

January 2021

Welcome to our next Sri Lankan Novitiate Newsletter, sent from Covid free Tudella! We hope you like it!

Community Experience at St. Joseph College

Life is very interesting when we have different experiences in our daily life.



I have been appointed to St. Joseph's College Boys' School at Nugegoda for my Apostolic Community experience. I came here on Sunday 23 August. My experience is focused not only on the school but also in the Brothers' community.

Community experience is a challenge to me to deal with myself and in my relationships with the others.

There are little things I have to face, but I never mind what they are. I attempt my best to manage them.

I am happy overall with the students in the classroom. I go to the classroom with Brother Pradeep to grade seven A, B and C. It is fascinating to me to be in the school especially with the students. I think that it is a great experience for me to encounter different events around me.



On 2nd of October I was very happy to join all teachers to participate in the children's day. It was the first time for me to see how students are preparing to celebrate. I really enjoyed it with them.

Isac Quintao

Tudella Novitiate

Fixing the Roof



After the retreat, at the Jesuit's house in Kandy, there was a tree that broke and fell on the roof of the novices' building and it damaged three pieces of tile. Unfortunately, during this time it was difficult to hire people from outside to come and fix it so we took courage to repair it ourselves.

Thanks be to God that we did it very well and there

were joyful moments as we all worked together. (And Br Rod was very happy that he didn't have to take anyone to hospital!)

Br. Duy



ACEP time

For my community experience, in the first week I was getting so many difficulties, in the community and in the school as well. Because of Covid's situation, I went for my apostolic ministry in a Montessori pre-school, when I came back security did not allow me to enter, because there wasn't any clear information for them. And I started approach them, gave the information about my being in the Marist Stella's Brothers' community, which sorted things out.



In the Montessori pre-school, when I went there for the first time the teachers thought that I was going to teach the students as well and I told them that I came just to observe and they understood. The following day was going well because when I have personal accompaniment with Brother Nick, I was sharing with him about those difficulties and received some motivations from him. And right now I am

very happy in both the community and the school too. I try myself to be present in the community and the school as well. I try to share with them about my talents that I have learnt, for example, when the students sang some songs I was able to play the guitar with them. another thing was while for the recreation time I asked the teachers to help me to organize the games with the students.

Adelino Soares



Advent retreat

Dear brothers and sisters!

To prepare for our Christmas season we had a wonderful retreat at the Jesuits' retreat house in Kandy, Sri Lanka. We had seven days for our retreat with nice weather and good food too. That was a great retreat for us to prepare ourselves to welcome baby Jesus, our Lord. On the other hand, it also helped us to relax and review our vocation after so many months of studying and working in the Novitiate. Personally I liked these periods of retreat very much; it was really quiet and long enough for me to review

my vocation and events of my life too. I felt that God had given me many blessings in my life. and even though sometimes He also gave me the crosses of struggles and discouragements, but through all that God always led me to achieve the best goal of my journey.

This retreat also helped me to renew my relationship with God,

and it especially helped me to prepare myself for the celebration of His birth in the next few week's times. So I thank God for this meaningful retreat and ask Him continue to bless me.

Br. Nghi



Community experience in “Daymina Special Needs School” with disabled children ...

The first day I was feeling excited to be with Sister, students and teachers who were there. First of all I was able to create my new relationships with them, with the ability that I have in my life. Through this exposure I have been helped to have some more friends and it has also helped me to learn more some skills from working with them. I was really happy to have some more friends from these experiences, even though I have only had a short period with them, but I feel the value within me here. So I was happy with my duties that the Sisters have given to me, even though I have only five hours but the presence of God is always with me.

I have changed to go to all the classes to do some creativity with them. I have many activities to do with them like music, dancing, gym, sports, maintenance, and making kennels, so all these experiences have helped me to learn more from them and I found it most helpful for my future



ministry. If some teachers are absent sometimes I will take over the class to train them to do different things; sometimes I teach them some vocabulary. Some students cannot speak but I try to communicate with them by my body movements. Sometimes I speak with one of the students by my inner self because he is always shouting all the time as well. I felt that my presence to them is more

important because in every morning I stay in front of the main gate to check their fever and to welcome them by my smiling face and make some jokes with them. That’s why through all these my presence to them is like a precious thing to them; even their parents too, they really feel it. My relationship with the Sisters, teachers, staff, students and also in our Brothers’ community is very good.



Gaspar Teun

Commencing Stage 2 of their Scholasticate.

Where are some of our Novitiate graduates now? Here’s a great read about two of our young Brothers, now back in Timor:



Br Melquiano Obe (on the left in the photo) and Br Jacinto Fuli Falo, have now returned to Timor-Leste following Stage 1 of their Scholasticate at MAPAC. They spent two weeks in COVID quarantine in Dili. They then had a few weeks at home with their families. They have now arrived in Baucau, where they will reside with the Tirilolo community and commence the Stage 2 of their Scholasticate.



