

Another Parish for PHS

The Diocese of Ipil in Zamboanga, Sibugay turned over the Immaculate Conception Parish of Alicia to the Society of the Divine Word Philippine Southern Province (SVD-PHS) last February 5, 2012 with Fr. Loreto Estomo, SVD as the new parish priest. Msgr. Julius Tonel, DD, bishop of the diocese presided the Eucharistic celebration and installation. The bishop expressed his gratitude to the SVD-PHS for taking the challenge in sharing the Divine Word to the people of Alicia and assured the newly installed pastor for his support.

In his first audience to the faithful, Fr. Loreto made mention his appreciation to the people of Alicia for the spirit of collaboration they had shown knowing the fact that 40% of the population is Muslim; for the warm welcome of the diocesan clergy headed by Bishop Julius Tonel and the presence of the 12 SVDs led by the Vice Provincial Fr. Eduardo Rocha, SVD.



Alicia is the fourth parish handed over to the SVD and it is the nearest parish to Olutanga Island, where the three other parishes are located: Parokya San Miguel in Mabuhay and Nuestra Señora de los Remedios of Olutanga in 2005, and San Vicente Ferrer Parish of Talusan in 2010.



With the inclusion of Alicia, the four parishes are now abbreviated as A.T.O.M., (Alicia, Talusan, Olutanga, and Mabuhay). The rest of the SVD-PHS pray that the seed of good works planted by the pioneer missionaries continue to bloom and bear good fruits as it is now called the ATOMIC mission of the PHS.

Isagani I. Ehido, SVD
PHS Mission Secretary
University of San Carlos
Cebu City, PHILIPPINES