



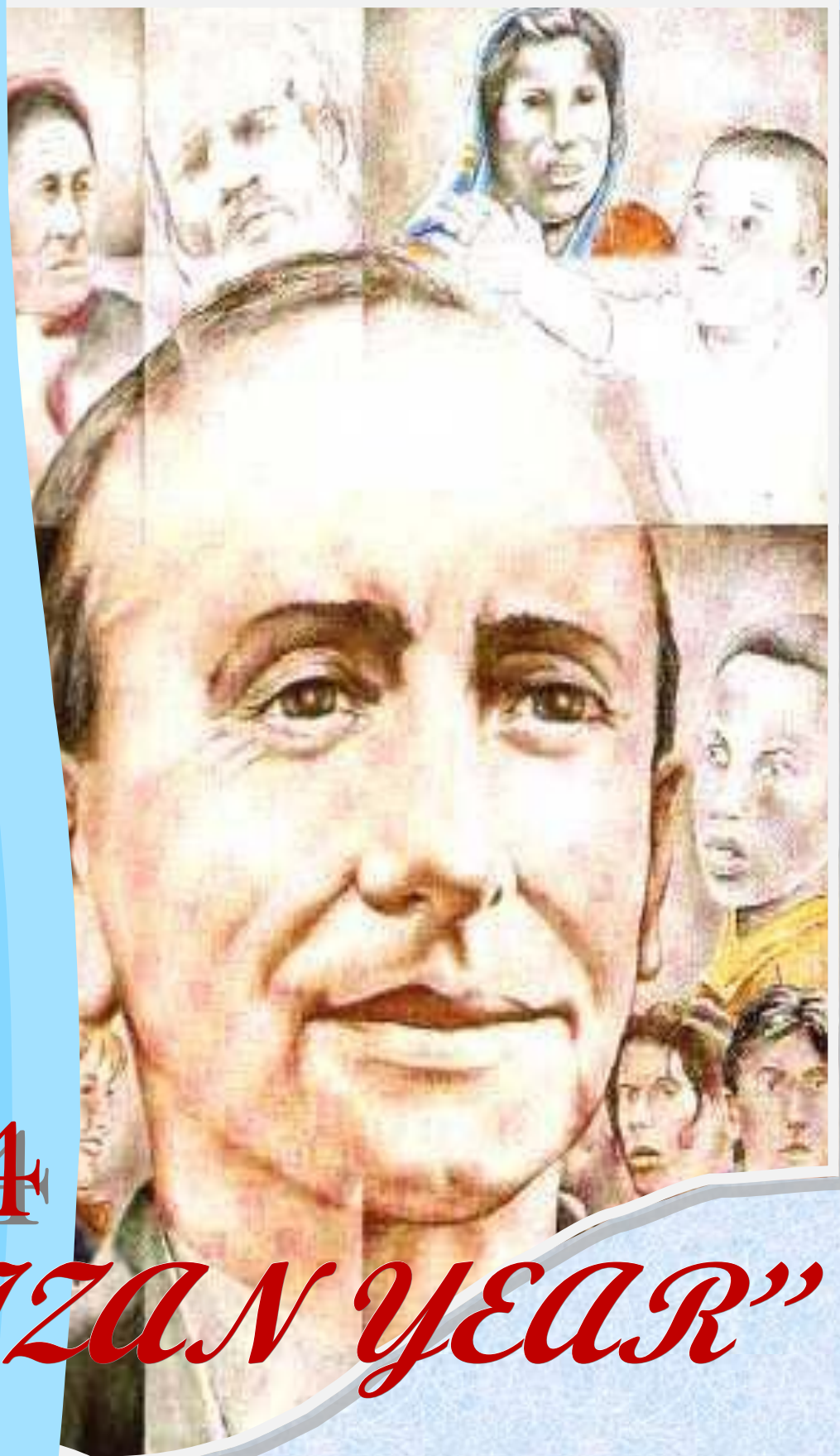
# SINAG *Newsletter*

The Official Publication of the Sons of Charity-Philippines

2ND QUARTER 2014

VOL. 3 ISSUE 1.

*“The man  
seduced by  
Jesus Christ’s  
evangelizing  
the crowds”*



2014  
*“ANIZAN YEAR”*

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**SINAG** is an official quarterly newsletter publication of the Sons of Charity Philippine branch. Published through its communication committee and as part of their evangelization and pastoral ministry among the urban poor people in the Philippines.

