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# “Selamat Datang, Father!”

The Prelate of Opus Dei visited  
Surabaya and Jakarta,  
Indonesia from August 5-7,  
2023.

14/08/2023

Indonesia (August 5 to 7)

Cebu (August 3 to 5) Manila (July 26  
to August 3) Arrival (July 25)

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## Monday, August 7

From Surabaya, the Father flew to the capital city of Jakarta. He visited the Nuncio and prayed in the chapel of the Apostolic Nunciature.

At 3:30 in the afternoon, the Father proceeded to the Hotel Aryaduta Menteng where a general audience was organized. Families introduced themselves to him as he climbed the staircase. Some boys and girls who participate in weekly activities of Family Catechism (FamCat) displayed handmade welcome cards as he passed.

The people started to sing *Rasa Sayange* (“Loving Feeling”) as the Father entered. Despite being a weekday, the hall was filled. Families and friends from various provinces of Indonesia, from the Philippines, as well as from Brazil and Spain were part of the 150 in attendance.

The Father began by thanking God for his being in Indonesia. He recounted the experience of St. Josemaría that took place on this same day, August 7th, in 1931. While celebrating the Holy Mass, St. Josemaría understood in a new way the meaning of the words from Scripture: “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself” [Jn 12:32]. Msgr. Ocariz explained that “putting Christ at the summit of all human activities” means that one offers Him all one’s activities of an ordinary day. Christ then becomes the fundamental point of reference and He makes everything holy.

Erna and Sunan gave the Father a framed ceramic of the *Bapa Kami* (“Our Father”). Another family gifted the Father with an image of Our Lady of Ganjuran, venerated in Central Java. Some girls from FamCat sang to entertain the Father. One

performance was that of nine-year old Ivanka, who sang *Ave Maria* with a recorded piano accompaniment by her mother.

Tim hails from the ethnic group Malay Dayaks, who were formerly known as fearsome headhunters. Now, he said, he hunts for souls peacefully in his workplace. He asked the Father how he could show his friends that pursuing holiness is worthwhile even if it entails a lifelong struggle.

The Father told him that such effort was worthwhile. He explained that holiness must not be seen as consisting of purely human perfection or having no defects. Rather, it consists of the “perfection of love.” What is important is to begin again each day in our struggle to love God. That love is a grace, he said. “We have to ask the Lord to

increase our capacity to love Him and others.”

Lucia, a cooperator of Opus Dei since 1981, expressed her gratitude to the Work and her amazement at the power of prayer. She narrated how her daughter and her fiance agreed to attend a marriage preparation course offered by a group of supernumeraries in Sydney. She hoped that her daughter’s family would also be touched by Opus Dei.

“Have faith that prayer is always effective,” the Father said. Even if we do not see results, “nothing is ever lost in prayer,” he said..

Chari, a supernumerary, asked the Father to pray for the marriage courses that she and her husband, Stefan, organize in Indonesia. The first batch of 11 couples completed the online course, and she shared that this apostolic work has been a

spur for Stefan and her to strengthen their own marriage relationship.

The Father encouraged Chari to pursue this undertaking, appreciating that by helping other couples in their married life, they themselves are the first beneficiaries.

Family was likewise Priyo's concern, which he aired the previous day in Surabaya. Priyo and his wife are both university lecturers and are involved in marriage counselling. He asked the Father how families could live the call to be *a* "domestic church." The Father talked about the family as the place where one encounters love.

A similar concern was raised by Joseph, who together with his wife were baptized in 2018. The Father underscored the importance of fostering friendship and personal relationships between parents and children. He reiterated that the

principal responsibility for the children's education and formation lies with their parents.

Gerald, an architect, asked how to deal with his non-Catholic colleagues. The Father's reply was short, simple and clear: friendship and prayer.

After that last question, two children went up the stage to hand to the Father his *Kartu Tanda Penduduk* or KTP (Resident Identity Card) so that he could return to Indonesia any time. That gesture elicited a beaming smile from the Father. He asked the audience to continue praying for the Pope and gave them his blessing: "May the Lord be in your hearts, in your families, in your intentions, and in your joys."

People came away from these lively gatherings with their personal experiences and insights. A husband and wife seemed to speak for all

when they said: “All the things that the Father spoke in the get-together were just the right words that we ordinary people must hear.”

