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A Blessed Christmas to you and everyone you hold dear!

“AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I SEND YOU...” *John 20:21*

The Father sends his Son
 – *Small, fragile, powerless, that we may understand, welcome, and love Him.*
The Son sends us, to become like Him.
that we may understand, welcome, and love one another
Christmas is a mission.
We are sent, to proclaim:
“what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands the Word of life”. (1 John 1:1).

A Blessed Christmas to you and everyone you hold dear!

**Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP
MAGISTER ORDINIS PRAEDICATORUM** ■

Cardinal Advincula Joins as a Professed Member of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic



In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Dominican Province of the Philippines as the 41st Province of the Order of Preachers, Br. Filemon I. dela Cruz, Jr., OP, the Prior Provincial, received the Profession of Most Reverend Jose F. Cardinal Advincula, Jr., DD, the Archbishop of Manila.

During a Rite of Profession on 11 December 2021, at 7 o'clock in the evening (Philippine Standard Time), Cardinal Advincula has committed himself to live according to the Rule of the Dominican Fraternities proper for secular clergy.

For the members of the Philippine Province, the membership of Cardinal Advincula in the fraternities is a gift to their Jubilee, and a blessing to the Order and to the members of the Dominican Family around the globe.

Bishop Jo, as he is fondly called, considers himself a "son of St. Dominic", for having been formed as a diocesan seminarian in the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary by Dominican formators and professors, and later on as a young priest while he was undergoing Canon Law Studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome.

With his promise to live his priesthood following the spirit of St. Dominic, the friendship of the Cardinal with the Dominicans that began during the former's seminary days, has not only been institutionalized, but has also been renewed and deepened. Through this event, Cardinal Advincula becomes the second cardinal who has joined the Dominican Family this year—indeed, a wonderful year to

celebrate not only for the Philippine Province but for the Order as well. ■

Br. Arden Dacuma, OP

Province of St. Louis Bertrand Forms First Group of Priestly Fraternities in Latin America



Since February of the present year 2021, some diocesan priests from Colombia and Venezuela have been meeting virtually every two weeks in order to orient themselves towards a Dominican priestly fraternity. Their interest in the charism of the Order of Preachers has been encouraged by their closeness to the friars and to the women congregations of the Order, of which some of them are chaplains.

The quarantines in both countries have not diminished the desire of these priests to conform their life and ministry according to the charism inherited by St. Dominic of Caleruega. On the contrary, during the year, the virtual meetings have helped the priests to get to know each other and to grow in formation based on two topics that have focused their attention: the nature of priestly fraternity based on Sacred Scriptures, the Fathers of the Church, the Magisterium and the development of current theology; and "Rediscovering the Place of the Secular Priests in the Order of Preachers", an article by Brother Florentino Bolo, OP, Promoter General of the Priestly Fraternities of the Order.

From November 21 to 24, as if giving birth after nine months of online accompaniment by Br. Raúl Gómez Sánchez, OP, Provincial Promoter, the first

face-to-face meeting of the following clerics was held:

Fr. Jhon Freddy Gutiérrez, priest
Fr. Albert Johan Casierra, priest
Fr. Johan Araújo, priest
Fr. Jorge A. Montilla, priest
Fr. Mario Raúl Narváez, priest
Rev. Jairo Villegas López, permanent deacon
Rev. Gustavo Soler, under formation for the permanent diaconate

The meeting took place in several Dominican places in the central region of Colombia: Santo Domingo Convent in Bogotá, where the Dominican studentate is located; the convent of Our Lady of the Rosary in Chiquinquirá, where the painting of this devotion, miraculously renewed on 26 December 1586, is located; and the house of St. Martin de Porres in Villa de Leyva.

This was an opportunity to experience more closely what had been worked on virtually every two weeks throughout the year. Therefore, it was also an opportunity for discernment that each priest had to decide whether Dominican spirituality is the path that will best help him to faithfully carry out his ministry. ■

Br. Raúl Gómez Sánchez, OP



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