

EDITORIAL

# La Salette

VISION & MISSION



By Fr. Thomas Vellappallil, ms

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*Dear Co-missioners,*

I marked the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on February 22, 2019. It was a dream come true to celebrate my jubilee at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Silang, Cavite, Philippines, where I was ordained 25 years ago. The priests and seminarians of La Salette organized a celebration with a Mass and reception with an evening of entertainment. They treated me like family. I was given a warm welcome and their hospitality was exceptional as usual. It was a great opportunity for me to reconnect with many people that I had not seen for so many years.

I was delighted to see the La Salette mission in the Philippines taking a new turn as it is growing and spreading into more parts of the country. When I was there in the late 80's and 90s, La Salette was concentrated in the region of Isabela up north of Manila in Central Luzon. Today they have gone beyond taking a brave and bold step by going where they are needed. In this issue you will read some concrete steps they have taken so far. Very Rev. Rosanno Soriano, MS, the Provincial Superior of the Ina ng Pag-asa (Mother of Hope) Province of the Philippines was kind enough to contribute this article. I am sure you will find interesting. We wish them well and pray for success as they begin their new ministries in the new mission fields.



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## MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE, Ina ng Pag-asa (Mother of Hope) Province

The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette have celebrated 172nd Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of La Salette in France on September 19, 1846.

We are still basking in the glow of the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparition. Two years ago we saw the entire Congregation celebrated by means of various programs and activities. These had involved not only our communities and the individual members, but also those various ecclesial, missionary, and educational enterprises to which we so generously commit our services. Our sense of commitment manifested in all these programs and activities had continually revived and strengthened our sense of belonging to the Universal Church and to our Religious family.



Recently, the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, Ina ng Pag-asa (Mother of Hope) Province have celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Silang, Cavite on September 19, 2018. Later, we also celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Congregation's Presence in the Philippines on December 10, 2018. These events make us look upon our history with great joy and gratitude!



These two events become salutary wake-up call to us for a new beginning in some areas on the human, spiritual and apostolic levels. These jubilee celebrations did not end up simply as memories of the past. Instead, from here we embraced a new religious and apostolic beginning for our Province, taking it toward new horizons so that it may serve more adequately and respond more properly to the needs of the New Evangelization.

## NEW MINISTERIAL PRESENCE

Heeding Mary's call for a fresh start for our Province, we accepted offers and invitations from various Bishops in the Philippines to embark on new pastoral presence in their Dioceses. Early this year, six of our most dedicated and zealous missionaries accepted into their new assignments as pastors and ministers in mostly far-flung "barrio" parishes.

In the Diocese Of Imus

- Fr. Gabriel Chiniona, MS at St. Francis Pastoral Center: Burol, Dasmaringas, Cavite

- Fr. Stevanus Suharna, MS at De La Salle Hospital Chaplaincy: Dasmaringas, Cavite

In the Diocese of Antipolo

- Fr. Eugene Flores, MS at St. Francis of Assisi Quasi-parish, Talim Island, Rizal

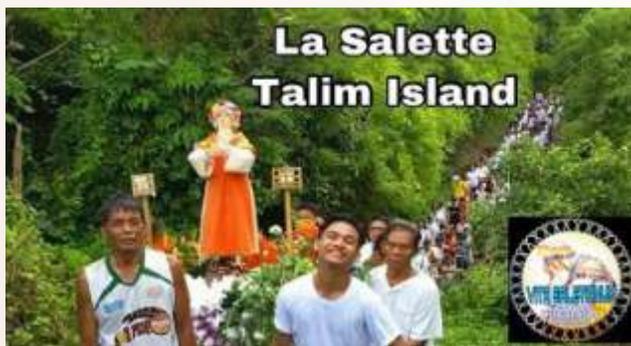
In the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan

- Fr. Rene Celadina, MS at San Isidro Labrador Parish, Bayambang, Pangasinan

In the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia

- Fr. Sergio Ganado, MS at San Isidro Labrador Parish, Barangay Bacsil, San Juan, Ilocos Sur

- Fr. Christopher Navarro, MS at San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish, Puru, Magsingal, Ilocos Sur



## SOLEMN DECLARATION OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette had its solemn declaration on October 20, 2018, Saturday at 9:00 am. The Eucharistic celebration was presided by Archbishop of Davao Romulo G. Valles, DD, who is also the President of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).



The Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) voted in favor of granting the title "*National Shrine*" to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette on July 07, 2018. The La Salette Missionaries raised the solemn declaration as an offering to Our Lady on the occasion of her 172<sup>nd</sup> feast day; the Shrine's golden jubilee on September 19, 2018; and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregation's presence in the Philippines.



You could continue your support of our Missions by including them in your will.

Should you wish to do so, our legal title is:

**North American La Salette Mission Center, Inc.**