



Chapter Chronicle

May 26, 2025

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Chapter Proceedings Shift to Commission Phase



CEBU CITY – On the eighth day, the 9th Provincial Chapter resumed with renewed purpose, transitioning into the **Commission Phase**—a critical stage of communal brainstorming, discernment and planning.

The day began with the celebration of the holy mass presided over by Fray Arnel Diaz, OAR, who offered a fruit of his reflection to guide the capitulars in this second phase of the Chapter. He reminded them that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as their Advocate and guide, bringing courage and clarity even amid trials and persecution. In a world where faith is often ridiculed, Fray Diaz encouraged them to be bold witnesses of the truth, trusting the Spirit who challenges, empowers, and never leaves them alone.

Following the Mass, the capitulars gathered at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapter Hall to formally open the Commission Phase. This phase marks a significant turn in the Chapter proceedings, as the capitulars are grouped into five commissions tasked with shaping what would soon be called the “Life and Mission Project (LaMP)” of the Province—the guiding document of the Province for the next term.

The commissions, based on the key areas of the Order’s life and mission, include:

- Governance and Economy
- Charism, Spirituality, and Permanent Formation
- Mission and Ministerial Apostolate
- Educational Apostolate
- Vocation Ministry and Initial Formation

After receiving their instructions, the capitulars dispersed to their assigned places to share viewpoints, and begin crafting proposals tailored to their respective commissions. Throughout the day, from morning until late evening, these five groups provided space for deep reflection, spirited discussion, and prayerful discernment—always in the light of the Spirit’s guidance.

As the Commission Phase moves forward, the Province looks to the future with faith and hope, trusting in the Spirit’s quiet but persistent voice to shape its mission and life. The collaborative efforts of the capitulars promise to yield a LaMP that is both faithful to the Order of Augustinian Recollects’ rich tradition and responsive to the needs of the Church and the world today.

THE FIVE COMMISSIONS (From top): Charism, Spirituality, and Permanent Formation; Mission and Ministerial Apostolate; Initial Formation; Governance and Economy; Educational Apostolate



● Homily

THE ADVOCATE'S CALL: STAND FIRM, SPEAK BOLDLY

On Monday, May 26, the Chapter resumed with a Holy Mass that set a tone of courage and hope. Fray Arnel Diaz, OAR, delivered a stirring homily rooted in the day's Gospel, emphasizing Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit—the Advocate—who empowers the faithful to walk the difficult path of discipleship with boldness and truth.

Fray Diaz reminded the brothers that Jesus did not offer easy reassurances but spoke honestly about the trials His followers would face: rejection, persecution, and misunderstanding—even from those within religious circles. Yet, in this warning, there was no fear—only the assurance of the Spirit's enduring presence.

"The same Spirit that Jesus promised is alive in us today," Fray Diaz affirmed. He described the Holy Spirit not merely as a quiet comforter but as a powerful presence who gives voice to truth, strength in weakness, and direction when the way seems shut. The Spirit doesn't just inform; He transforms, shaping believers into authentic witnesses of Christ.

Quoting Jesus' words—"I have told you this so that you will not fall away"—Fray Diaz called for a resilient faith, one that endures suffering and finds purpose even in rejection. He concluded with a stirring call to action:

"Stand firm. Speak boldly.

Love deeply. Testify with grace and in truth. And remember: when the Advocate comes—and He has come—He will testify. And so must we."



LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 9TH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Colegio De Sto. Tomas-Recoletos, Class 1981
- Fray Bernabe Dosdos
- Sto. Tomas De Villanueva-Recoletos
- San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, Quezon City
- Comunidad San Ezequiel Moreno