



VENITE

House of

Renewal

“Come aside into a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31)

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE HERMITAGE, KANANGGA
(6531 LEYTE, PHILIPPINES)**

Nature

- The VENITE: House of Spiritual renewal is a non-profit, religious organization established, owned and operated by a group of priests, male/female religious, and lay Catholics of the Archdiocese of Palo under the guidance and Supervision of Most Rev. John F. Du D.D.
- “VENITE” is a Latin word for “COME!”(imp.pl.); a place where we believe that OUR SOUL FIND ITS WAY HOME; to go to a deserted place and rest a while. We want to emphasize that renewal is not a "fix" for a broken priest, but a proactive "tune-up" for a healthy one.

RATIONALE: The “WHY”

- The priesthood is often a high-stress vocation characterized by emotional labor, "compassion fatigue," and physical exhaustion. The rationale for VENITE (House of Renewal) is built on three pillars:
- **Holistic Wellness**: Addressing the "whole person"—not just the spiritual, but also the psychological and physical health of the priest.
- **Combatting Isolation**: Providing a fraternal environment to counter the loneliness that can lead to burnout or crisis.
- **Sustainability of Ministry**: Ensuring that priests can serve their communities effectively by first "filling their own lanterns." As the saying goes, *Nemo dat quod non habet* (No one gives what they do not have).

THE PROCESS: The Journey to Renewal (AIR)

Phase	Focus	Description
Assessment	Personal Reflection	An initial period of rest and one-on-one consultation to identify specific needs (e.g., exhaustion, grief, or spiritual dryness).
Intensive Renewal	Deep Work	Engagement with the core programs (spiritual direction, counseling, and fraternity).
Re-Integration	Re-entry Planning	Developing a "Rule of Life" to maintain balance once the priest returns to his active assignment.

INCLUDED PROGRAMS

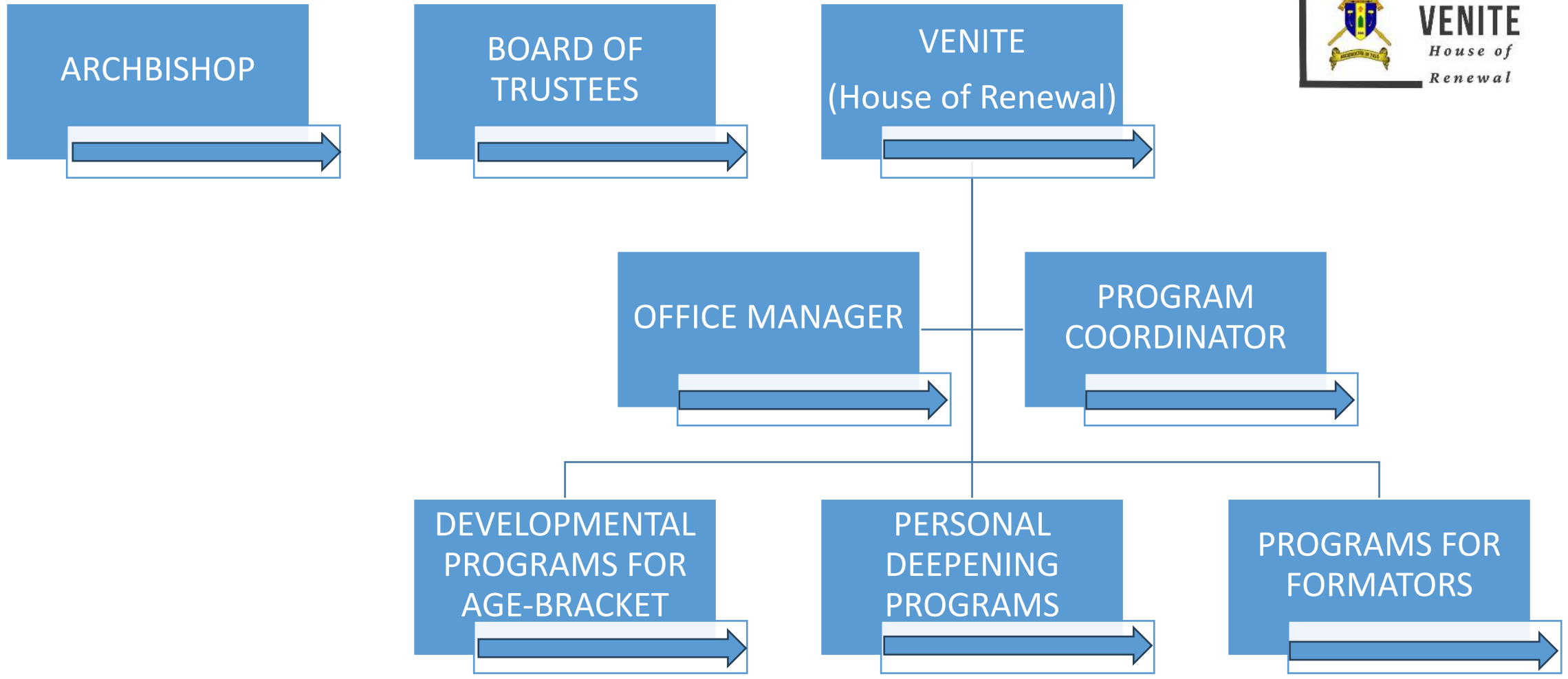
Phase	Focus	Description
SPIRITUAL	(1) DAILY LITURGY & PRAYER; (2) DIRECTED RETREAT; (3) SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	(1) Structured time for Mass, liturgy of the Hours and Adoration; (2) Silent retreats based on Ignatian Exercises; (3) regular sessions.
PSYCHOLOGICAL & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	(1) INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING; (2) WORKSHOPS; (3) PHYSICAL WELLNESS	(1) Professional Therapy to handle burnout, trauma or boundary management; (2) seminars on stress management, emotional intelligence & interpersonal communication; (3) nutrition plans, exercise facilities and mandatory rest periods.
FRATERNAL & INTELLECTUAL GROWTH	(1) SHARED LIFE; (2) THEOLOGICAL REFRESHERS	(1) Common meals & recreation foment presbyteral bond; (2) short courses on Church issues, scriptures & Canon Law.