After greeting some families and signing their family photos, the Father boarded his car for the airport. It was late afternoon and his flight to Sydney (Australia) was on that same night. Some faithful of the Prelature, cooperators, and friends followed his convoy to the airport. The Father was visibly happy to be one last time with his spiritual children in Indonesia.

”His final messages kept echoing in my mind,” one of them recalled, “that the joy and enthusiasm of these days be converted into resolutions and real efforts of deepening one’s interior life and expanding the work of evangelization in these islands.”

“We look forward with awe,” he added, “at how much good will be

coming to Indonesia following these memorable encounters with the Father.”

## **Sunday, August 6**

The morning sounds of Sunday in Surabaya — the roar of motorcycles on the streets in the early hours and the call to prayer from the mosques — greeted the Father on his first full day in Indonesia, and indeed it was a full day.

After preaching a meditation and celebrating Holy Mass in the morning at Darmaria Study Center for women, the Father went to visit His Excellency Msgr. Vincentius Sutikno Wisaksono, who was confined in the hospital. Opus Dei is in Indonesia because Bishop Sutikono had requested that the Work begin in his diocese in Surabaya. (The good Bishop died a few days later, on August 10.)

In the afternoon, the Father made a brief stop at the diocesan seminary to greet the seminarians and priests. The Father was moved seeing a vibrant seminary in a predominantly Muslim country.

The day's highlight was the general audience with over 200 people at the Widya Mandala Catholic University Pakuwon campus. When he entered the hall, Msgr. Ocariz was met with a traditional dance from Jombang, East Java called the *Tari Remo*, performed by Maureen, a girl who attends the activities of Opus Dei in Surabaya. The dance is used to welcome guests and open an event.

The auditorium stage featured a simple but evocative Indonesian motif. The backdrop showed Mount Bromo, an iconic volcano in East Java. Inscribed on it were the words *semper fidelis, semper in laetitia* (always faithful, always joyful).

The Prelate began by speaking to them about the day's liturgical feast, the Transfiguration of the Lord. He encouraged everyone to be aware of and thankful for the blessings they receive and said that both suffering and joy are expressions of God's love and presence. "If God is with us, who can be against us?" he quoted St. Paul. Therefore, "Be not afraid." Faith will give us the strength and the happiness that will enable us to transmit the joy of the Gospel to others.

Two boys awarded the Father a Guinness World Record Certificate for being the first Prelate of Opus Dei to visit Indonesia. He was also given a "*blangkon*", a Javanese headdress, which symbolizes elegance and self-mastery.

Budiono, a civil engineer, asked the Father about how to sanctify

professional work and convert it into a service to souls.

“Seeking holiness in work,” the Prelate said, “is at the core of St. Josemaria Escriva’s teachings.” We must seek to offer our work to God, he said. He talked of ways to remind oneself of God’s presence while working, like placing a small crucifix or a picture of our Lady on one’s work table and asking for strength to accomplish well the tasks given by superiors. Through work well done, we can help people become better Christians, the Father said. And if those around are not Christians, we can help them grow in human virtues and be better persons, he said.

Felicia shared with the Father that her daughter in Portugal recently joined as an Associate of Opus Dei. The Father invited her to thank God for this gift to her family, and he

reminded her that her role as mother has not ended. The Holy Mass and her prayers remain key to helping her daughter persevere in her divine calling, likewise for her own perseverance as a mother. “Prayer is our only weapon” he recalled Saint Josemaría saying.

The get-together concluded with the performance of a folk dance: *Tari Lengang Nyai*. The dance originates from an ethnic group in West Java and depicts agility and cheerfulness.

After a signature Surabaya song, the Father gave his blessing to everyone and asked them to pray for the Pope and Bishop Sutikno.

Dela and George, with their two children, had a private audience with the Father after the get-together. They are the first supernumeraries in Surabaya. The Father assured them of his prayers and reminded them to always unite their sacrifices

and challenges in life to the cross of Christ. He also met with individuals who have generously helped to start the apostolic work of Opus Dei in Surabaya and expressed his sincere gratitude to them.

Komang and Louisa, recent university graduates, were the program hosts. Both are non-Catholic and said that they saw the Father as a gentle and kind person. They found the wisdom he shared universal and applicable to them personally.