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Marissa S. Datugan

*Views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the Sons of Charity Philippines, or of the editorial staff.*

**SINAG** is a Filipino word which means 'ray of light'. For the Sons of Charity they receive the ray of light from Jesus Christ through the charism of their founder Fr. Jean-Emile Anizan. So, this newsletter named after the same inspiration with a literal meaning of 'Sons Integrating and Nurturing Anizan's Gifts'.

If you are interested to receive regularly a copy of this newsletter publication of the Sons of Charity, please feel free to contact us.



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## From the Editor



Sem. Richard Adalim

**D**efining mission is very important in each individual. It needs to have plans to embrace its certainties and uncertainties. In this Anizan's Year we need to clarify our mission in life. Mission cannot be achieved if we don't devise the measures to achieve it. It needs to have love, friendship, respect, modesty, education, deep reflection and action.

As men for the poor, we have to develop a sense of maturity and a kind of love which will guide us in doing our individual and common mission. Fr. Anizan precisely lived a kind of love and friendship with the poor. This year will also be our mission to evaluate ourselves on how mature we are in dealing our brothers and sisters who need our attention. As member of the Sons of Charity congregation, we need to have positive attitudes

characterized by positive thinking which can be seen also in practice. This practice requires discipline and commitment. It is not a switch which can be put on or off but its persistent in one's personality something with which a positive person lives with. It is optimistic and cheerful way of greeting the poor people, problems and events that we encounter throughout our day.

Mabuhay Fr. Anizan!

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#### ANNIVERSARIES AND FEASTS

##### MAY

1-Death Anniversary of Fr. J. E. Anizan (+1928)

2-Final profession of Bro. Arnel Bodota, FC

15-B-Day Anniversary of Fr. Gabriel Goullin, FC

20-Religious Profession of Fr. Jhonas Enopia, FC

21-Religious Profession of Bro. Richard Belga, FC

26-Final Profession of Bro. Richard Belga, FC

26-Birth Day Anniversary of Fr. Jhonas Enopia, FC

##### JUNE

12- B-Day anniversary of Fr. Jean Jacques Bruneau, FC

27- Sacred Heart of Jesus (Sons of Charity feast day)

28- Immaculate Heart of Mary

28-Sacerdotal Anniversary of Fr. Gabriel Goullin, FC (1964)

# Message from the General Superior



Fr. Pierre Tritz, FC  
General Superior

This text of Fr. Anizan is unique. It has never been published, so it is a first scoop, reserved for the Sons of Charity in the Philippines and their friends as we celebrate the feast of Easter. A beautiful pastoral text of Fr. Anizan where he makes the link between the followers of Emmaus and a first communion. How great intuition of our Fr. Anizan! because the Eucharist celebrated in faith remains until the Lord return, the permanent manifestation of the Risen Christ. Receiving the Risen Christ in the communion, we are invited to die to ourselves and to love as Sons of Charity. Have a beautiful and happy Easter.

The first of the Communions received on Easter Day was the one of the disciples of Emmaus, on the day of the resurrection of the Savior; and the short but sanctifying retreat, which was the crowning and the closing of that communion, give to yours, analogies I want now to emphasize, because they may enlighten you, comfort and guide you for the present and the future.

## Various letter of Fr. Anizan on Easter

### -The Road to Emmaus

The two disciples were walking sadly on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Attached by heart to Jesus whom they had believed and received so many blessings, they were confiding each other their disappointments, their regrets, their doubts, fears and sorrows. They were also sharing the glimmers of hope, instilled in them by the stories of the Holy Women in the morning. Is this not the image of what is happening in the heart of many Christians, yours, in these sad days so similar for the party of God at times that preceded the resurrection of Jesus? By the fact of hatred sectarians, betrayal of new Judas, cowardice of new Pilates and cruelty of new executioners, the Church of God is not it on the Cross? She is insulted, stolen, done everything to destroy her. For you, Christians, who have been educated, grown, you who persevere in faith and love of God, there is it not a cause of sadness and anxiety, perhaps even of disappointment, doubt and scandal?

### -A small Retreat

It was at that time that Jesus joined them, hidden under the guise of a traveler. He came to preach them a small retreat which they really need, which I would be not so long but whose effects should be decisive. The disciples did not recognize him.

