-Postulancy and Postulancy formation 2021-2022 began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Delegation Councillor Rev. Fr. Santiago T. Casing, SMM, who was delegated to lead the ceremony by Rev. Fr. Norwyn Baydo, SMM, the Delegation Superior. It was concelebrated by SMM priests Rev. Fr. Federick Yumang, the Pre-Postulancy Director, Rev. Fr. Richard Magararu, Rev. Fr. Sherwin Nuñez, Rev. Fr. Benjie Notarte and Rev. Fr. Arnel Pagaduan. Some temporary professed SMM brothers were also present, namely Lester Bonete, Samuel Gonzales, Harold Montoya, Glenn Bongcas and Christopher Mejia. Friends from Santa Teresita Parish were also present to witness the celebration.

The candidates are Aspirants Ivan Benedict P. Dadula, 3rd year philosophy, John Eddie D. Balelin and Gerald Pansit, both 1st year philosophy, and Postulant Jessie James C. Datulayta, 4th year

philosophy. Before the homily, they were called to stand in front to be presented and to be asked by Rev. Fr. Santiago T. Casing, SMM.

The homilist, Rev. Fr. Sherwin Nuñez, SMM said that our journey as aspiring religious is not easy. There would be dying to oneself, making a lot of sacrifices. He also invited us to ponder upon the words of our Founder, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, *"If you don't take risk for God, you won't do great things for him"*.

After the homily, the aspirants expressed their commitment to the formation process by reading the Vision, Mission and Goal of the Pre-Postulancy and Postulancy Formation Programs. Then, they affixed their signatures on the Vision, Mission and Goal booklet and received their cross as a sign of their identity as SMM Aspirants and Postulant respectively. After the Holy Eucharist, a simple dinner was served.

Today, they embark on a new journey despite of all the challenges that they have encountered. They are hopeful because they know that they have a God that will never abandon them. Many thanks to the Congregation of the Company of Mary for accepting them and to all the people who gave their support.

Ivan Benedict P. Dadula