

# STF NEWSLETTER

STUDIUM THEOLOGIAE FOUNDATION, INC. (PHILIPPINES) • ISSUE SIXTEEN

## Pope Calls for the Entire Christian Community to Promote Vocations

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Benedict XVI stresses the need for the Church as a community and every “ministry and charism” to promote listening to the call.

“An ecclesial community that lives in communion with itself and, in it, lives with that central element which is the Eucharist is needed to promote vocations “because whoever lives in an ecclesial community that is harmonious, co-responsible and conscientious certainly learns more easily to discern the call of the Lord.”

The Pope’s message on the occasion of the 44th World Day of Prayer for Vocations is titled *The Vocation to the Service of the Church as Communion*. The celebration is scheduled to take place on April 29.

In the message Benedict XVI said: “The care of vocations [. . .] demands a constant ‘education’ for listening to the voice of God. This is what Eli did, when he helped the young Samuel to understand what God was asking of him and to put it immediately into action (cf 1 *Sam* 3: 9). Now, docile and faithful listening can only take place in a climate of intimate communion with God which is realized principally in prayer. According to the explicit command of the Lord, we must implore the gift of vocations, in the first place by praying untiringly and together to the ‘Lord of the harvest’.”

“The invitation is in the plural,” the Pope explains for it involves the entire community. “The Good Shep-

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In collaboration with the  
• Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Rome, Italy)

• Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Navarre (Pamplona, Spain)

Brought to you by the  
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His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI greets seminarian Christian Gil Golong of the Sedes Sapientiae International Seminary during the liturgical celebration on Christmas day at St. Peter’s Basilica.

## STF Benefactors Meeting

Benefactors of the Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc., drawn from business, government, law and the academe met with Rev. Msgr. Pedro Huidobro to hear him speak about the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross and its current plans to accommodate more students.

In his remarks, Msgr. Huidobro asked those in attendance to consider being ambassadors of the University, by telling their friends and acquaintances of its important work of training priests, theologians, philosophers and people who work in the media. He mentioned supporting the University financially, since at this time the University has undergone the important work of expanding the physical campus in order to keep up with world wide demand for the education it offers.

During the question and answer period, Msgr. Huidobro was asked what were the advantages to the benefactors of supporting the University in Rome where it is more expensive to provide scholarships to students who come from the Philippines or from other developing countries. He reminded the audience of the communion of saints: when one part of the Church grows, the entire Church grows, and the benefits of that growth are shared throughout the Church in the measure of faith of each local Church.

Msgr. Huidobro made reference to the large number of Filipino priests and seminarians who attend classes there, where they receive sound theological and professional training. Since many of the graduates go on to fill positions of responsibility – chancellors, vocation directors, theological educators and even bishops – the University’s good influence on the entire Church goes far beyond mere numbers.



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herd, therefore, invites us to pray to the heavenly Father, to pray unitedly and insistently, that he may send vocations for the service of the Church as communion.”

Citing the Second Vatican Council the message focuses on “the importance of educating future priests to an authentic ecclesial communion. [. . .] It is indispensable that, within the Christian people, every ministry and charism be directed to full communion; and it is the duty of the Bishop and priests to promote this communion in harmony with every other Church vocation and service. The consecrated life, too, of its very nature, is at the service of this communion, as highlighted by my venerable predecessor John Paul II in the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Vita consecrata*.”

Since at “the centre of every Christian community [there] is the Eucharist, the source and summit of the life of the Church, [w]hoever places himself at the service of the Gospel, if he lives the Eucharist, makes progress in love of God and neighbour and thus contributes to building the Church as communion. We can affirm that the ‘Eucharistic love’ motivates and founds the vocational activity of the whole Church”.

Pope Benedict XVI ended his message calling on Mary to “intercede so that the Christian people will not lack servants of divine joy: priests who, in communion with their Bishops, announce the Gospel faithfully and celebrate the sacraments, take care of the people of God, and are ready to evangelize all humanity.” [Courtesy of: [www.asianews.it](http://www.asianews.it)]

# Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Chaplain Visits Bishops and Alumni in the Philippines

Rev. Msgr. Pedro Huidobro, Chaplain of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross and, for many years, Rector of the Sedes Sapientiae International Seminary visits the Philippines for the first time to meet with Filipino bishops and to preside at the seminar for the alumni of the Pontifical University.



## Cardinal Vidal and Other Filipino Bishops Visit Bidasoa International Seminary

His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal with Archbishop-emeritus Carmelo Morelos of Zamboanga and Bishop Jose Oliveros of Malolos, visited the University of Navarre in Pamplona, Spain, where currently 32 Filipino priests and seminarians are enrolled in various disciplines.

The University of Navarre has the Ecclesiastical Faculties of Theology, Canon Law and Philosophy. Filipino seminarians receive seminary formation at the international seminary run by the priests of the Prelature of Opus Dei called "Bidasoa."

Rev. Fr. Juan Chapa, representative of the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, and Rev. Fr. Miguel Angel Marco, Rector of Colegio Ecclesiastico Internacional Bidasoa, toured the Filipino bishops within the university campus.

Archbishop Francisco Perez, the archbishop of Pamplona, who was attending a conference being held at the Faculty of Theology that day, also joined in welcoming the three Filipino bishops and companions.

In his talk with the Filipino priests and seminarians, Cardinal Vidal challenged everyone to always strive to become good and holy priests and seminarians.

Cardinal Vidal's challenging message greatly encouraged the seminarians to give their all to the formation given them, aware of the challenging ministry that awaits them when they go back to their respective dioceses.

The three bishops were accompanied by some clergy and lay faithful during their visit.



Rev. Prof.  
Mariano Fazio,  
Rector

“I welcome your support for our students and the University. We depend on your generosity and couldn't provide a rigorous intellectual education and spiritual training without your assistance. For all you do, I am grateful.”

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Theological Centrum website at:  
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His Excellency the Most Rev. Jose S. Palma, D.D., Archbishop of Palo, at the ordination of Marlon Cua and Mark Ivo Velasquez.

## Make an Investment in the Training of a Priest

In the past 18 years, donations from benefactors in various countries have allowed at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross to award scholarships to priests and seminarians from countries around the world. With your help, the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross will be able to award more scholarships in the next academic year. We would like you to join us in multiplying good deeds in order to help the Church and the world.

Give a priest or a seminarian the opportunity to study in Rome at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. That is an investment sure to return a profit, one that will go on multiplying in the lives of the many people who the priest will help with his pastoral ministry.

### How much does it cost to study in Rome?

Academic fees .....	1,150 Euros
Board and lodging (1) .....	7,100
Books and medical insurance .....	850
Other expenses .....	900
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10,000 Euros</b>

### How can you send a donation?

- *You can send a check to our mailing address:*  
 Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc.  
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 125 Pioneer Street  
 1550 Mandaluyong City  
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