Komang, who is a Hindu, commented that the Father's messages struck him.

## **Saturday, August 5**

This apostolic trip of the Father (as he is fondly called) is historic as it was the first time that a prelate of Opus Dei set foot in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic country with over 17,000 islands. Realizing the significance of this occasion,

some faithful of Opus Dei, together with their families and friends, flocked to the airport carrying colorful banners with the words, “*Selamat Datang, Father!*” (“Welcome, Father!” in Bahasa Indonesia).

Msgr. Fernando Ocariz, the Prelate of Opus Dei, landed at Juanda International Airport in the late afternoon as the sun was setting over Surabaya, the second largest city in Indonesia. As soon as he came into sight the well wishers at the airport cheered and waved red-and-white Indonesian flags. After engaging them and posing for pictures, the Father retired for the night. It was a whole day of travel for him.

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**Friday, August 4**

First thing in the morning, the Prelate celebrated Mass in the oratory of the Banilad Study Center. There he met patrons of the Dayao center for women in Davao City who showed him the design of the definitive center in Davao, which the Father blessed. When he asked 'Can I go there? Will you invite me there?' there was a millisecond of shocked silence, followed by a thunderous "Yes, Father!"

He walked to the adjacent Banilad Center for Professional Development (BCPD), a technical-vocational school that has played a pivotal role in promoting women empowerment and providing livelihood skills to vulnerable sectors of society like the Indigenous Peoples, the out-of-school youths, and persons with disabilities.

The BCPD students welcomed the Prelate with a popular Cebuano song "I Love Cebu," the lyrics of which

were changed into “We love Padre.” He was beaming with joy as he listened and watched them dance. After the performance, the students approached him for the traditional “Mano Po” greeting (forehead on the hand of one’s parent).

Members of the Management Staff alternately explained to him the various social programs of the school, a number of which are supported by international agencies. The Prelate met and blessed some Badjao women who finished Bread and Pastry Production in BCPD. He asked them to pray for him, which they all agreed to do.

They showed him the printed architect’s perspective of the BCPD dream school in Minglanilla, Cebu. He wrote on it: “With my blessings” and signed his name.

The school gave him a toque with a logo of BCPD and declared him as the

“Master Chef of BCPD.” They also gifted him with a small backpack, an invitation for him to come to Cebu for another visit.

The Prelate encouraged them to continue their work in the school so that more women, families, and communities benefit from their various social programs. Before he left, the Prelate posed for the final photo with the BCPD Patrons, Board members, faculty members, staff, and mentors.

The general get together on Friday afternoon, a lively and moving hour-long family gathering, was the highlight of the Prelate's brief stay in Cebu. Read more about it [here](#).

In the early afternoon, the Father visited Ben (the director of the CITE Technical Institute, who has been ill for several weeks) at the University of Cebu Medical Center.

After Mass at Lahug Center, the Prelate left for the airport, but not before taking a group photo at the main entrance, recreating a photo taken with Bishop Javier Echevarría at the same place in 1998.

The Prelate's less than 48-hour stay in Cebu was short and intense, with many activities and encounters with his spiritual children and their families and friends. What characterized all of it, as one onlooker commented, was the family warmth that was "warmer than the sun in Cebu."

### **Thursday, August 3**

Msgr. Fernando Ocariz landed at the Mactan Cebu International Airport shortly before noon. "Bienvenido!" and "Welcome to Cebu, Padre" read the tarpaulin signs carried by the well-wishers. Some Cebu families with their children met him as he entered the private reception area. A

boy dressed as Datu Humabon and a little girl dressed as Queen Juana gave him gifts. Humabon and Juana were the first converts to Christianity in 1521.

A good number from the various cities in the Visayas and Mindanao came to the airport to welcome the Prelate. The last time the Prelate came to Cebu was in 1998. They practically filled the reception area and all wanted to personally greet him. At the background, young women from Iloilo sang Spanish songs familiar to the Father, providing a jovial family atmosphere.

The Father was visibly pleased with the reception. He engaged one well-wisher after another with a constant smile. He listened to their little messages, thanked them for their gifts, and obliged every request for a photo, signature, and blessing. Those

warm and familiar 20 minutes set the tone for the Father's stay in Cebu.