First he arises all their confidences, and after letting them open all great their hearts, he gives them a paternal admonition. "How slow you are to believe, he said, was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?" And he delivers them a sermon with unparalleled vigor and warmth, showing how all these events were announced by Moses and all the Prophets, enlightening and igniting their hearts, forgiving them for their unbelief, especially giving them back the peace lost since the beginning of the Passion. In the midst of your sorrows and concerns of soul, God has also called by him to comfort you. Every night of this great [Holy] week, you came out of the usual concerns, close to your God, with Him in front of his Tabernacle. He was hidden, but you know, you, his presence. There you have heard his voice on several occasions. You also discharged your heart, by the ministry of the Priest through whom he is hidden, and you have been forgiven. You who have followed with all your heart and assiduously the retreat, are not you more enlightened, comforted, and at times when God touched inside your heart, did not you feel yourselves more ardent for God and for

the good. "Nonne cor nostrum ardens erat nobis loqueretur dum? – wasn't like a fire burning in us when he talked to us!" they said to each other the two disciples. Did not you also felt at times zeal to burn in us?

### - The Communion

Secondly, they had a so keen awareness of their weakness and the danger to fall back in their first state of mind, that they did not want to be separated from their companion. "*Mane nobiscum Domine quoniam advesperascit.* - Stay with us, because it's getting dark" The Communion of this first day of Easter, it was the addition of the blessed interview of the two disciples with the Savior. The Communion will also be the addition to your retreat. Arouse in your hearts the desire to receive in you the One who wants to be your companion on the road of life. Tell him with all your heart as the disciples once, "Stay with us, Lord, it's so dark at the present time." You know, it is his desire to stay with you; it is the purpose of the Eucharist, of the communion. Come to him with a wide open heart. He will not appear in the eyes of your body; he is hidden, as before, under the appearance of bread, but it is him, entire, him, God and man, him with his lights, his graces and his love.

No sooner had they communied and recognized the Savior, despite the late hour than they got up on the spot and returned to Jerusalem to tell their brothers the great news of the resurrection. But how their mind was different than when they left Jerusalem. Any doubt, any concern, shyness and exhaustion disappeared. They believed now, and with a firmness that was never to deny. Their heart was smelling peace, the ardor of the apostolic shone in their heart, they burned to announce the resurrection to their brothers, they wanted to proclaim it and preach worldwide.

### - Always stay with Him

These are the feelings that will be yours after this Easter communion that will crown your retreat. May your faith revive and strengthen; may the peace spread into your soul and the flame of the apostolate light in you! Besides, you know, this is not the only opportunity you have to meet the Savior and unite with Him. You will find him if you want, at all stages of your journey. Ah! This prayer so often repeated since, "Stay with us," he already granted it. He do remains with you, he is always in this chapel, in this tabernacle, willing to give himself to you, with the hands always full of grace, the heart always full of love. Ah! Without him, the way of life would be very sad, very hard and dangerous. Ah! The good, the precious companion! So let me return to you the prayer of the disciples of Emmaus and to give it to you as bunch of your retreat: "Dear friends, it is dark now, come and receive him, always stay with him." Amen.

Father Jean Emile ANIZAN

# The deep religious experience of a holy man Jean Emile Anizan

## THE GREAT TRIAL

### January 1914: The deposition as General Superior

Emile Anizan finally embraced the life as religious for the poor in the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul in 1886. Two years later he was assigned as pastor in Charonne, a vast working-class area of 350,000 residents on the east side of Paris, France. There he remained for seven years. Then, he was elected assistant to the general superior and with great reluctance had to leave his beloved neighborhood of Charonne. In 1907, he was elected general superior. It was a new stage in his life.

Like the War that would plunge a part of Europe into darkness, Emile Anizan found himself at the center of the divisions that were ripping through the Church and through the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul. After the anonymous denunciations by some members of his Congregation he was accused of social modernism and was deposed as general superior along with his entire council, by Pope Pius X in January of 1914. This loyal son of the church entered the darkness. It was the darkness that proved to be purifying, a night that became a source of fruitfulness in his life.

*"It seemed to me that God was hiding; he remained so impenetrable that I found myself immersed in darkness and in the middle of a storm. Yesterday, I received a letter that set me back even more, but finally, after last night's evening prayer, and especially this morning, a ray of light seemed to appear."* [Retreat in Pleterje, 1914]



### March 1914: The Retreat in Pleterje



The Cartusian Monastery of Pleterje, now in Slovenia:  
where Fr. Anizan experienced his mystical night.

Two months after his deposition, he takes a train to Austria and in the Cartusian monastery of Pleterje (in what is now Slovenia). There, he met Don Pollien and they started there spiritual exercises influenced by saint Francis de Sales and the Carmel mystics. While on retreat, Fr. Anizan centered himself again on what had been his life's foundation: his love for God and for the poor. He abandoned himself into God's hands, seeking only God's will.

