

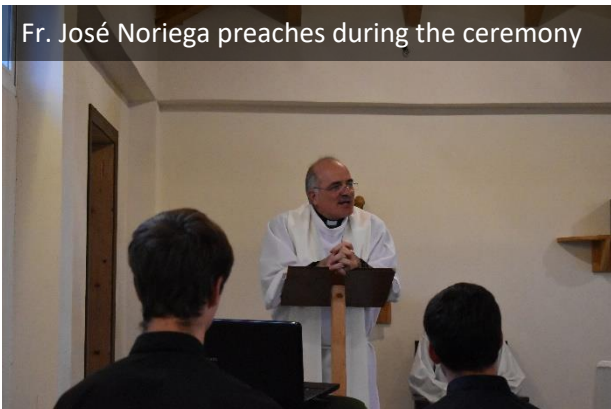
An Unexpected Journey

4/5-4/8

By: Gabriel Innerst

Well, this is embarrassing. Here I've been in the last few newsletters waxing poetic about Valencia, and now I have to break it to you all that we are back in Madrid. I had submitted the last newsletter only an hour before when we were told that we would be moving to the Disciples' residence in Villaescusa the next day. It was a bit of a disappointment because the weather had begun to settle in a happy medium and we had just finished civilizing the house, but Villaescusa is also a beautiful residence, so no one was too crestfallen. We arrived without any trouble and spent the remainder of the day tranquilly. As we slept blissfully unaware that night, the neighbors called the Guardia Civil (more or less the equivalent of the state police) because they thought we had come from Madrid, which is prohibited. The police rang the doorbell, inquired after our business, and were quickly satisfied with the answer. However, in order to pacify the neighbors and maintain a good relationship with the village, the superiors decided to move on to Madrid the next morning. The benefit, of course, is that we can now celebrate Holy Week with the whole community.

Fr. José Noriega preaches during the ceremony



Rewinding to a little before moving, I'd like to highlight several Navigare-specific activities. On Sunday the 5th, Navigare took part the so called "Blank Check" rite of passage, our second of the year. It was a very simple ceremony in which we prayed the liturgy of the hours and then signed our names on a card that said, "Yo quiero elegir con Dios (I want to choose with God)." The purpose was that, in signing the "check," we choose to elect the path that God wants for us, both in this year and our lives.





Another thing worth mentioning from our activities is a set of short essays that Br. Tomás has been assigning to us to supplement our studies. The topics have mostly been from Philosophical Anthropology, but they have touched other subjects as well. After he assigns the topic, we separate to research, read, and write for a week. After that we come together to share, discuss, question, probe, and mock each other, all in the interest of developing our ideas and strengthening our arguments. So far we have really enjoyed them, and it is especially interesting to discover some of the places where we disagree, because it is there that we force each other to think.

Our Holy Week newsletter will be coming soon, but in the meantime, we wish you all a happy and blessed Easter!