



The new façade of St. Bernard's Novitiate, Iloilo.



The Legion of Mary, Iloilo..



The Pilar Pilgrimage took place on the 14th August (the Solemnity of the Assumption).



Br. Jonathon fixing his halo.

A LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW

Rev. Fr. Conraad Daniels, Rector of St. Bernard's Novitiate describes the daily routine of the perfect novice.

Let us look through the window and see what the life of a model novice brother is really like...

There is a bell that rings at 6am in the morning. The model novice (who does not exist in reality because we all have flaws of one sort or another) rises, washes, dresses and goes to the chapel for 6:30am. What? He does not even greet the others? There is absolute silence! He will greet God first. In the chapel the silence is broken by a chant in unison : *Deus in adiutorium meum intende* (O God make haste to come unto my youth ...) After this morning office, or prayer, all kneel down in silence for half an hour to converse most intimately with God in silent meditation. Then Holy Mass, the centre and heart of the Novitiate and of the life of a Brother. After the Holy Mass, ten more minutes of thanksgiving, and, there goes that bell again. Talk? No! They will have their breakfast in silence, followed by menial tasks.

From 9am to 11:50am aspirants, postulants and novices have their classes with 10 minutes break between each class. When can they talk? After the first class, at 9:50! In these classes they will be taught Church doctrine, the importance of the spiritual life, the practice of virtues, the history of the Church, acts of the Magisterium (to make them aware of the present terrible crisis within the church, Apostasy, modernism etc.) the importance of the true sacraments which bring salvation of many souls, the catechism and the moral and discipline of the Church.

The professed Brothers do their assigned duties at these times. When the

bell rings at 12:10am, everybody goes to the chapel for the divine office. Then follows, indeed for some the most awaited part of the day, lunch. After lunch a little recreation. In silence? No, there is much **laughter ... and ... noise!** 2:00pm that bell again. Brother was about to finish off his opponent at ping-pong with the most **awesome smash but, lo, the bell went** at that moment and his bat stops in mid-air! The ball still flying, he puts down his bat as if he never did play. A little siesta now. Brother donkey, as St. Francis used to call his own body, is tired and needs a little rest. Then at 2:30pm, everybody will gather together for prayer before work. The work continues until 4:00pm. After that, at 4:15pm, is a "perfect joy", as Saint Francis says, because it is the time for mirienda (tea time) until 4:30pm. At 5pm the bell rings again for a spiritual conference or Gregorian chant practice. After that is rosary or benediction or Stations of the Cross depending on the day following which he may remain in chapel to offer his devotions, extra rosaries or other private prayers. Then at 6:30pm, dinner for all, followed by recreation again (one noisy moment again) until 8:00pm when there is study time.

At 8:45pm, the singing of Compline closes the day. Compline is the Church's night prayers. After Compline there is the grand silence for all. Finally at 10:00pm, lights off and off to sleep.

May Brother watch television? Absolutely not! There is no television in our houses! Oh, I forgot, there is one: It is the tabernacle, and Brothers love to look at it and converse with our hidden Lord therein!