The second photo shows them during their first meal at Tirilolo, plus an outing with Catechists and children in Lautem.



Advent Reflection Time

We were preparing for the coming of Jesus. In the Christian tradition, we have a deep faith in God. We had plans to prepare many things to celebrate the first coming of Jesus, like singing carols, practicing music for Mass in the Parish, and making a crib in front of the house. But because of Covid-19 we were not able to realize all our plans this Advent.

We made this Feast simpler, like Jesus' himself, who lay down in the manger, not in the crowded place, so quiet and simple. In this Advent reflection time we prepared more personally our crib in the chapel, and we had time and space to identify the meaning of the crib inside us.

Adelino Soares

But we did have a ten-day retreat, and a zoom gathering for the global Marist family to gather together and sing carols for our families.

Identify the meaning of the crib inside us

Pictures of the month

1. Young brothers gathering and happy hour time.

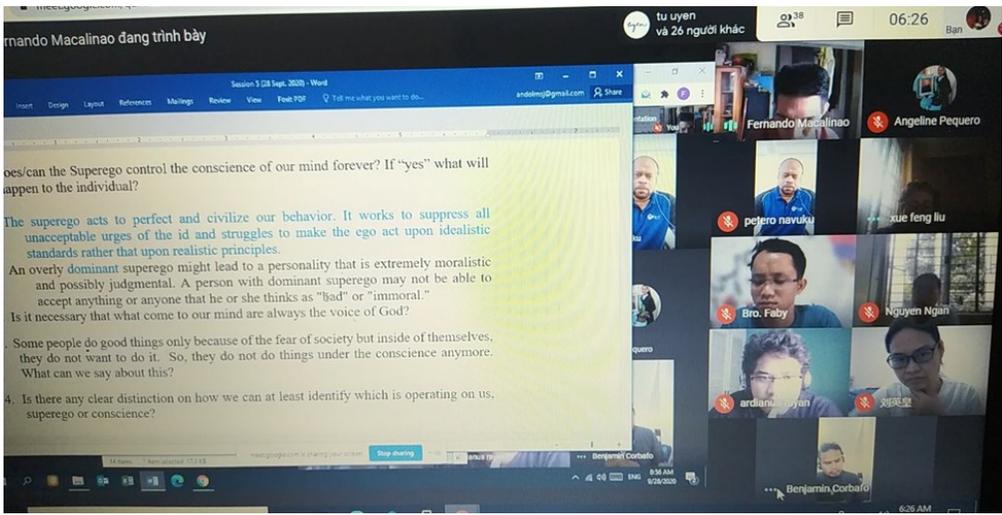


2. ACEP sharing of novices.



3. Welcome back the novices and renewing the gardens.





IFRS class

When God closes a door, He opens a window.

Timor Leste Independence Day.

We were very happy to celebrate East Timor's Independence Day on 28th of November, together with the other nationalities here,

such as Vietnam, Australia, Canada, and of course Sri Lanka in the Marist Novitiate community. It was very meaningful for us, even though it was a simple celebration. It brought a lot of joy and blessings to us, especially for us who come from East Timor.



Isac quintao



Window 11

“When God closes a door, He opens a window. This is the experience, for most of us, in this Covid-19 year. We cannot deny the fact that we, the young brothers, cannot go back to Vietnam and continue our formation as the normal program but when God closes a door, He opens a window that He is giving the world another way of functioning, continuing, working, learning and being.

Taking this opportunity of doing our "second novitiate" right after our first profession, our young brothers are taking different courses in online classes such as Christology, Morality, Mariology and some other courses with the brothers in MAPAC. On the other hand, we are taking different courses to make use of our time as we look through the window that God has opened.

Br. Hai





Playing 'pool' holiday break,

In our semester break the whole community, novices and brothers, went to the Full Moon hotel to

play some pool games. I feel it was a good experience for us. I was really interested because it was the first time for us novices to play pool together with the young brothers. When we finished playing pool, we took lunch together in the full moon restaurant and we were really enjoying it.



Mateus Reis

Teaching online class



I will share with you a few experiences about my teaching online classes. I was very happy with the new way of teaching, new experiences and new way of learning. I have been teaching one student

on Saturday and Sunday about 2 hours. Sometimes, the internet was not stable and I lost the class. I was happy with all I have done for my student. I could learn new things from it. Lastly I was enjoying it and happy to teach. Sometimes it was difficult but I came through it. If life has no difficulty then it will not make me strong.

Br. Phuc

More pictures of December.



Young brothers waiting for flights



Salad time



New fish pond



Clearing garden

