

Two La Salette Philosophers

After re-establishing the La Salette Community for four years in Myanmar since 2005, Myanmar La Salettes are now blessed with two philosophy students: Bro. Anthony and Bro. Aloysius. Both of them were able to obtain the required marks in TOEFL exam as it was their passport to philosophy.

On May 10, 2009, the seminarians were accepted and invested by Fr. Bernard Taylor, MS, the District Superior, before leaving for Pyin Oo Lwin, where they would study philosophy for two years. Fr. Bernie, MS, welcomed them with warm heart and in his homily he enlightened them with the challenges of being religious nowadays.

Sem. Job and Sem. Joseph are also preparing themselves for TOEFL exams at St. Thomas Seminary of the Archdiocese of Mandalay, where 84 seminarians are being trained for different dioceses. It will be a year of initial formation. Good luck, dear seminarians,



Sinbyu Bridge Broken...

Fr. Valentine San Tun, MS had been newly posted to be the pastor of the Holy Family Parish in Sinbyu. Not even one month after his arrival there, the river overflowed and with no mercy swept the bridge on the road to Sinbyu. The villagers and the parish priest found themselves the hard to travel to other commercial places. For the meantime, they could pass the river either by boat or through another bridge a bit farther way from the broken bridge. At least they have an alternate route to get to the village. Trying to recover from that headache, the parish priest with his villagers are now soliciting for the reconstruction of a new bridge. They would need strong woods and workers so that it could be rebuilt as the rainy season has started more regularly. Having been broken for more than five times, hopefully, it will be much stronger this time.

Feastday Celebrations, Chaung Yoe

Through the leadership of Fr. Bernie, MS, the Myanmar La Salettes are extending their presence as much as possible by participating in the big celebrations of the parishes in the diocese. In doing so, they are more and more reaching to the people of the Diocese of Mandalay. Just being present as community and participating in the feast day celebration were great message itself to the people and the clergy.

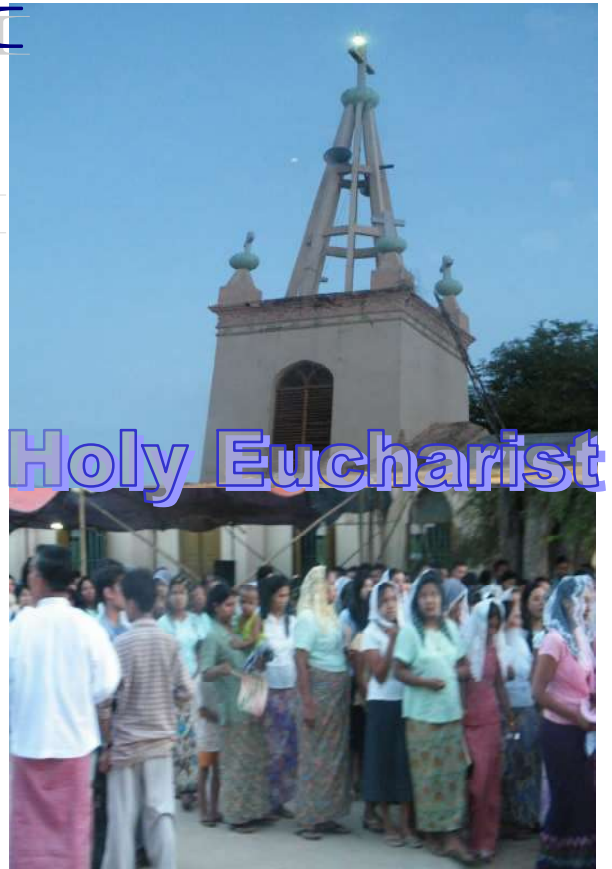
Fr. Bernie with the three deacons went to Chaungyoe and attended the annual feast of the Parish on May 22-23. To get there in the village, it takes more than 5 hours drive from Mandalay amidst rough roads. The whole village holds Catholic faith and numbered more than 600 faithful. The celebration was so grand with the Latin prayers that even the faithful could sing and recite. The parish patron is Mary Help of Christians. It is so meaningful that May is the Month of Mary in Myanmar.