*"God's will is the only thing that matters. If my will is anchored in God's will and his plan for me, I'll be at peace, because I will have nothing else. If I am sincerely grounded that way, God will lead me and open the way before me and lead me wherever He wishes."*

## August 2014: Verdun, the heart of the war

On the morning of August 6, feast day of Transfiguration, Fr. Anizan takes the 6 o'clock train to Verdun. On August 3 and 4, Germany had declared war on Russia, France and England. It was a terrible confrontation that would provoke the death of more than four million men, soldiers and civilians.

At the age of sixty-one he decided to live in the middle of men who are confronted with the horrors of war. What he wrote in his notebook entitled "war diary" was very impressive: *"As I learned that war had been declared I decided to go as a military chaplain, not in an hospital but nearest possible to the wounded, near the line of fire."*

During eighteen months at risk of his life he helps the soldiers to overcome hate and desperation. He offers the sacrament of penance to all those who wish it. In the letters he sends to his friends he always speaks of his presence amid the wounded and the dead and of the many confessions he hears.

Mystic and apostle, throughout his life, Fr. Anizan sought God in happy or painful events in the life of the people. He wanted to announce, or even more, to show God's love and to transmit faith and hope to everyone he met.

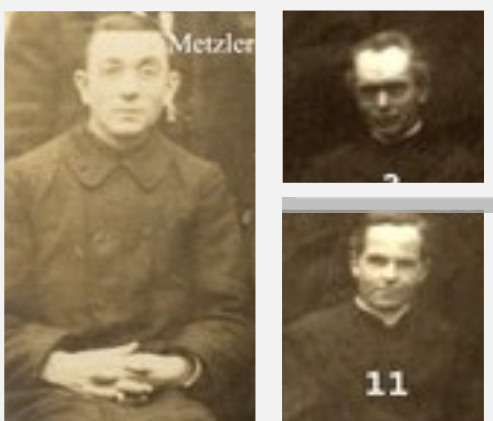
On December 1st he writes to Alexandre Josse, one of his friends: *"I have offered myself to become a true Son of Charity. But I thirst for becoming genuinely so and in the full extent of the word."* That was the first time he used the words "Son of Charity" before the foundation of the congregation.

After seventeen months, Fr. Anizan was totally exhausted, the reason why his doctors recommended that he should go back to Paris. He suffers from pneumonia and must keep bed. He will not be able to go back to Verdun. Another mission awaits him in Paris region.



**Fr. Jean-Emile Anizan as chaplain of the soldiers during the World War I in Verdun, France.**

## Fr. Anizan's renewal of vows and the consecration of the little group



**Counter clockwise: Charles Dewuyst, Alexandre Josse and Yves Alles**

In July 1914, Fr. Anizan sent his request for secularization (to be dispensed of his vows as member of the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul) to Rome and he received the answer on the 1st of December. That time, the war between

Germany and some countries was erupted rapidly throughout Europe. So, Fr. Anizan left Paris to Verdun as military chaplain in order to become "among with the divided countries and exhausted soldiers, to be a witness of the love of God."

August 14 of the same year pope Pius X died and the election of the new pope Benedict XV announced to the world. When Fr. Anizan received the letter of secularization from Rome, which makes him free from the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul, the first thing he did was to profess his commitment to live more and more for God and for the service of the poor.

After a while, he wrote a letter to his dear friends, Fr. Alexandre Josse, Yves Alles and Charles Dewuyst, to respond their call for help. He proposed them to remain deeply united in the same desire, to continue their consecration to God and to the service for the poor. How? Through some humble rules of life, and he promised to do the same thing in the presence of the Divine Child on 25th of December.

That was the beginning of a new adventure of life for Fr. Anizan, these three companions and many others.

Sources: from the archives of the Sons of Charity

# PASTORAL SHARING



## GOD'S WILL BE DONE

By sem. Richard Adalim

*...to keep the faith, trust, and confidence in Jesus Christ...*

God's will is the only source of strength of Fr. Jean Emile Anizan especially during his great trials in life. During our pastoral sharing, with my brothers in the community, together with Fr. Gaby Goullin, FC and Fr. Jhonas Enopia, FC, we shared about the progress of our dedication to people particularly in our pastoral area in Sto. Niño chapel in Marikina city. Each one has its unique experiences and realizations which I believe it motivated them also to continue the said immersion/pastoral works. The Question of Fr. Gaby is "how to live those things and to continue in this way?" It is a personal question to each one of us. We may have different perspectives in answering and living this question but I know that we are still united in

one goal, that is to live with the poor as Fr. Anizan did during his time. To continue in this way is to hold on that goal.

