



# LA CARTA

SEPTEMBER 2022

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*Dearest Brothers,*

Peace of Christ!

This new month of September has arrived. I am back in Rome after being away to visit our communities in the USA and the Philippines. I also took advantage of visiting my family, relatives and friends for a short period of vacation while I was in the Philippines. I am very happy to break to you the news that, with the help of our set formators, the formation manual was finally finished. Now it is updated and in place and it is time to examine its effectivity and contribution to better our formation in the Order. We will thus move forward to apply the updated formation manual of the Order. I pray that at the next General Chapter, we will be able to discuss and suggest the strength and weakness of this Ratio. My gratitude goes to Fr. Shino who headed and directed this workshop and to many benefactors who sponsored this work. Let us continue to pray for the effectivity of this manual.

This past July 23, our Adorno Fathers and Brothers attended the diaconate ordination of our two brothers, namely Michael George Mercado and Michael L. Inovero. In one particular rite during the ordination ceremony, the bishop presents the Book of the Gospels to the newly ordained. As he hands to them this holy word of God, he says receive the Book of the Gospels, “Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach”. These words show to us that above all, holiness of actions and conviction on who we are and what we do is what is most important. For this reason, we need to work on ourselves as not be merely “going through the motions’ but rather living a life of holy action.

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+39 349 831 8995 | 1201-655-8020 (WhatsApp)

Generalate House of the Clerics Regular Minor  
Sant'Angelo in Pescheria | Via della Tribuna di  
Campitelli 6A, Rome, 00186



**Fr. Teodoro Kalaw, CRM**  
Superior General

Clerics Regular Minor -  
Adorno Fathers & Brothers



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The concept of “Believe what you read, Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach” is a sound principle that should reverberate to our everyday lives as Clerics Regular Minor. In other words, it is not enough for us to have “book knowledge on religious life” or to be satisfied with conferences and workshops if all we do is file what we learn but to not live. We need to live in our lives a “spirituality in action”.

Pierre Pourrat S.S., in his History of Spirituality, noted that the Founders of various families of Clerics Regular, with very few exceptions, left no spiritual writings. They were animated by the spirit of the first Clerics Regular, especially that of the Theatines and Barnabites. “A lively zeal for poverty, great inward mortification in order to attain to a joyous calm of soul, an intense and disinterested love of God and one’s neighbor, such was the pervading spirit of this magnificent movement towards Catholic reform by its first beginners in Italy in the sixteenth century”

This reality was lived in the life of our own Founders, and we see in history how people gravitated around them and were captivated by their evangelical authenticity in the living out of the Gospel. Brothers, we too are called to “Believe what we read. Teach what we believe. Practice what we teach”. What better vocation story can there be then of one who puts into practice the joyful living of our charism. May God bring to completion the good work he has begun in all of us. May we willingly cooperate with his grace.

*Fr. Teodoro Kalaw, CRM*

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