It was such an exciting experience for the new deacons to celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians together with the parishioners who composed the whole village (very rare is it to have a Catholic village in Myanmar) and the clergy of Mandalay Archdiocese at Chaungyoe parish. They had enjoyed a welcoming atmosphere from the parish priest as well as the parishioners. It was a joint celebration of the 25th sacerdotal jubilee of one of Mandalay Archdiocese' clergy with the feast of the parish. The jubilee mass was said on the very evening and the feast, the next morning. The jubilee celebrant was greeted with festive songs as well as given gifts for his great and tireless service to the people of God. It really was such a blessing and honor for the parishioners for the priest being their native. Through the celebrations, it was very wonderful to see the faith and lives of the people. May God bring more blessings to this land!



Marian Procession

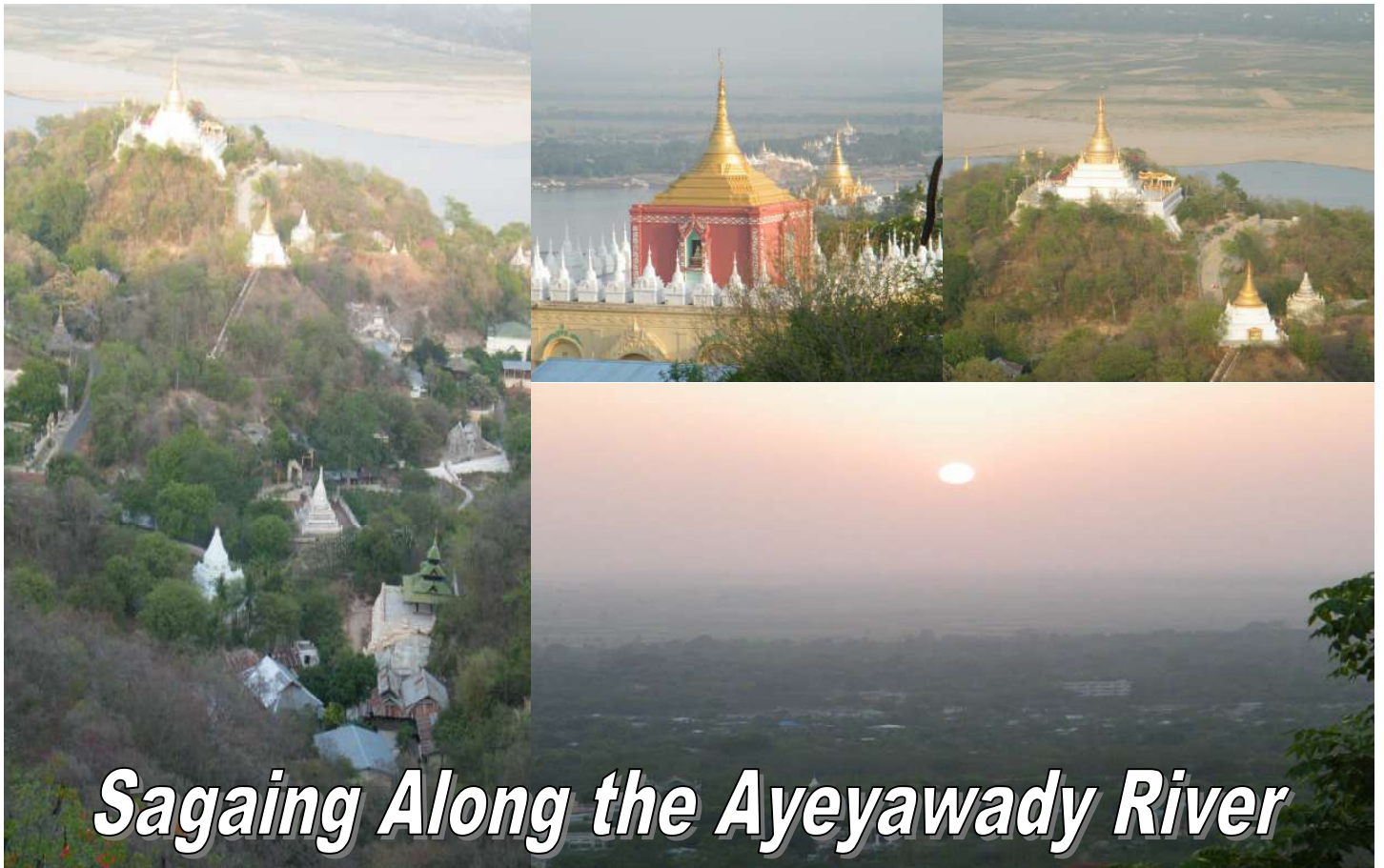
May 2019



Holy Eucharist

Mary Immaculate Feast, Sagaing

La Salette Missionaries as collaborators in the diocese of Mandalay went to celebrate the feast (On May 30) at Sagaing, the very city where Buddhism is very much alive. Sagaing mountain is where young monks and young nuns start to practice and live the way of life, even as young as seven years old. Pagodas could be seen at every side of the mountain. Despite this reality, there are still Catholics who are very devout and dedicated in terms of their faith. The parishioners were very happy to show their faith through the feast of Mary Immaculate. The weather was a bit gloomy before and until the culmination of the celebration. Ready enough was the sky to cry, it started to rain no sooner had we left the city. In fact, so prophetic and timely was the preacher's homily, "Mama Mary is protecting us from the rain because we were celebrating her feast."



Sagaing Along the Ayeyawady River



Mary Immaculate Fiesta

Chanthagone Paleik PO
Mandalay Division Myanmar 05132
Visit: <http://msmym.com>
<http://msmandalay.multiply.com>

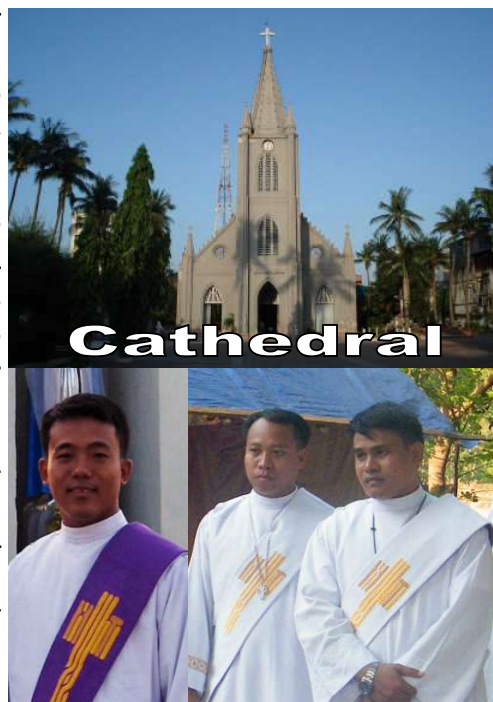
House (Shrine) Phone: (95) 66-42452
Village Phone: 02-54244
Email: bernie@myanmar.com.mm or
bernie@msmym.com

Pastoral Formation of the 3 Deacons

