

## FR. STEVE BAUMBUSCH ,PIME

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

November 6, 2000

Dear Don,

*Actually, I didn't take those pictures. During the Tribal Filipino celebration, I had a wedding at another chapel in Kidapawan, so I gave the camera to one of Fr. Peter's students, and he took the pictures. I forgot to tell him about turning it off when not in use, and that's why now the battery is completely run down. I had hoped to have the battery charger brought from Columbio today, but things have worsened there, and not even a diocesan priest is going for the Masses today.*

*When I say things have worsened, it is not really related to the kidnap threat. I mentioned before about the church workers who were arrested by the military. Now, in the last few days, there has been encounters between the army and the MILF. Up to now, even when there were encounters, they were rather far away from Columbio. Now the military has attacked an MILF "camp" not far from the poblacion, and refugees are streaming into the town. Of course, it is dangerous to travel on the roads, where shooting might start anytime, so we got a call (by radio) from Columbio telling the diocesan priest not to come. SO, keep up the prayers.*

*Next week we have the regional council meeting, and we'll try to determine what I'll be doing in the coming weeks. It's discouraging but realistic to say that it will be at least Christmas before I am able to return to Columbio. Once I get the battery charger, I will take some pictures of the Bishop and have someone take some of me too. The camera is easy enough to use, that I don't think I'll need to use a tripod/timer.*

*OK, give my best to everyone, especially the two JB's. Tell Brennan that I'm rooting for MSU over Purdue (now that the Buckeyes beat the Spartans). CYA!*



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