Rev. Fr. Benigno Beltran began his pastoral work as a Parish Priest in Smokey Mountain (Philippines) in 1978. At that time, Smokey Mountain was a community of around 25,000 people in a garbage dump, many of whom survived by scavenging in the dump. As the residents were organized into Basic Ecclesial Communities, engaged in spiritual, developmental and liberation work, given educational scholarships, and involved in livelihood programs, the dump was transformed into a community with homes for 5,000 former scavenger families. Out of this community were born three flagship projects of the Philippine Sustainability Challenge, a network which seeks to achieve the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Fr. Beltran is the President and CEO of each of these three projects. The Sandiwaan Center for Learning offers non-formal education programs, especially with computer-based literacy and education programs for children, out-of-school youth and young mothers. Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig (MAID), or Children of Mother Earth, is a dance company featuring youth who grew up in the Smokey Mountain garbage dump and uses the performing arts to spread a message of stewardship and responsibility for our world. It is currently involved in the reforestation of 1,600 hectares in the Marikina Watershed through techniques that involve sustainable product development. Veritas Social Empowerment, Inc. is a social enterprise seeks to connect the urban poor with impoverished farmers and fishermen and promotes behaviors for an ethical economy. Fr. Beltran received his doctorate and master’s degrees in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. Fr. Beltran is the author of many books, including: The Christology of the Inarticulate and Faith and Struggle on Smokey Mountain: Hope for a Planet in Peril, which have both been recognized for awards.