



Consecration to Jesus through Mary of Br. Ronald Baruela, SMM and Br. Lester Bonete, SMM, held in Lower Calajo-an Mission house

CEBU CITY, Philippines - On September 1, 2021, Br. Ronald B. Baruela, SMM and Br. Lester C. Bonete, SMM, started their three-month Preparation for the Perpetual Profession program facilitated by Rev. Fr. Paul Arnel Lucero, SMM. It was held at the Montfort Mission House in Lower Calajo-an, Cebu City.

The entire preparation was apportioned into exposures, different sessions, and the Montfortian Month. The two brothers deepened their scholastic journey wherein they found the works of the Spirit and Mary in their lives as Montfortians. Preceded by a two-week exposure at Kinatarcan Island, Cebu City, the two brothers experienced the overflowing love of God through the beauty of creation and the presence of the people. It was a moment of meditation, reflection, and contemplation.

After processing sessions during the exposure, they began their deepening sessions on the life of Montfort, the spirituality of the congregation, and the Evangelical vows. They wrote a short bibliography of Father de Montfort, explained and made a paper regarding Montfort's spirituality and their understanding of the Evangelical Vows.

The last month of the preparation was the Montfortian Month. It was a 33-day retreat and a preparation for the consecration to Jesus through Mary. The book of Fr. Mario Belotti, SMM, *Jesus Living in Mary: Totus Tuus Journey* was an essential material for the retreat. The first three sessions on the Knowledge of the World, Knowledge of the Self, and Knowledge of Mary, was given by Rev. Fr. Paul Arnel Lucero, SMM. The session on the Knowledge of Jesus, which happened on the fourth week given by Rev. Fr. Sherwin Nuñez, SMM, at the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Retreat House in Maghaway, Cebu City.

On the feast of St. Andrew, the apostle, Br. Ronald B. Baruela, SMM and Br. Lester C. Bonete, SMM, consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary, the last part of the preparation of the two brothers for their perpetual profession. It was made simple yet memorable and full of deep meaning. The Cebu Community of the Daughters of Wisdom, the Franciscan brothers, and some faithful who usually join the community in their daily Masses witnessed the solemn celebration. It was presided by Rev. Fr. Paul Arnel Lucero, SMM. He highlighted the importance of being consecrated to Jesus through Mary and the three stages of the celebration: Allegiance to the Word of God, Renewal of the Baptismal promises, and the Act of Consecration to Jesus to Mary.

Glory to Jesus in Mary! Glory to Mary in Jesus! Glory to God Alone.

Lester C. Bonete, SMM