

CHALLENGER?

Br. Sebastiao Tenorio da Silva (ANG)

Give 2020 a name! Was a year of ... Challenger?

This year I had too many challenges but the most contributed to my vocation and identity were to build friendship and good relationship with people. Those person I don't know them, in especial with seminarians, formation team and workers at SVD Seminary. So took Inspiration from (Const. 501), we march ahead with our conviction is a progressive process of inner discernment oriented towards growth by the power of the Holy Spirit into unity with the Incarnate Word.

I was inspired by the letter of our Superior General Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD, to all formation Houses. I

STAYCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Br. Noel Tecson (PHS)

2020 was a year of changes. There are always changes every year but 2020 was definitely extraordinary. The number one game changer was the COVID-19 pandemic, changes were systemic and drastic. Quarantine time was necessary and welcomed as a vacation time. Problems begun to emerge when it was extended until now. It was no longer a vacation, people say, it is staycation. And that affected our life in many, many ways.

As a licensed nurse, I worked in a hospital in June of 2020. I worked in a chemical dependence and psychiatric unit. Because I was exposed to a hospital environment, and to avoid passing to other members of my religious community whatever I might take home from work, I agreed to transfer to an "isolation" facility. When you were used to living in a big community, changes like that does not come easy. But this was the second time that I was practically on my own while at work. The first time was in a bush parish of Dagua in Papua New Guinea in 1987 when I was appointed pastor of the

figured out in our Society, on this year we gave more importance to brotherhood (priesthood) in their professional areas as a good worker and helper to look for solutions on short, meddle and long times. Also, focus how to be a professional in many areas or at least general abilities' to do something to help and save lives. In particular to me to be a member of formation team: "...continue to strive towards a new formative pedagogy that fosters deep experience of God, wholesome interpersonal relationships, affective sexual maturity, acceptance of the uncertainties of life, dialogical spirit, intercultural competence and profound sensitivity to the poor and the environment" ... and "...aware the task of preparing and transforming disciples of Jesus as a missionaries of Divine World and a better follower in an environment of mutual love, trust, freedom, responsibility, sacrifice and self-discipline" (20 Nov. 2020-L16/2020).

parish after the sudden death of the parish priest. I remember surviving then and that experience helped me survive the current situation.

The health crises triggered by the COVID pandemic did not give me a crisis despite the negativity of the time, including the possibility of contracting the virus, it only served to confirm the strength of commitment previously made. The religious vocation to the Brotherhood is a love I know, and there's no scarcity of things to do for that which you love. Early in my life as a farm boy my late father taught me to love places where corn grows. Corn sent you to school, my father used to say. The year 2020, however, taught me it is okay to go to places where, borrowing a phrase from the country songwriter, Travis Tritt, "corn don't grow." New normal? Opportunities.