At his residence in Lahug, the Father met with more families. They shared their family stories and some gave him personally crafted gifts. Some children had their small messages for him and gave him drawings and sketches. He blessed the children on their foreheads. He gladly acceded to their requests to sign their mementos and take photos with him.

The Father received guests in his residence after lunch and dinner. They came from Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao, sharing with him stories about the apostolic activities where they lived.

In the mid-afternoon, Msgr. Ocariz visited PAREF Springdale school. He was welcomed by members of the Board of Trustees for PAREF schools in Cebu, PAREF Springdale management staff, teachers, and

their families. Springdale is a private grade school and high school for boys.

He was shown the school quadrangle, which is presided by bronze relief sculpture of the Holy Family designed by renowned Cebu artist, Celso Pepito. The Director of the school pointed out that the child Jesus in the relief is dressed as the Santo Niño of Cebu. Two boys entertained him with a violin number and a song.

The Father proceeded to the meeting hall in Springdale where about 25 priests were eagerly awaiting him. Among them was Bishop Isabelo Abarquez of Calbayog (Samar), who brought 5 of his priests. Present were clergy from Cebu, Butuan, and Leyte.

The Prelate spoke to them about the dignity of the priestly ministry, telling them that priests are Christs on earth. He touched on the

importance of diocesan priests living a deep fraternity among themselves, and providing support to priests who at times may feel lonely in their ministry.

Responding to a member of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross who asked “how to be good sons of St. Josemaria,” his advice was to be very natural and not to be afraid to ask our Founder for things. And then to strive to be faithful to the spirit he has left us.

At the end of the get together, he asked for their blessing.

The *Santo Niño* (Holy Child) holds a special place in the hearts of Filipinos, particularly those from Cebu. The Prelate of Opus Dei visited the *Basilica Minore* of the *Santo Niño* of Cebu in the late afternoon. He was welcomed by the *Hermano and Hermana Mayor*. Also there to welcome the Father were families in

their *Sinulog* attire and well-wishers from Davao, Cagayan de Oro, and West Visayas. The Father went out of his way to meet them before entering the Basilica.

While traversing the wide esplanade, some ladies asked him to bless an image of Sto. Niño to be placed in their Center in Davao. A group of ladies from Bacolod asked the Father to bless a seedling to be planted in their new Center. A young couple asked him to bless the mitten and booties of their first child to be born in December.

The Augustinians are the custodians of the basilica. Father Ion escorted the Prelate to the second floor of the Augustinian Convent to pray before the original statue of the *Santo Niño*, the one gifted to Juana by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. He laid flowers at the base of the image.

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## **Thursday, August 3**

After heartfelt farewells, Msgr. Ocariz departed for the airport at 9:30 in the morning, concluding his stay in Manila. "We are all united! Even when I am already in Australia, we are always united," he said to a group in the house. His parting words were in English: "Please pray for me as I also pray for you."

His next destination is Cebu, where more exciting events and gatherings await him.

## **Wednesday, August 2**

In the morning, Msgr. Ocariz visited some sick faithful of the Prelature in their centers. Shortly before noon, he made a visit to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (La Naval) in Quezon City to pray.

Msgr. Fernando Ocariz arrived at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) at 4:30pm. Students and faculty members welcomed him at the main entrance with cheers, drums, banners, and a dragon mascot. University faculty, staff, alumni, former officers and families lined the way to the meeting halls. He engaged the many who requested for a selfie photo, a blessing, or an “abrazo.”

He first met with the officers of Educhild, who narrated stories of their programs aimed at promoting strong marriages and families, and guiding single young professionals. They also shared the challenges faced by Filipino families today. “We should teach persons how to love, in order to help married couples deal with the difficulties they are encountering,” he said. He emphasized the importance of fostering love, understanding, and

forgiveness within families. The Father advised them to seek to be genuine friends with those going through difficult situations.

He moved to the adjacent hall to meet with the UA&P Board of Trustees, Management Committee, unit heads, and some alumni. University President Winston Padojinog had warm formal greetings for Msgr. Ocariz, the Honorary Grand Chancellor of the University. The Prelate outlined key characteristics of governance in the University. The Christian spirit imbues it, with sanctification of work as the first condition. It is carried out with a sense of service, giving primacy to the human person. It requires justice and charity, which are requisites of sanctified work.

