



Chapter Chronicle

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Capitulars Enjoy Seaside Break

Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu — In the spirit of fraternity and rest, the capitulars of the 9th Chapter took a brief but meaningful mid-capitular break on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at Tambuli Seaside Resort and Spa, located along Buyong Road in Maribago, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.

The group departed from the Talavera House of Prayer at 8:00 AM and arrived at the resort for a half-day of recreation and relaxation. Nestled along the coast, Tambuli provided an ideal setting for the friars to unwind and strengthen their fraternal bonds amid the serene beauty of the sea and nature.

Upon arrival, the capitulars were welcomed with the resort's peaceful ambiance. Some immediately took to the inviting waters—either enjoying the resort's swimming pools or taking a dip in the sea—while others chose to relax and engage in conversations. It was a time marked not just by leisure but by the joy of community and shared brotherhood.

A delicious buffet lunch was served, featuring a variety of local and international dishes. The friars appreciated the warm hospitality of the resort and availed themselves of some of the services and goods offered on-site.

By nearly 2:00 PM, the group concluded their stay, returning to the chapter house with renewed energy for the work ahead. Though brief, the mid-break served as a refreshing pause, allowing the brothers to enjoy one another's presence and the place of relaxation.



● Homily

ONWARD TOGETHER: A CALL TO RENEWAL FOR THE PROVINCE

On the 6th Sunday of Easter, Fray Eduardo Celiz Jr., OAR, delivered a stirring homily that resonated deeply with the capitulars gathered in discernment. He reminded the assembly that this Chapter is more than a mere meeting; it is a sacred moment of fraternity, reflection, and renewal. The readings of the day, he said, speak directly about this mission: to love Christ by keeping His Word, to listen to the Spirit in community, and to move forward with courage and peace.

Fray Celiz began by emphasizing that love for Christ is not proven by words alone but by fidelity to His Word, quoting St. Augustine: "Love is the beauty of the soul." Jesus' words—"Whoever loves Me will keep My word"—are not a gentle suggestion but a call to action. This fidelity must guide the capitulars as they make decisions for the Province of St. Ezekiel Moreno, decisions that serve not themselves but the Church and the world.

Reflecting on the First Reading from Acts, he spoke of the first Council of the Church, where the Apostles practiced synodality—listening, discerning, and acting in the Holy Spirit. In the same spirit, he urged the Province to avoid self-serving agenda or clinging to the past, and instead to be open to the Spirit's voice, a voice heard not in noise or ambition but in prayer and humble listening.

The vision of the New Jerusalem in the Second Reading challenges the Province to imagine itself as a radiant city—one not of grandeur but of faithfulness to its apostolic foundations, a light to those in need. This, he said, is not mere wishful thinking but a call to rekindle the fire of the Recoletos Spirit that has moved countless missionaries, built schools, and served communities across the globe.

Peace, Fr. Celiz reminded his brothers, is Jesus' gift: "Peace I leave you; My peace I give you" (John 14:27). It is not the peace of avoiding difficulties but the peace of trusting in God's providence and courageously moving forward, even amid uncertainty.

He concluded by calling the assembly to walk "onward together in gratitude, fidelity, and hope." Gratitude for the legacy of those who came before, fidelity to the Gospel and the charism of the Order, and hope that the Spirit will complete the good work already begun.

"Let us love Christ by keeping His Word," Fr. Celiz urged. "Let us discern in the Spirit. Let us walk as builders of a New Jerusalem." In these words lies a powerful invitation: to move forward not in fear but in faith, as true sons of St. Augustine, united in mission, and open to the ever-new call of the Spirit.

