

# TRINITY NEWS

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As most of you are aware, this last Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> and Feast of St. James the Apostle, Holy Trinity Church hosted the ordination of three deacons to the priesthood. It was a memorable event in many ways, attended by people from all over the diocese and beyond – over 300 in total. But what impressed me most was the diversity of the crowd which was itself a reflection of the diversity among the candidates: a British expat, a Chinese Filipino and an Igorot Filipina – a microcosm, in fact, of our Diocese which is the most racially and ethnically diverse in the Episcopal Church of the Philippines.

So it was meet and right, thought I, that the occasion should be celebrated at the most diverse parish community in the diocese and probably in the province: Holy Trinity, Makati. We are the only parish where all three (and more) of these ethnic/racial strands worship together under the same roof, where we constitute one worshipping community. We need to be aware of the responsibilities that places on our collective shoulder to serve as a model of unity in diversity in this diocese and to be available to the diocese for occasions like this that bring the whole diocese together.

So, congratulations of our new priests, Padi Jonathan Britt, Padi Cris Chua and Padi Mary Balitog. And many thanks to our music team here at Holy Trinity who helped make the day a success, and to the youth and women of Holy Family, Mamplasan and Our Lady of Walsingham, Cavinti, who made sure there was more than enough food for all when the ceremony was done, and good food too. And thanks too, to those who came to support the ordinands: Padi Mary's people down from Mountain Province and from Holy Family, Padi Chris's congregation from Quezon City, Padi Jonathan's group from Cavinti, the representation from Brent School ... it was a happy day for the diocese.

Just a closing note: The Episcopal Church here in the Philippines has essentially solved the gender problem on how to address the clergy. 'Padi' is an Ilocano word derived from Spanish 'padre' but with no gender connotations so it can apply to men and women priests alike. We might as well take advantage of that.