



# Chapter Chronicle

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## 9th Provincial Chapter enters Decision Phase

First Reading of Proposals, Approval of Chapter Message and Province's Directory

**CEBU CITY—On the penultimate day of the Chapter, the proceedings entered the third stage, the Decision Phase, signaling that only one more day remained before the Chapter's conclusion.**

The day began with a Holy Mass presided over by Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda, OAR, who reflected on the disciples' grief at Jesus' departure. He reminded the capitulars that such sorrow stemmed from focusing on personal fears rather than God's greater plan. Emphasizing discernment, Fray Kenneth encouraged trust in the Spirit's guidance over emotional anxieties, praying that the capitulars might yield to God's will in their decision-making.

After Mass, the capitulars gathered for a group photo before formally opening the Decision Phase at 8:30 a.m. This crucial stage focused on the presentation and discussion of the five Commissions' proposals, which will shape the Life and Mission Project (LaMP) of the Province for the upcoming term.

The day's four sessions featured proposal presentations in the following order: Governance and Economy; Charism, Spirituality, and Permanent Formation; Mission and Ministerial Apostolate; Edu-

cational Apostolate; and Initial Formation and Vocation Ministry. Each presentation was followed by opportunities for clarification and dialogue among the capitulars, fostering thoughtful discernment and collaboration.

Momentum continued with the presentation and collective critique of the Chapter's official Message and the proposed revisions to the Province's Directory. Both documents were unanimously approved, reflecting the chapter members' unity and commitment to shared governance and mission.

As the Chapter nears its conclusion, the outcomes of this Decision Phase highlight the Province's deep dedication to faithful stewardship and evangelization. Grounded in prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Spirit's direction, the day's proceedings mark a pivotal moment in charting the Province's path forward, united in purpose and firmly anchored in God's call.

## • Homily

### A CALL TO DISCERN, TRUST GOD'S BIGGER PLAN

On the penultimate day of the Chapter, Fray Kenneth Joseph Onda, OAR, served as Mass Presider and delivered a homily that touched the hearts of the capitulars gathered in prayerful discernment. Reflecting on the Gospel, he reminded them of the moment when Jesus told His disciples, "But now I am going to Him who sent Me, yet none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, grief has filled your hearts." (John 16:5-6).

Fray Onda invited his brothers to understand the sorrow of the disciples, who had followed Jesus for three years and now faced the thought of life without Him. Their grief came from not fully comprehending the necessity of His departure. "They were so focused on their own fears and feelings," he said, "that they missed the bigger plan God had in store for them: 'If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.'" (John 16:7).

He gently cautioned that the same dynamic can happen to us during this Chapter—a time filled with ideas, emotions, and decisions that shape the future of the Province. Like the apostles, we risk becoming preoccupied with our fears, anxieties, and comfort, losing sight of the Holy Spirit's quiet guidance. "We might shift our attention from God's will to our own concerns," he warned, "and miss the grace that comes from trusting in the Lord's bigger plan."

Fray Onda closed his homily with a prayerful exhortation: "May we have the grace to trust Him, even when our emotions and preoccupations try to convince us otherwise." In these days of discernment, let us remain attentive not to our own fears but to the gentle promptings of the Spirit, knowing that even when the path feels uncertain, the Helper will come, and God's plan will prevail.



#### LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Recoletos Formation Center and Recoletos School of Theology, Quezon City
- St. Augustine Priory, California
- SARF de Provincialate
- RAY de Filipinas
- Sis. Corazon Padua, SAR/Sister Provincial
- Bro. Edwin Ruiz, SAR/Brother-General
- Bro. Wilson Sy, SAR
- Sis. Maria Soledad Tubay, SAR