He then talked about unity. The university is not an aggregate of separate and independent units. He

commented on the value of collegiality, that we need one another, and that we count on the opinion of others. Lastly, he acknowledged the faculty members serving in governance posts, that they are doing so with a spirit of service and sacrifice.

UA&P gave him a replica of the President's chain with medallions of various UA&P seals. He received books published by UA&P. The Alumni Association gifted him with the new version of the *becas* of all the Schools, made of handwoven cloth.

## **Tuesday, August 1**

Msgr. Ocariz was at the University of Asia and the Pacific for a 10 am meeting with Bishop Oscar Florencio, the Military Ordinary of the Philippines. Bishop Florencio, a former student of Msgr. Ocariz in Rome, expressed his gratitude for

Opus Dei's spiritual help to the priests of the military ordinariate.

They proceeded to a get-together with diocesan clergy. Present were Bishop Stephen Lee from Macau, several monsignori, and around 50 priests. The Prelate encouraged them to be men of prayer and to make the celebration of the Eucharist the center of each day. He told them to be very happy with and thankful for their vocation to the priesthood, which is a gift not only for themselves but for everyone around them.

After meeting the clergy, the Prelate met with officers and directors of the various schools under the Parents for Education Foundation (PAREF) system. They shared stories of their schools and the efforts to spread among parents, teachers, and children his message about the centrality of Jesus Christ. Msgr.

Ocariz encouraged them to continue their valuable work, stressing the significance of reaching out to parents, who play a crucial role in their children's lives at home.

In the afternoon, the Father met with several families. Each shared their stories of evangelization. They all showed him their family pictures and presented him gifts. He thanked them for helping Opus Dei in the Philippines and asked for their prayers.

## **Monday, July 31**

In the morning, Msgr. Ocariz met with those doing their seminar at the Tagaytay Conference Center and received guests there.

At 4:00 pm he visited the Dualtech Training Center, a technical vocational school in Canlubang. He blessed the ongoing construction of the Excellence Activity Center in the

campus, a facility for human and professional formation of students and industrial workers in the vicinity.

He toured the facilities and met some students. One of them presented him with a sorting machine that he had invented. He gave a short address to the management and staff of the school and spoke to them about sanctifying their work.

Back in Manila, in the early evening, the Father paid his respects at the wake of a faithful of the Prelature, a lady architect who had designed several centers in the country.

## **Sunday, July 30**

At 10:30 in the morning, Msgr. Ocariz had a gathering with families, members of Opus Dei and their friends at the Mall of Asia Arena. This was the highlight event of the

Prelate's trip, with 7,000 in attendance.

In the afternoon, the Prelate visited the Tagaytay Conference Center, a retreat house and seminar facility in Mendez, Cavite.

Read more about this gathering [here](#).

## **Saturday, July 29**

Msgr. Ocariz met with some of the older members of Opus Dei and visited those who are ill in some of the centers.

In the afternoon, he visited Punlaan School, a pioneer in Dual Training for women in the fields of Cookery, Baking, and Food and Beverage Services. The management welcomed the Father in their newly-inaugurated 7-storey building in San Juan. Punlaan is the flagship school of the Foundation for Professional Training, Inc. (FPTI), which has other

technical training schools in Laguna and Cebu.

Present during the visit were the officers and management of FPTI as well as those of other women-empowerment NGOs established by members of Opus Dei and their colleagues in different parts of the country.

The Father told them that effectiveness will come from taking care of the quality of the work they do. Then, as St. Josemaria taught, to always have supernatural outlook in everything. It is God who helps us. Further, he told them that success lies in living fraternity well, with spirit of service.

During the short program at the auditorium, some Punlaan students presented the Father with a tiny seedbed, explaining that “*punlaan*” is the Tagalog word for “seedbed.” They let the Father plant some seeds of

*banaba*, a medicinal plant, and told him that they hope to become sowers of peace and joy in their work of service to the hotel and restaurant industry.

## **Friday, July 28**

In the morning, Msgr. Ocariz visited some of the sick and elderly faithful of the Prelature in the centers.

Earlier he celebrated Mass at the Stella Orientis Oratory of the University of Asia and the Pacific, a corporate undertaking of Opus Dei in the Philippines.