Historical Landmarks

- It all started in 2025... after all the programs of priestly formation
- Met priests, in Tagbadbad Program headed by Fr. Romel Apurillo inspired by MOST REV. JOHN F. DU D.D.
- Common desire to continue the experience of the renewal and share it with others...
- The out-sourcing of proactive programs in Tagbadbad & Galilee Center...
- Agreed to meet, exchange ideas and providence came as a confirmation of our shared desire for the church approved by the Archbishop of Palo...

VISION-MISSION

- To create a renewal center that is committed to contribute for the renewal of the Church Ministers.
- It envisions to provide ***BIO, PSYCHO, SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL*** renewal programs and trainings (integrity, integral & integrating) to bishops, priests, male/female religious, formands and laity.





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DEVELOPMENTAL RENEWAL PROGRAMS

HARNESSING THE FIRE TO LOVE I: A Course on Human sexuality



- This is a 14-day course-training seminar on HUMAN SEXUALITY and its implications to priesthood or religious life.
- It gives emphasis on understanding and appreciating human sexuality from different perspectives” physiological, psychological, ethical, spiritual. It aims at integrating one’s understanding and in effect, one’s living out of one’s life as a sexual being.
- This program is offered but not exclusive, to those who are within the 5 years of their ordination (Young clergy), or within their temporary profession of vows.

HARNESSING THE FIRE TO LOVE 2

A Training in Celibate Living



- This is a 14-day course-training seminar on chaste celibacy in the context of the priesthood or religious life.
- It gives emphasis on the practical knowledge of how to live out faithfully chaste celibacy. It combines the wisdom of Christian spirituality and the scientific findings of human sciences in developing cognitive, emotional and interpersonal skills towards the formation of stable disposition and character traits necessary for celibate living.
- This program is offered but not exclusive, to those who are within the 5 years of their ordination (Young clergy), or within their temporary profession of vows.
- Previous attendance to a seminar on human sexuality is a good preparation for this training course.

REKINDLING THE FIRE OF LOVE 1

A Renewal to Growing in Pastoral Charity



- This is a 14-day program on various topics pertinent to the life and ministry of priests and religious.
- It may include topics on Stress Management and Burn-Out, Creating Healthy Boundaries in Ministerial Relationships, Servant Leaderships and Stewardship, Avoiding Addictions, Overcoming Difficulties with Authorities, Assertiveness Training, Conflict Management, Pastoral Management and Retooling, Management of Behaviors in an Organization, etc. The program will focus on acquisition of new knowledge and training of skills on different fields.
- The topics may change annually depending on the needs of the participants.
- This program is offered but not exclusive, to those who are within 6 to 10 years of their ordination (Junior clergy), or within the 1st to 10th year of their perpetual profession.

