






**MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Resolution No. 259-30 (CAR)

Introduced by:

Edward J.B. Calvo 
Frank F. Blas, Jr. 
James V. Espaldon 
Telo Taitague 
Ray Tenorio 

2009 DEC 16 PM 2:13 hr

Relative to expressing *Biba Compliaños* and congratulations to the *Redemptoris Mater* Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam celebrating its Tenth (10th) Anniversary and to extend a sincere *Un Dangkolo na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for their continuous contributions towards improvement and betterment of the quality of life for our Island Community and its people.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II wrote an historic message to the bishops of the 1998 Episcopal Conference of the Pacific (CEPAC), affirming that the Church in Oceania “has no task more important than the new evangelization which is needed as a response to the demands of the present day circumstances which are changing rapidly. This will demand no less imagination and courage than that which the early missionaries have shown”; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Pius Sammut, OCD, Pat Cottman and Javier Santaballa, met with Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, OFM, Cap., D.D., Archbishop of *Hagåtña*, Fr. David C. Quitugua, Vicar general of the

Archdiocese, and Fr. Adrian Cristobal, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Fr. Pius Sammut, OCD, Pat Cottman and Javier Santaballa, the Catechists, and presented to the Archbishop the possibility of requesting a *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary to the initiators of the Neo-Catechumenal Way for Guam for the New Evangelization of the vast region of the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron O.F.M., Cap., D.D., Archbishop of *Hagåtña* and President of CEPAC, decided to accept the recommendation to create the first ever major seminary in the three hundred plus year Catholic history in the area, to form presbyters for the new evangelization believing in the vision of the Pope and witnessing the serious challenges Micronesia is facing today because of secularization and the growing shortage of priests; and

WHEREAS, Guam's catechist team led by Fr. David C. Quitugua and Fr. Adrian Cristobal, drafted a letter, blessed by the Archbishop, to the initiators of the Neo-Catechumenal Way requesting for a *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary for Guam on February 2, 1999. Archbishop Apuron made a presentation to the Archdiocesan Priest Council regarding the petitioning in early September, 1999. Archbishop Apuron made a formal request for the Seminary in Porto S. Giorgio, Italy, at a convivence of the initiators of the Neo-Catechumenal Way with aspirant seminarians from all over the world at which time there was also petition from Dallas, Texas, thus reducing the chances to open one in Guam; and

WHEREAS, Kiko Argüello, Carmen Hernández and Fr. Mario Pezzi, initiators and international responsible team of the Way, granted the

petition of Archbishop Apuron on September 8, 1999, to the amazement of many, of opening a *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary in Guam. Fr. Pius was appointed the provisory rector, Saint Patrick was assigned patron saint and his relic was given to the Seminary. Twelve (12) seminarians started the amazing project include: Fabio Faiola, Italy (October 26, 1999), Miguel Angel Cervantes Pardo, Spain (November 5, 1999), José Alberto Rodriguez Salamanca, Spain (November 13, 1999), Antonino Caminiti, Italy (December 8, 1999), from the Philippines Jason Granado and Jun Acebuche (December 28, 1999), and Daniel Herrera, USA (December 30, 1999); and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, OFM, Cap., D.D., signed the decree of erection of the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam in Denver, Colorado on December 8, 1999,

The feast of *Santa Maria Kamalen*, patroness of the Diocese of *Hagåtña* and the beloved *Dulce Nombre de Maria*), in the presence of the local itinerant team of the Way, the national team and the canon law adviser of the Neo-Catechumenal Way, Adelchi Chinaglia. Together with *Santa Maria Kamalen* and St. Patrick, the patrons Saints of the Seminary are St. Francis, Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores, Jesuit who evangelized the island in the XVII century, Blessed Pedro Calungsod, lay catechist from the Philippines, companion of Blessed Diego, and St. Therese of Lisieux; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, OFM, Cap., D.D., appointed the first rector, Rev. Fr. Raymond Labranche, from the *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary of Newark, New Jersey, arrived on Guam on December 30, 1999. Rev. Labranche, assisted by Seminarian Wojciech

Jaskowiak, from Poland, was sent to help form the seminarians in the initial and crucial stage of the Seminary and to mark a direction for the following years; and

WHEREAS, José Alberto was the first “guarantor” of the Seminary because of his experience of four (4) years in the seminary, was transferred from the Hong Kong *Redemptoris Mater* to assist the rector in Guam. Together with seminarians from abroad: Aurelio Stoia, Italy (January, 2000), Julio César Sánchez Malagón, Columbia, (July 2000), Osman Urueta Ortiz, Columbia, (July 2000) including two (2) local young men, Felix Babauta and William de Guzman entered the Seminary; and

WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of *Hagåtña* purchased the 18 acres Accion Hotel in July 2002 for Seminary, the House of Formation was used only to celebrate the Eucharist, to pray together, and study while the seminarians were housed by the brothers of the communities, two (2) in each house of Ms. Jovi Camacho, Ms. Conception Cristobal, Mr. Danny and Percy Perez, Mr. Danny and Rosalia Santos, Mr. Patrick and Bernardette Artero, and Mr. John and Loretta Garcia who really formed part of the foundations of the Seminary. Super Typhoon Pongsona totally destroyed the Centre on December 8, 2002 less than a month after the seminarians moved to its new permanent location in Yoña on Nov. 18, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the First Annual Gala Dinner was held at the Seminary May 26, 2003 hosting Honorees: Mr. Edward Terlaje, Knight of St. Sylvester and Mr. Albert Tstsui, AIA Inc. The first Chamorro seminarian arrived on October 1, 2003. In 2004, Fr. James E. Starasinich was Rector of the

Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam housing eighteen (18) seminarians: four (4) from Italy, four (4) from Columbia, two (2) from the United States, two (2) from Spain, two (2) from the Philippines, two (2) from Venezuela and one (1) each from Poland and Haiti. The ordination to the transitional diaconate of Jose Alberto Rodriguez Salamanca was held at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, *Yona*, on March 17, 2004. Mrs. Veronica M. Calvo was inducted an Honoree on May 7, 2004 during the Second Annual Gala Dinner held at the Hyatt Hotel; and

WHEREAS, the number of seminarians increased to twenty-seven (27) in 2005, first Family on Mission, Mario and Audrey Borg and four (4) children: Naomi-8 years, Gabriel-7 years, Mathiass-5 years, and MaryJo-2 years arrived on February 10th. The first St. Patrick's novena and fiesta was celebrated at the Seminary on March 17, 2005. Mrs. Eugenia Aflague Leon Guerrero was inducted an honoree on May 15, 2005 at the Third Annual Gala Dinner held at the Hyatt Hotel. Fr. Jose Alberto Rodriguez Salamanca was ordained on May 21st from the Seminary to the Sacred Order of the Presbyterate for the service of the Church of the Archdiocese of *Hagåtña*; and

WHEREAS, the Seminary inducted honoree Mrs. Maria Santos on May 21, 2006 during the Fourth Annual Gala Dinner at the Hyatt Hotel. Fr. Ivan Schiberras arrived on July 21, 2006 as Fr. Wojciech Jaskowiak's replacement as Vice Rector and the Seminary's Rector Fr. Pablo Ponce Rodriguez arrived on September 20th; and

WHEREAS, thirty (30) seminarians and five (5) extraordinary students representing thirteen (13) countries called *Redemptoris Mater* Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam home in 2007. Brazil: Eedivaldo da Silva, Colombia; Carlos Alzate, Harold Colorado, Julio Cesar Sanchez, Osman Urueta, Pedro Durango Agudelo, Croatia; Drazen Hosi, Ecuador; Jorge Roberto Yandun; Guam (USA) - Luis Camacho Jr., Peter Daniel Peredo Perez, Preston Daniel Peredo Perez; Ireland: Kenneth Paul O'Reilly; Italy: Antonino Caminiti, Aurelius Stoia, Fabio Faiola, Francesco Asproni, Giovanni Ulisse, Simone Sorge; Mexico: Jose Santos Hernandez; Nicaragua: Cesar Javier Izaguirre; Paraguay: Aldo Gonzales, Omar Silevestre Caceres; Philippines: Diomedes Jr. Acebuche, Jason Granado, Joselito Sangoyo; Poland: Michal Niemierski; United States of America: Michael V. Jucutan; Venezuela: Endrit Urbina, Gabriel Ramos, Willmer A. Chirino; Spain: Jesus Garcia Yelo and Miguel Angel Cervantes; and

WHEREAS, Honoree Fr. Thomas E. Dansak, CHC, USN, S.T.M., Captain, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Guam inducted an Honoree on May 6, 2007 at the Fifth Annual Gala Dinner held at the Seminary in Yona. The Seminary celebrated the induction of Honoree Mr. Norberto "Bert" Unpingco during its Sixth Annual Gala Dinner held at the Seminary held on June 1, 2008 and the priesthood ordination of Antonino Caminiti (Sicily), Jason Granado (Philippines) and Fabio Faiola (Rome) at the *Hagåtña* Cathedral-Basilica on November 8, 2008 followed by Agape prepared by the Communities of the Neo-Catechumenate of the three (3) candidates, held at the Gym of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam; and

WHEREAS, the *Redemptoris Mater* Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam was host to the February 17-18, 2009 Permanent Council Meeting of CEPAC (Conferentia Episcopalis Pacific/Episcopal Conference of the Pacific) Bishops; four (4) seminarians ordained to the Diaconate: Miguel Angel, Julio Cesar, Edivaldo and Aurelio at the Cathedral-Basilica, followed by dinner at the Academy of Our Lady of Guam Cafeteria. March 30, 2009 - five (5) seminarians studying towards the Sacred Priesthood for the Archdiocese of *Hagåtña* received the Ministry of Acolyte during a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap., at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Yona. Honoree Senator Edward Baza Calvo inducted at the Seventh Annual Gala Dinner at the Seminary for promoting family and life issues in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Fr. Giovanni Rizzo arrived on Guam on June 17, 2009 to replace Fr. Ivan Sciberras as Vice Rector; and

WHEREAS, September 2009 received Joshua Blaise Quitugua Aglubat, Gabriel Camacho, Ashton Ignacio Francisco Wong, and Andrew Cesar Ramirez into the Seminary. The Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Miguel, Fr. Julio, Fr. Edivaldo, and Fr. Aurelio was celebrated on November 7, 2009; and, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåh* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express *Biba Compliaños* and congratulations to the *Redemptoris Mater* Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam celebrating its Tenth (10th) Anniversary and to extend a sincere *Un Dangkolo na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for their continuous

contributions towards improvement and betterment of the quality of life for our Island Community and its people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, OFM, Cap., D.D., and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.