



## CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF GUAM, INC.

P.O. Box 8647  
Tamuning, Guam 96931  
Telephone: 1-(671) 482-4647

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Contact: David J. Sablan, President  
(671) 482-4647

For Immediate Release

### Concerned Catholics Subsidizes Education of Guam Seminarians

In spite of the corona virus slowing economic activities, Concerned Catholics of Guam, Inc (CCOG) sent a check for \$20,000 to St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California to cover the cost of education and formation of Guam seminarians: Deacons June Valencia, Ron Pangan, and William Mamangun at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California.

The fundraising efforts started in August 2019. The solicitation and fundraising efforts continue.

David Sablan, president of CCOG, expressed elation that the three men will be ordained to the priesthood for Guam within the next six months. "Saving souls for God is job one for members of our clergy," said Sablan. "Those who contributed are concerned with the morality of our community, which is fundamental to a peace-loving and God-fearing people. As a community, we need to support efforts to train more young men to answer God's call to serve as priests for God's people in our Archdiocese of Agana. CCOG will be there to help with the cost. God bless all who helped in this regard."

Deacons Ron Pangan and June Valencia have completed their studies and are assisting in parishes. After their work in the parishes they will both be ordained as priests later this year.

Deacon Mamangun is assisting at parish but will return at the start of the Fall semester to St. Patrick's to finish his studies. He will be ordained to the priesthood later this year here in Guam but will return to complete the Spring semester at St. Patrick's. He will return to Guam sometime next year to take on his duties as a priest for Church on Guam.

"It is a blessing to have our community help financially, our seminarians through their priestly formation. On behalf of Archbishop Byrnes and our Church, I thank CCOG and all the people who helped raise funds for the education of our seminarians", stated Fr. Richard Kidd, vocations director for the Archdiocese of Agana.

"We need good and wise priests who are willing to sacrifice for our people in administering the sacraments, teaching us the truth of our faith, and guiding us on the path to salvation," Sablan said.

**PHOTO ATTACHED. Pictured L to R, first row: David Sablan, president of CCOG; Fr. Richard Kidd, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Agana. Second row L to R: Andrew Camacho, CCOG vice president; Evangeline Lujan, CCOG secretary; and Gerald Taitano, CCOG Treasurer.**