



# Priestly Ordination

The Archdiocese of Mandalay has been blessed with 2 new priests for this year. Rev. Peter Kyi Maung was the last one in his batch to be ordained to the order of Presbyterate. It was officiated at the Sacred Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Mandalay, by anointing and laying on hand of His Grace Bishop Paul, Archbishop of Mandalay. It was at 4:00 PM of October 20, 2010. Many Priests (from Mandalay and other dioceses), religious and the faithful came to give witness to the solemn celebration of the ordination. It was ended with a simple reception after the mass. Congratulations, Fr. Peter!



## More and More Calamities reported...

Each year, Myanmar is prone to more and more calamities, just like Nagis in 2008. Last summer, the heat stroke was occurred throughout the low lands of Myanmar and killed many people. Similarly, there was drought in the beginning of the rainy season. People had hard times to plow and plant. Last October, the typhoons were passing through some areas of Myanmar. Some places got flooded and were left some crops destroyed. Recently, some coastal areas of Rakhine state were hit by strong typhoon. Let's pray that nothing more will happen next!

*Some photos of flood taken by Fr. Bernie*





# Miracle at Chanthagone

## Fiesta Celebrations October 22-23, 2010

October 23, 2010 is the end of the Buddhist lent. The Shrine at Chanthagone, in Paleik, Mandalay celebrates the annual fiesta on the full moon of Thadingyut. During the months previous to this, students in the Mandalay areas have classes on Saturdays and Sundays. Their holidays are moved to the pre-Sabbath and Sabbath days. Since these are the national holidays, even though a lot of people travel, it has made it possible for people to attend the feast. More and more people have been attending the feast from year to year.

Even though the feast is in October the rains may come anytime. During the year 2005 the rains were very bad and the organizers cancelled the processions of the statues. A lot of mud made it impossible even to move within the property. The next year many decided to brave the weather and joined the procession with their umbrellas and some without any covering. This year it was different. There were announcements on TV warning the people of the approaching storm. The rains came down so hard that the main celebrant wanted to postpone the homily. It was no wonder the priest-in-charge cancelled the processions that evening. Since a lot of people wanted to have the procession anyway many joined in. The rain had tapered off a bit and it was not so bad.

The next day was the different matter. The 100 mph winds had slowed down to about 60. It was less than 50 miles away. Fr. Bernie asked the people to pray. Even though it was raining a bit on and off, there was light. But elsewhere the rains came down so hard that the motorists had to put on their head lights. The 4000 or so pilgrims were spared the brunt of the storm. They continued with the procession without knowing that there was a storm with very strong winds that tore down a lot of branches off the trees and flooded a lot of areas. It was a real miracle.

There are still some vendors who squeezed in. A lot of pilgrims felt the presence of our Blessed Mother. Due to the coming elections in a few weeks, the organizers have prepared a place in the village for shops to open and no food was allowed to be sold on the property. As the rains were falling down hard, many took refuge in front of the grotto and the place reserved for the Major Seminararians had to be given to the people. They squeezed in at the place where they ate. After the opening mass there was a novena of masses one after another. As they started very early, they finished at about four-thirty in the morning. Many were just coming in for mass when the series were finished. Perhaps the next year, they may have to start at nine in stead of at eight in the evening.



The miracle of Chanthagone is not just this one event. It is not just a spot protected from the storm. The people have been coming from all over the place. In spite of the rains and storms, the 6000 packets of food were all given out. Some could not control themselves and came back for their seconds. Unlike the previous night, more food than it was necessary was prepared for the fiesta. So it must have been at least 5000 people who ate that morning. The program was simple: the opening mass at 5:00 pm. Then the procession and the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The nine masses followed. Everything ended with the fiesta mass and the procession.

Raffle tickets were sold and prices drawn at exactly noon. The raffle ticket was sold at 500 kyats (about 50 cents US). The first price was a motorcycle. TV's; EVD's (Electronic Video Device); MP4 players etc. were consolation prizes. There were over 500 prizes and no wonder the Fathers did not make much money. The one who won the motorcycle is from Yangon and they cannot use motorcycles there. Most probably he will get the money the organizers paid for it.

All these activities took place in the newly built covered courts. A Catholic contractor from Loikaw volunteered to build it. He had to buy all the materials himself and he has to wait to be paid back for the materials. He decided not to take anything for himself and the workers. All the shrine had to do was to feed the workers. The benefactor could not give the money right away. Everything went up within a month. This is also a miracle. The pilgrims can now worship come rain or shine.



# 2006 New Location



# 2007 New Stage



# Ordinations 2008



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  
Fr. Philip 0086692-8939033  
Email: [brnie@myanmar.com.mm](mailto:brnie@myanmar.com.mm) or [bernie@msmym.com](mailto:bernie@msmym.com)



# 2009 Fiesta



# 2010 Fiesta



Procession - Fighting for Food



Blessing & Opening Ceremony