REKINDLING THE FIRE OF LOVE 2

A Ministerial Retooling



- This is a 14-day program on various topics pertinent to the life and ministry of priests and religious.
- It may include THEOLOGICAL RETOOLING and PASTORAL RETOOLING.
- The topics may change annually depending on the needs of the participants or of the group asking for it.
- This program is offered but not exclusive, to those who are within 6 to 10 years of their ordination (Junior clergy), or within the 1st to 10th year of their perpetual profession.

MIDLIFE INTEGRATION PROCESS



- This is a 14-day program that focuses on middle life transition and the challenges, difficulties, tasks and potentials involved herein.
- It treats midlife from the different (physical, psychological, spiritual) aspects of priestly and religious life. It also emphasizes individual and group processes that would facilitate the midlife transition or that would overcome the midlife crisis, if the case maybe.
- This program is offered exclusively to clergy and religious in their midlife years (36-49 years old).

DISCOVERING THE TREASURE WITHIN

Midlife Integration Process 2



- This is a 14-day seminar on the spiritual developmental process of anyone who seeks an authentic and deeper relationship with God.
- It consists of reflections on the workings of grace on the different stages of spiritual development, and the experiences and challenges of a docile soul in those stages. It squarely deals with our broken nature due to sin and yet highlights the redemptive working of God's gratuitous grace leading to healing and union with Him.
- It involves individual and group process that would facilitate one's openness to the grace of spiritual experience, and one's generous faith-response to that grace.
- This program is open to all ages and walks of life (clergy and religious, formands, and lay faithful) who desire to deepen their spiritual life, but particularly recommended to upper middle clergy (50-64).

BEST YEARS OF LIFE



- This is a 14-day program that focuses on aging, and the challenges, difficulties, tasks and potentials involved herein.
- It treats aging from the different (physical, psychological, spiritual) aspects of priestly and religious life, seeing it as a great moment for growing in wisdom. It also emphasizes individual and group processes that would facilitate a graceful process of aging.
- This program is offered exclusively to clergy and religious in their senior years (60 years old and above).



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DEPEENING PROGRAMS

BARTIMAEUS, A JOURNEY TO SIGHT



- This is a 12-day process of one-on-one accompaniment or therapy in a communal context.
- It involves a personalized facilitation of one's encounter with the conscious and unconscious parts of self. It combines bio-psycho-spiritual approach to accompaniment to foment deeper insight, compassionate understanding and care to self.
- This program is open to all ages and all walks of life (clergy and religious, formands, and lay faithful) who would like to appropriate a happier and freer life rooted in love.

INDIVIDUAL GUIDED RETREAT



- This program provides opportunities for anyone who wish to experience a silent and guided retreat with a spiritual director.
- The style and the length of the retreat could be personalized according to one's needs and concerns.
- This program is made by appointment at any time of the year and according to the availability of the members of the pool of spiritual directors.
- VENUE COULD BE anywhere!!!

THERAPEUTIC INTENSIVE RENEWAL PROGRAM



- INTENSIVE PROGRAM FOR PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS, MALE AND FEMALE, IN DISTRESS.
- 3 PHASES:
 - ASSESSMENT PHASE
 - RESIDENTIAL PHASE
 - CONTINUING CARE PHASE



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PROGRAMS FOR FORMATORS

RCAP VENITE Formators' Formation



- Personal Integration Courses
 - These courses provide avenues for formators to work through their own personal integration that serves as their inner resource in their mission for formation.
- Formation Courses
 - These courses aim at providing a framework of knowledge and understanding on the work of formation and its purpose, giving them direction in the exercise of their responsibility as formators.
- Skill Training Courses
 - These courses intend to equip formators with accompaniment skills to effect cognitive, attitudinal and behavioral change needed to realize the goals of formation towards priestly or consecrated life. A three-year group supervision activities will be provided.

FIRE PROGRAM



- One month training program of formators in the initial formation.
- It pays attention to the person of the formator; it also provides basic knowledge and skills in accompanying formands.
- Organized by VENITE: House of Renewal in cooperation with Tagbadbad & Galilee.