Fr. Anizan clearly professed that we are the men of the poor. To abandon this goal means death but to go back to it means life for me and for all of us. We know very well that we cannot speak about Fr. Anizan without dealing on his pastoral works. Pastoral works is the life of Fr. Anizan with Jesus as the center of his prayer and reflection. As Sons of Charity this will be our point of departure to keep the faith, trust, and confidence in Jesus that amidst its difficulties and trials along the journey, the battle of life still continues in God's loving care.

## Bro. Richard Belga, FC Bagged the ICTC's 2014 Toastmaster of the Year



The Inter-Congregational Theological Center's grand champion of the year for 2014 Toastmaster competition was proudly bagged by Bro. Richard Belga from the Sons of Charity, with his masterpiece in titled "Success is not the Absence of Fear".

The said competition is a yearly event of ICTC sponsored by the second year class as part of their English class in public speaking. The competition held last March 24, 2014 at Titus Brandsma hall in Quezon city.

Bro. Richard then, congratulated by the event organizers and the panels of judges and was supported by his formator Fr. Jean-Jacques Bruneau, FC who was present during the whole event together with Fr. Gabriel Goullin and Fr. Daniel Godefroy and the rest of the Sons of Charity family.

Congratulation Bro. Richard!

## NEWS BITS

By sem. Osben Pantorilla



### Flash from the General Council

The regular visit of the Superior General of the Sons of Charity Fr. Pierre Tritz, FC to the Philippines was on April 21 to 29, 2014. He joined the Holy Week celebrations with the Sons of Charity Philippines and the people of Jesus of Nazareth parish in Quezon city.

### The Companions of Anizan's Outing

Part of the Community dynamics of the Companions of Anizan is to have at least a time of rest and recreation. This year's outing of the group held in a beautiful and relaxing beach of Zambales last April 4-5. The said important event of the life of the group was participated by many of its members.

### Seminarian Osben Pantorilla hooked the trophy during the 2014 SCCS Culminating Speech Contest

Saint Camillus College Seminary conducted a culminating Speech Contest to the pre-collegian last March 20, 2014 with the theme: Linguistic Diversity, Towards Solidarity. The categories for the competition are impromptu, reading from the Manuscript and the hardest among the categories the prepared Speech which consisted of 5-8 minutes. There were five congregations participated in the event namely; St. John the Precursor, CRSBP, Blessed Pavoni, Sons of Charity and Ministers of the Infirm. The judges chose seminarian Osben Pantorilla from the Sos of Charity as champion of this year's speech contest.

### Sons of Charity Priests, Brothers and Seminarians goes to Negros Oriental

Despite of the very busy schedules of the different communities of the Sons of Charity-Philippines, they still found time to have their prayers, rest and recreation together in the place of Fr. Jhonas Enopia, FC in Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental on March 23-28, 2014. The said activity was part of the yearly gathering of the Sons of Charity in the Philippines.

## The Pastoral Immersion of the Theology Students

A month of pastoral immersion of the theology students every semester is part of the pastoral program of the Inter-Congregation Theological Center (ICTC) where the seminarians of the Sons of Charity go for their studies. This program is designed to develop the pastoral involvement of every students as part of their human development as well as the preparation of their future ministry in the Church. The focus of this immersion is to have solidarity with the different sectors of the society. This 2nd semester of the school year 2013-2014 the pastoral immersion program was successfully completed last March 23.

From the beautiful place of Naic, Cavite I was assigned to the fisher folks community. The deep ocean was my place to meditate and pray. The small boat was my life. For me like this small boat, I can't live without the loving care and love of Jesus Christ. Like this calm deep ocean, I can't meditate with-



Richard Adalim

Michael Jayson Abao



Our country has various indigenous communities. One of these is the community of Kalanguya from the mountainous place of Nueva Viscaya in the north. The Pastoral team sent me in this place to live, understand, and experience the life of the indigenous people. For me, that was a great opportunity as a seminarian.

I grew up from a family of farmers. My heart was full of joy when I learned that the pastoral team of ICTC assigned me in a family of farmers in Tarlac. Living with this sector I was able to share my talents in farming. That was indeed a grace from Jesus Christ.



Jhonny Rebosquillo

Christopher Labrador

Majority of the people of General Triaz, Cavite are workers. I was assigned to live in solidarity with them. This sector helps me to understand the real world of a working class community. I tried to be one with them. Selling bread was my way of experiencing the life of a poor worker.



## How to Donate?

Our Congregation is supported by ourselves, some friends and benefactors. That is why we need your generosity to help us financially for vocation activities, formation houses, studies and formation of our postulants and young brothers.

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