

## FR. STEVE BAUMBUSCH ,PIME

• • •

c/o Bishop's Residence • Guadalupe Center - Balindog • 9400 Kidapawan  
N. Cotabato, PHILIPPINES

---

June 16, 2001

Dear Mom and Dad,

*It's been almost a month now since my last real letter. At that time, I was deep into the ordeal of getting my scholars registered in college, settled into their boarding houses, etc. Now, thanks be to God, all is accomplished. There were quite a few hitches along the way, even beyond the ones I told you about in my last update. I had to go back and forth to Kidapawan and Davao many times. But I thought it was important for me to be with the students throughout the process: many of them have never been out Columbio before, even as far as Kidapawan. And really, they're still just kids, 16 or 17 years old. Fortunately, in Kidapawan, where the largest group is, we have an adult guardian with them. In Davao, where I have four boys, the owner of the boarding house has promised to look after them, as well as my friend from Maryknoll, Brother Jude. Now that I already have students enrolled in each school, they can be the ones to accompany and help new students in the future. So things should be much easier.*

*Yesterday and today, I had to face a small disappointment. I've been trying to have training for Lectors and Commentators in all of the chapels. There is a Liturgy team from the diocese, which offers seminars, but they told me they would not be available until September, and I did not want to wait that long. (In fact, the original seminar was planned for way back in November of last year, but that was time that I was forced to be out of the parish, and everyone was on "alert", so it was cancelled.) So I decided to prepare and give the seminar myself. Since we have different languages among the chapels and since individual practice reading would be part of the experience, I decided to do two seminars: one for Ilonggo and Cebuano speakers, and one for Tagalog speakers. That is, my input would be in Tagalog, but the practice would be in their own language.*

*Through the leaders of the different GKK's we identified individuals who might be willing and able to become Lectors and Commentators, and I sent personal invitations to each one. Then I spent a lot of time in preparing the content and was pretty happy and hopeful with the result. So, the first seminar (Ilonggo and Cebuano) was to take place yesterday, continuing into today. Three people showed up, representing just one GKK. Obviously, we didn't continue with the seminar; I just gave them a quick lesson on how to use the Lectionary. I don't know the reason for such a poor response. It's true that some of the villages are kind of far away, but they have known about it for a long time. But...hope is the last to die! The second seminar is scheduled for June 29-30. It is supposed to be for Tagalog speakers, but I will again invite the others as well. They will just have to go to separate areas for their practice reading.*

*In connection with this workshop, I was able to find Lectionaries in Ilonggo and Cebuano to provide to each GKK. One of the frustrating things about the monthly Mass in the chapels is that there has been no one assigned for the readings and no preparation beforehand. So, when I arrive, we scramble to find someone to read, and they see the readings for the first time just a couple of minutes before Mass. That's why I wanted these seminars in the first place. But of course, it would be kind of useless to train the Lectors if they do not have the readings in their possession beforehand.*

*So after a long search, I was happy to find Lectionaries of the Sunday readings in Ilonggo and Cebuano. Ironically, it has been more difficult to find a suitable Lectionary in Tagalog. Even in Manila, the only thing available is the full Lectionary (Sundays and weekdays), which is a huge and very expensive book. So I*

*bought some "clearbooks" and will photocopy the readings for the Tagalog speaking chapels.*

*Next week we'll have a parish team outing at a beach in Davao. This is something that I have wanted to do for a long time, to show my appreciation to the team for all of their hard work and dedication, but we never seemed to be able to find the right time. This will be an overnigher, and we'll use some of the time to plan upcoming activities for the parish. We'll also stop in to see the scholars in Davao, one of whom is the son of a parish team member.*

*Then, in the second week of July, I'll be going to Zamboanga City for a Regional Council meeting. That will be followed on July 14 by the ordination of the very first Filipino PIME priest in Siraway (not far from Zamboanga), and then back to Zamboanga for our annual retreat. So I'll be gone from Columbio for about two weeks, but Fr. Ed will be here to cover things. When I return, it will be only a few weeks before the Diocesan General Assembly, and as soon as that is over...home sweet home! I haven't started counting the days yet, but to say that I'm looking forward to it would be an understatement. I've been told that it takes a couple of days in Manila to get the exit visa, re-entry visa, etc., so I don't know yet the exact date of my departure. But I hope and expect it to be in the last week of August.*

*Ok, that's all for now. I plan to go to Kidapawan tomorrow (Sunday) and will send this out then, or on Monday for sure. Love and miss you both!*

*Love,*



[BACK](#)