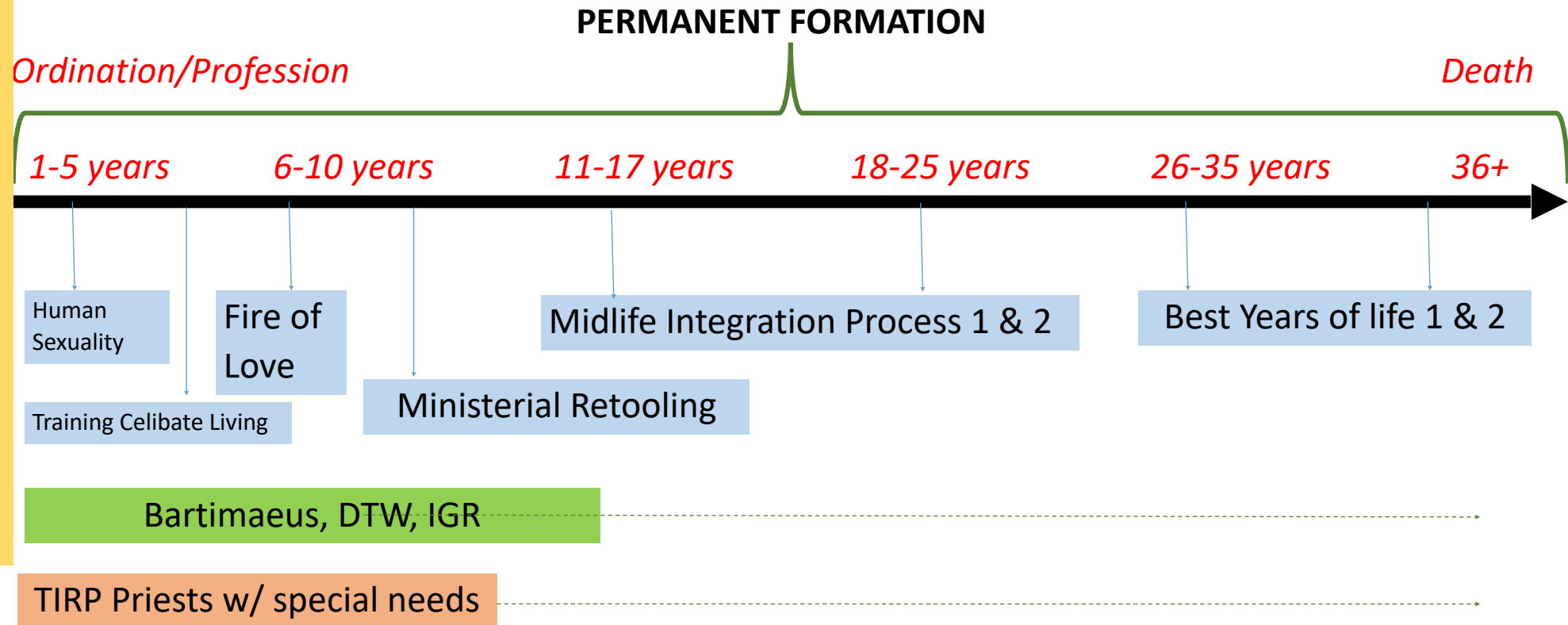
Training for PRIESTLY Ministers (TPM)

One-Year Training Program

- If ongoing formation be an uninterrupted process toward fuller configuration to Christ, training and formation of formator's for the ongoing formation must be ensured at all times.
 - Initial formation >>>>>Ongoing Formation >>>>>PERMANENT FORMATION
- TPM envisions to institutionalize the ongoing formation in the Philippine Church. Its form will be materialized by its graduates.
 - Sustainability, variability, and the standardization of ongoing formation program will be carried through by its graduates.

DREAM OF RCAP DOMUS FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO

- Renewal-oriented than just simply updating-oriented
- Progressively systematic and periodic
- Developmentally appropriate
- Proactive and Integral/wholistic in dimensions
- Communitarian in context



- Formation and Training of Skilled Accompan-iers in the Journey: Formators, Spiritual Directors, and Counselors
- Creation of Centers for the Formation Needs of Initial Formation and Ongoing Formation

Our humble contribution...



Contact:

Fr. Romel Apurillo

-09193263765

-09561205162

Fr. Raymun C. Sotto

- 09199915906

