

Diocese of San Bernardino's 2019 Priests Convocation

by Sr. Jennifer Nguyen, LHC – Director, Diocese of San Bernardino's Office of Asian Pacific Ministry



Since the Diocese of San Bernardino is very diverse and has the presence of many Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) throughout the diocese, Dr. Antonio Medina, Coordinator of the Office of Ministry of Continuing Formation of Priests, asked Bishop Oscar A. Solis, D.D. (pictured) to share the *Encountering Christ in Harmony* document with priests at the 2019 Priests Convocation.

This year, the focus was on “Recent Church Documents: A Challenge to Priestly Life.” Thus, the *Encountering Christ in Harmony* fits right in with their theme. The convocation was held at the Omni Hotels & Resorts in Rancho Mirage, California, and Bishop Oscar A. Solis, D.D. presented his talk on September 11, 2019. Before Bishop Solis’ presentation, he was able to speak to some of the Filipino priests. It was great to see how happy they were to meet Bishop Solis, and how they made him feel welcome among them. In attendance were about 180 priests, both active and retired, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Rutilio del Riego, and Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, Bishop Gerald R. Barnes.

Bishop Solis had about two hours for his talk. After sharing the important points of the document, the priests were invited to discuss API’s uniqueness, gifts and recommendations and challenges for API Catholics’ full integration and participation in the life of the church. The priests highlighted the uniqueness of the API as religious, respectful towards the elders and authority. They value family life and have a great love and devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. The recommendations are to invite the API to participate in the parish and finance council, and to learn some of the simple phrases in their language to break the ice, so to speak. One group shared that once the API gains the priest or the church’s trust, the API will serve the church whole heartedly.

After the presentation and the sharing, Bishop Rutilio expressed how much he liked and enjoyed the sharing of the document *Encountering Christ in Harmony*.



Picture (from left to right): Fr. Rizal Acosta; Bishop Oscar A. Solis, D.D.; Sr. Jennifer Nguyen, LHC; Fr. Generoso (Gene) T. Sabio, MSC; and Fr. Noel Cruz, MS.