ACSSA EAO SEMINAR ON SALESIAN HISTORY (3–7 November 2025)
Mornese Center of Spirituality – Pansol, Calamba, Laguna, Philippines
"Histories of Salesian Missionary Work in the EAO"

Here follows the CHRONICLE of the Seminar conducted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first SDB and FMA missionary expeditions to the Americas. For each day, a patron was named as the month of the Saints. The holy masses were presided by bishops and Salesian priests. Various members of the Salesian Family presented and participated in the encounters.

3 November, Monday (Saints Luigi Versiglia and Calixto Caravario)
In the afternoon, the Seminar formally opened with messages from the SDB Rector Major (Fr. Fabio Attard), the FMA Superior General (Sr. Chiara Cazzuola) and the President of ACSSA (Sr. Maria Maul FMA).

The first session commenced with two lectures: an overview of the Hispanic heritage as reflected in the Philippine Church cultural heritage (Prof. Ricardo Trota Jose, Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines) and a documented first year history of Don Bosco Mayapa Parish that contributed to the Christianization of the Philippines (Fr. Nestor Impelido SDB).

After Vespers, the FMA Provincial Vicar (Sister Debbie Ponseran) spoke of the initial story of the Philippines.

4 November, Tuesday (Saint Carlo Borromeo)
The Bishop of the Diocese of San Pablo, Laguna (Marcelino Antonio Maralit DD) presided by the Eucharist, with a reflection on how history could tell us success and difficulty of a missionary, and the reason or excuse for these.
The morning session consisted of various themes: a reflection on the importance of history in the mission of salvation (Bishop Maralit); the first FMA attempt for a foundation in Oceania (Sr. Edna MacDonald FMA); the origin and development of the FMAs educational work in Korea (Sr. Ausilia Chang GMA); the Salesian mission commitment in the circular letters of Fr. Filippo Rinaldi (Fr. Stanislaw Zimniak).

The afternoon session, instead, consisted of studies by members of the Salesian Family: the work of animation of an oratory in a non-Salesian Family (Ms. Agnes Paulino VDB); a Salesian cooperator's attempt to write the history of the Association in the Philippines (Mr. Roberto Delfin); an attempt by Thail two Sisters of the Immaculate Heart (Sr. Bernadet Uthumporn Sawlow SIHM and Sr. Sompong Thabping SIHM) and a Salesian (Fr. Kitichai Saisawang SDB) to present the story of Mons. Gaetano Pasotti as pioneer missionary in Thailand and his previous experience in China.

5 November, Wednesday (Saint Artemide Zatti)
Archbishop Emeritus of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea (Francesco Panfilo SDB) celebrated the Eucharist, sharing how a missionary should lay foundations but ready to detach from what is worldly.
The day's sessions dealt with Don Bosco's concern with the EAO region and the Salesian missionary work therein: the Saint's missionary dream about Oceania (Abp. Francesco Panfilo); the first difficulties of the Salesians in Papua New Guinea (Fr.

Gregorio Bicomong Jr. SDB); Don Bosco's recommendation to Mons. Cagliero not to forget Asia in the missionary endeavor (Fr. Lanfranco Fedrigotti SDB); the spirituality and search for holiness by a Salesian missionary in Japan as contained in his personal notebook (Fr. Nestor Impelido SDB); the first Filipino missionaries who embarked for the missions in Southeast Asia (Cl. Paulo Calderon SDB); and the Philippine North Province's chaplaincy and missionary work among Filipino migrants in Turin (Fr. Nestor Impelido SDB). The secretary of the Salesian Historical Institute presented an Italian reflection on five dreams of Don Bosco as found in Fr. Arthur Lenti's Salesian studies.

Later in the afternoon, the participants went to Don Bosco Canlubang to pay homage and to pray the Holy Rosary for the departed Salesian missionaries buried in the Salesian cemetery. Then they went to visit the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians' presences adjacent to the Salesians: a pre-novitiate and a novitiate, a school community and a house for elderly FMAs. After the welcome address of the FMA superior of Mary Help of Christians College, the participants were offered dinner within which the international community of aspirants and novices shared a cultural show.

6 November, Thursday (Saint Maria Troncatti)
After the morning prayers and breakfast, the participants went for a cultural visit of Laguna province. Within an hour drive, they arrived in Majayjay, Laguna, at the St. Gregory the Great Church founded by the Franciscan missionaries in the 16th century. Fr. Lanfranco Fedrigotti, as missionary in China, presided the Eucharist in memory of deceased Salesian missionaries in the EAO.

They then visited the church of St. John the Baptist in the town of Longgos, Laguna. Herein, the parish priest led a prayer rite in honor of the patron that concluded with a swinging thurible at the interior center of the church. After, they had a special lunch in Pagsanjan, Laguna, in which the chef the menu offered. They ended the cultural visit by making a courtesy call to the of the Province. of Laguna. Governor Sol Aragones acknowledged, in fact, the coincidence of the EAO seminar and the Provincial Government's project to encourage a tourism with visit of historical churches of Laguna.

7 November, Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus)
On the last day of the seminar, the FIN Provincial (Fr. Ronilo Javines SDB) presided the Eucharist, indicating the writing of history as a way of thanking those who have worked for the souls of the young. After breakfast, ACSSA's secretary and treasurer presented the ISS-ACSSA website, while explaining the relation between the two institutions.

The participants then went to Tagaytay City, at a restaurant in front of Taal Lake that contained a volcano considered as the smallest and active in the world. During the lunch, the restaurant management offered a show, cultural and historical, of Philippines songs and dances. Finally, the participants bid farewell to each other as each left for home.

A student professor at Don Bosco Institute of Ecclesiastical Studies (Fr. Marc Will Lim SDB) ably moderated the sessions of the Seminar: introducing the lecturers, guiding

the question-answer moments, and giving summaries of the lectures. At the same time, a professional working with the Asian Development Bank of the Philippines guided the work of the Secretariate.