

**+ Msgr. Hermogenes Bacareza SVD
(1930-2011)
by Adonis Narcelles Jr**

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Here is his short biography... Fr. Hermogenes Echavez Bacareza SVD



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He was born on July 12, 1930 in Maribojoc, Bohol, the seventh of thirteen children of Pedro Valles Bacareza and Cesaria Resabal Echavez. He entered Christ the King Seminary in 1951 and on October 18, 1959 he was ordained to the priesthood.

His first assignment was in the University of San Carlos in Cebu from 1961 to 1969 where he was prefect of seminarians and was a professor. At the same time he studied to get a post graduate degree in Philosophy, which was the first of many studies he did that eventually led to his acquisition of four Doctorates in various fields, namely Philosophy of History, Ecclesiastical Jurisprudence and Canon Law, and Sacred Theology. He would count later on as the schools he attended the following: UST, CTU (Washington DC), Harvard, and the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome)

From 1970 to 1976 he studied in UST and then in Germany.

From 1977 to 1983 he was chaplain at the De Los Santos Clinic while teaching at UST.

From 1986 to 1994 he worked in Germany as the first chaplain to the Filipino community, where he was noticed for his efforts to promote Phil-German relations.

From 1995 to 2001 he was in Christ the King as Professor and he also served as Associate Judge at the CBCP National Appellate Matrimonial Tribunal in Manila. Later on he would become its Presiding Judge.

In 2002 he moved over to the Catholic Trade Community where he served as Archivist and secretary to the Provincial. He also found time to teach Canon Law and German in UST and as Judicial Vicar at the Apostolic Vicariate in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. He also became the Vicariate's promoter for the beatification of Bishop William Finemann. He was also teaching Canon Law in Tagaytay. He also served as the Canon Lawyer of the Provincialate. He stayed at the Catholic Trade community until 2011 when failing health would force him to retirement in Villa Cristo Rey.

He has written several books about Canon Law and on Philippine-German relations, among other things. In 2003, in appreciation of his efforts to promote harmonious relations between the two countries, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany conferred on him the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Insignia of the Order of Merit). He was also awarded the *Anthony Aguirre Professorial Chair in History* by the UST Graduate School in recognition of his academic excellence and meritorious service in the field of teaching and research. Additionally, he was given by UST the *Fr. Silverio Sancho OP Award* for his unselfish service for many years of teaching, his sense of academic leadership and his willingness to share generously with others.

He was also bestowed the title of *Monsignor* (honorary prelate) by Bishop Antonio Palang SVD DD, *in nomine Romani Pontificis, Pope Benedict XVI*, for his long and faithful service as Judicial Vicar in the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose and as Presiding Judge at the National Appellate Matrimonial Tribunal of the CBCP.

The SVD Community at Catholic Trade Manila, where he stayed for the last active years of his life, would remember him for his efforts to promote the Society's internationality by organizing the community daily masses in various languages. Likewise the guest student priests in the community, SVDs and non-SVDs speak fondly of his genial presence and unselfishness in sharing his many academic resources. In the field of Canon Law, fellow canon lawyers acknowledge his eminent position.

Fr. Bacareza succumbed to liver cancer in the early morning of April 24, 2011, on Easter Sunday. As the Christian world celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord, he quietly departed this world to enter His kingdom. May he rest in peace.