Under the direction of Fr. Bernard Taylor, MS, Rev. David Kyaw Zwa Latt, MS, Rev. Robert Zaw Lwin, MS and Rev. William Phyo Way, MS are now having exposure in the Archdiocese of Mandalay for the integration to their own Burmese culture and pastoral formation before their ordination in October.

Rev. David is assigned at the Cathedral Parish of the Archdiocese of Mandalay and Rev. Robert at St. Michael Parish in Than Win while Rev. William is in the seminary setting at St. Thomas Pre-Major Seminary in Mandalay. They have settled in their respective areas before the end of May, helping out whatever they can in their parishes.

During the monthly recollection of the Diocese that is from every first Tuesday to Wednesday of the month, they will be having open forum and sharing together with their parish priests so that they could integrate themselves fully to the Myanmar Church. Coming out of the academic world, now they are in touch with reality. Thanks to Fr. Bernie who heads this program. Carry on, Reverends.



The 1st Mandalay Cluster Meeting

Applying the decision 2009/12 of the Myanmar District, Mandalay cluster held its first meeting on May 25 at St. Thomas Pre-Major Seminary through Fr. Thomas Htan Shan Mong as cluster coordinator, composing of 3 deacons and Fr. Nicodemus. Each one shared the recent concerns of the community from 9:30 am to 11:15 am, and how we can move forward in the future. They had agreed to meet thrice a month, even without having agenda but to enhance brotherhoods and community spirit. The meeting was ended with lunch at one of the restaurants in Mandalay.

With Salesians...

Being in the same diocese of the Archdiocese of Mandalay and in the spirit of religious community, the La Salettes also went to give moral support to the Salesian Missionaries in Anisakhan during the first profession of their members. More than a thousand came to celebrate the special moment and day for the Salesians and the Church. The celebration was so alive with songs and liturgy. Both breakfast and lunch were served after the Eucharist. Right after lunch, the La Salettes went up to Maymyo (Phyin Oo Lwin) to visit their two aspirants at the Institute of Philosophy. The two guys (aspirants) are very happy with the new environment. After their director (Fr. Nicodemus, MS) talked to them they returned to Chanthagone and arrived just before supper.