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Br. Alvaro's Informal Visits to Bacolod and Sendai. Because there were two communities he was not able to visit during his official pastoral visit in 2010, Br. Superior decided to pass by Bacolod and Sendai. Below are two accounts. Thanks to Br. Rodrigo Trevino of Japan for the write up on the Sendai visit.

Bacolod. Br. Alvaro flew in on the morning of the 17th to Bacolod City and proceeded immediately to the community. After settling down, we had lunch with the Brothers including Br. Mark Murphy and Br. George Van Grieken. In the afternoon Br. Alvaro was given a tour of the different campuses of the University including Bahay Pag Asa. The day ended with dinner with members of the Lasallian Family of Bacolod. The 18th was devoted to school assemblies with Br. Alvaro. The morning assembly was with St. Joseph High School – La Salle and the afternoon was with the University community. After the assembly there was a short tour of the main campus and then we proceeded immediately to the airport to fly back to Manila. Thanks to Br. Dindo, Director of the Community and Br. Ray, President of the University for organizing the visit.

Sendai. Br. Alvaro, accompanied by Br. Edmundo, LEAD Visitor, arrived in Sendai together with Typhoon Signal No. 4 a little past 7:00 on the evening of June 19th. We were afraid that the typhoon will make impossible their arriving at Sendai, making it the second time for Br. Alvaro to have such an experience! Fortunately, the two of them were picked up at Sendai station by Br. Rodrigo and it was on their way home when the typhoon got stronger but just struck more heavily when we were already at the community house.

Br. Alvaro's three days' visit to Japan was an informal one and after a week of celebrations in Philippines. It was our initial desire for him to visit other communities as well, but looking at his schedule it was decided otherwise. Instead, Br. Marc from Hakodate, Brothers Fujita, Domingo and Victor from Kagoshima, made their way to Sendai.

Br. Alvaro took the time to talk individually with the Brothers, using French for his communication with Br. Ohtomo and Br. Marc, and feeling at ease in his native tongue when talking with the Mexican Brothers. Br. Antonio helped as translator for the interview with Br. Fujita. Those who could not make it to Sendai got to talk with Br. Alvaro on the phone.

We also managed to pay a visit to Br. Ishii at the nursing home, aware of his fragile state. Let us keep him in our prayers. It was also possible to take an afternoon to see some of the more affected areas of last year's disaster, and Br. Alvaro showed recognition of the speed of the recovery. That same afternoon we took the opportunity to complete an outing and have dinner with Br. Alvaro in a downtown restaurant.

We are also very grateful to Br. Edmundo for his accompaniment until the 21st in the morning when he needed to fly back to Hong Kong. Thank you, Br. Dodo!

In the afternoon of the 22nd, Br. Rodrigo took Br. Alvaro to Narita airport in order to spend the night at a close-by hotel because his departure was quite early the morning of the 23rd. Br. Alvaro expressed gratitude for the "community style and quite relaxed" visit to the Sector he was able to perform. Needless to say, we are the one grateful for his presence and his advice. THANK YOU BROTHER ALVARO!

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
LEAD Provincialate, Hong Kong