

FILIPINO CLERIC INSTALLED AS PARISH PRIEST IN KENYA



*(Fr. Deem Virtudazo leads the blessing of the Holy Communion during the celebration of Mass.
Photo from St. John the Evangelist Church)*

19 June 2021, Nakuru – Reverend Father Deem Virtudazo, PSDP, who hails from Compostela Valley in Mindanao, has been appointed as the first Filipino parish priest in the diocese of Nakuru, Kenya.

The official installation of Fr. Deem as the new parish priest of Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church was held during a mass attended by the representatives from the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi, led by Consul General Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, and the Filipino Community in Kenya on 19 June 2021.

“Each priest is different from the other such as characters, attitudes, relating to the people, ways of running the parish, styles of organizing, talents... But with all these differences, there is one thing in common with all the priests and that is we are called by the Lord and we are chosen to serve Him,” said Fr. Deem during his message after the installation rites.

He also expressed his gratitude for the trust and support he receives from the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi and the Filipino and Kenyan community, and vowed that he will fulfill his responsibilities to live and preach the gospel of the Lord.

Ambassador Alex Chua extended his warmest congratulations to Fr. Deem on this new accomplishment and expressed his confidence that Fr. Deem will continue to bring honor to the Philippines and will be an exemplary representative of the Filipino people, culture, and values through his able and dedicated service to his Parish.

Fr. Deem is also the first Filipino missionary at the Poor Servants of the Divine Providence, a Catholic religious congregation composed of Brothers and Priests and missionaries of

Poor Sisters, founded by St. John Calabria in 1907 in Verona, Italy. He studied Theology at Tangaza University in Kenya and graduated as cum laude. **END.**



(Fr. Deem kneels before Fr. Aneesh Payyalayil, Mission-in-Charge, during his Profession of Faith. Nairobi PE photo)



(Consul General Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian receives the Certificate of Appreciation from Sr. Elenice Cimadon of Poor Servants of Divine Providence on behalf of the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi.)