## **Thursday, July 27**

In the morning, Msgr. Ocariz received some families in his residence in New Manila. The families shared their family stories and showed him pictures, which he blessed. He gave rosaries to the adults and candies to the children.

He met with 40 delegates from PAREF Southridge school who were about to leave for Lisbon for the World Youth Day from August 1 to 6. They came in their official jackets and gave him a jacket labelled “The Father.”

He told them to live fraternity and charity among themselves and with those from other countries. He reminded them that they would certainly encounter difficulties along the way and that they should offer those up for the Pope. He then gave them the blessing for the trip.

In the afternoon, the Prelate was back at the University of Asia and the Pacific for an audience with the men students and young professionals who attend activities of formation in the centers of Opus Dei. He told them that in their activities, they must seek Christ. And if one is friends with Christ, it will be easy to make friends.

They asked him advice about how to love people who don't share the same beliefs, how to be resilient amid trials, and how to discern God's will. A string chamber orchestra of three young men provided musical numbers.

"What struck me the most during our get-together with the Father was that in these times, we must not let our emotions control us, but instead use the means - to strive and to persevere - in mastering ourselves, upholding virtues, and being gracious to others," said one student. He recalled that "the Father emphasized that the world needs young people who know how to listen and to communicate with love and care; to avoid arguing to impose one's views on others, and instead to pray for them."

**Wednesday, July 26**

First on the Prelate's agenda for the start of this apostolic trip to the Philippines was a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in New Manila. Bishop Alvaro del Portillo did the same thing in 1987, as did Bishop Javier Echevarria in 1998.

The Superior of the Carmelite Fathers welcomed him at the Shrine. Msgr. Ocariz prayed the Rosary with Fr. Julio Dieguez, the Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in the Philippines, at his side. A small group of faithful who were already at the church that morning accompanied them, petitioning for the apostolic fruits of this trip.

In the afternoon, Msgr. Ocariz had an audience with 300 women students and professionals who attend activities of formation regularly in centers of Opus Dei in Metro Manila, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Iloilo and

Bacolod. It was held at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). They received him with enthusiasm and energy.

Rocio, a graduating student, asked the Prelate how to combat the spread of liberal ideologies and trends such as the cancel culture. Another asked about how to give priority to one's prayer life in the face of her hectic academic life. A young lady asked in Tagalog how to be resilient in the face of painful family situations.

The common thread in the Father's replies was: learning to love. He advised them to reactivate their love for God, to be an instrument of unity, and to be forgiving.

Responding to the concern of one on how to do things as best as one can without giving in to a perfectionist mindset, Msgr. Ocariz advised her to change the mindset, but that this does not mean that one will not

strive to do things the best way he/she can. "What perfects things is love."

The Prelate told them to take seriously the formation they receive in the centers. In a world that sometimes seems hostile to the things of God. "*Adelante, sin miedo,*" (Forward, without fear), he challenged them.

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## **Tuesday, July 25**

Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz, the Prelate of Opus Dei, arrived in Manila this afternoon, beginning a twelve-day apostolic trip to the Philippines. His plane arrived on schedule at 4:30 pm, and the Prelate was met by Father Julio Dieguez, the Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in the Philippines, and a handful of families.

Ronnie and Richelle Balbieran introduced their five children (photo above). Paul and Denice Price and their five children also greeted the Prelate: “Welcome to the Philippines, Father!” Paul said, and the Prelate replied, “Thank you! Pray for me as I will pray for your family.”

Msgr. Ocariz then travelled to New Manila, Quezon City, where he will be staying.

On 26 and 27 July, he will meet with young people at the University of Asia and the Pacific. There he will speak with young men and women preparing to travel to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

He also wants to visit sick and elderly people throughout Manila, and has scheduled trips to some apostolic undertakings of people of Opus Dei, including Punlaan in San Juan and Dualtech in Canlubang. He will meet with the people running the Educhild

family programs and the PAREF schools.

Around 9,000 people are expected to attend the encounter with friends and families on 30 July at 10:30 am.

On 3 August, Msgr. Ocáriz will fly to Cebu to meet with people who take part of Opus Dei's formational activities there. He will visit Banilad School for Professional Development and the Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise, both technical schools and social projects that provide job training for underprivileged youth in the Visayas and Mindanao.

On 5 August, the Prelate will fly to Indonesia and then travel to Australia and New Zealand.

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