

## Inauguration of the Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies (DWIMS)

After years of discussion and planning, the Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies (DWIMS) was inaugurated and blessed on 17th May 2014 at the vicinity of the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay in the august presence of Fr. Jerome, the Assistant Provincial of Philippines Central, Fr. Antonio Pernia, Fr. Edgar Javier and a large number of Sisters, Fathers and lay people from all over Philippines. The day began with the planting of trees and the inauguration of the Academic Year with the deliberations on “Mission and Global Church”. Fr. Sebastian M. Michael SVD, the ASPAC Coordinator delivered the Actus Academicus lecture on “Christianity as a Movement: Mission for the 21st Century”. Sr. Amelia and Fr. Samuel gave their reflections on the above paper.



The Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies is a very important Missiological Centre in the ASPAC Zone. Today, there are some 800 Asian missionaries working outside of their home countries in Europe, the US, Latin America, Africa and other parts of Asia. Indeed, the SVD Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) zone has now become a primary source of missionaries in the SVD. In recent years more than two-thirds of those receiving first assignments in the Society have come from ASPAC. Of these, about 53 per cent received first assignments outside their home countries.



Hence, these missionaries need to be trained in contemporary missionary situations of the world. The Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies will play an important role in training missionaries to acquire the necessary skills, attitudes, values, and spirituality to face the challenges of mission today by being creative and innovative in mission strategies. The Institute is affiliated with the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomaso (Manila) for Licentiate and Doctorate in Missiology.

