

PRESS RELEASE

Superior General of the Brothers of St Gabriel visits Singapore

February 15 2008 – Rev. Bro. Rene Delorme is in Singapore till Feb 22 on an official visit from Rome to better understand the programmes and challenges of the Brothers of St Gabriel Congregation in Singapore.

“It is a good occasion for me to see what is going on. It is usually when I go through such meetings where I discover much initiative and how this educational mission goes on,” the Superior General, said. “It’s very lively.” Bro. Rene who is currently serving his second term as Superior General, has been the head for the past eight years since 2000.

He spent the past week interacting with the Brothers of St Gabriel while residing at the Montfort Centre on Boys’ Town campus.

“Bro Rene has been a great encouragement to all the Brothers during his visit. He has a listening ear, a loving heart and a contagious love for the Congregation. His visit always has an impact in the lives of the Brothers who have a great love for him,” Bro. Emmanuel, advisor/board member of Boys’ Town, said.

This is Bro. Rene’s third visit to Singapore and he continues to be satisfied with the work of the Gabrielite Brothers and their programmes here. “In particular, I am very impressed by the work done in Boys’ Town. Their work in helping the young men to learn a trade and having a well rounded formation in terms of learning different subject matter, living in community, developing social relationship is a beautiful thing,” he said.

Bro. Rene has also noted the achievements of the Brothers themselves. “I find that they are very dynamic. Whatever their age, all of them have some type of activity in Boys’ Town, schools, educational boards and parishes,” he said. “All of them have much enthusiasm and are committed to whatever they are doing.”

Bro. Rene said that his mission for the Brothers of St. Gabriel has remained the same for his past eight years of leadership – to be witnesses of the love of God through their lives.

“In all the activities that we have, is really trying to help people grow and help them to have the best possible preparation for the future, especially the young,” he said.

With the issue of declining vocations becoming a concern worldwide, the Brothers of St. Gabriel Congregation has also not been spared from that problem.

However, Bro. Rene remains optimistic about the issue. “I always find that we never give up, we keep on having vocation promotion, prayer meetings,” he said. “Even in today’s world, there is still a place for religious commitment, and in a special way, the service of others.”

He added that although there are countries facing a decline in vocations, there are also countries like India and Africa that see an increase in vocations.

"Today we kind of see a revival, a little more interest than 10 or 15 years ago," he said.

"There has been a deepening of spirituality. In today's society, there are a growing number of people who are searching for spiritual meaning in their lives. Therefore, there has been more interest in vocation in general."

As part of his outreach programme to the worldwide Gabrielite community, Bro. Rene recently completed his visit to the Gabrielite family in India prior to his visit to Singapore. He will be meeting with the Gabrielite Brothers in Malaysia next.

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