



FEBRUARY 21: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



The liturgical colour of the season of Lent is purple. Many altar crosses and religious statuary are traditionally veiled during this period in the Christian year.

Lent (Latin: *Quadragesima*, 'Fortieth') is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, the night before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, simple living and self-denial.^[1]

The last week of Lent is Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. Following the New Testament story, Jesus' crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, and at the beginning of the next week the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday recalls the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days;^{[7][8][9]} this is known as one's Lenten sacrifice.^[10] Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God.^{[11][12]} The Stations of the Cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the Cross and of his execution, are often observed. Many Roman Catholic churches remove flowers from their altars, while crucifixes, religious statues, and other elaborate religious symbols are often veiled in violet fabrics in solemn observance of the event. Throughout Christendom, some adherents mark the season with the traditional abstention from the consumption of meat.

Lent is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Depending on the Christian denomination and local custom, Lent ends either on the evening of Maundy Thursday,^[18] or at sundown on Holy Saturday, when the Easter Vigil is celebrated.^[19] Regardless, Lenten practices are properly maintained until the evening of Holy Saturday.^[20] (Wikipedia)

11 TIPS FOR A FRUITFUL LENTEN JOURNEY

1. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SINS. <i>We are all sinners. Only by acknowledging our sins shall we receive God's grace and mercy.</i>	2. CONFESSION <i>It is the fountain of God's love and mercy. With it, we recover God's friendship.</i>	3. GIVE UP SIN <i>Love God by rejecting those things which God rejects. For this, we need to struggle daily.</i>
4. PRAY AND MEDITATE <i>Get to know Our Lord more in order to love Him more. Pray for others as well: your family, the Pope, the conversion of sinners; those who suffer: the poor, jobless, sick, homeless, refugees, persecuted...</i>	5. SACRIFICE <i>Offer small sacrifices to Our Lord daily in reparation of sins: your sins and those of mankind: a smile when tired, biting one's tongue, order in material things...</i>	
6. WORKS OF MERCY <i>Make it a daily habit to make others happy through your good deeds.</i>	7. SAY "NO" TO YOUR DISORDERED PASSIONS <i>for love of God.</i>	8. FAST & ABSTAIN <i>during the prescribed days, Fridays of Lent and Good Friday</i>
9. CARRY OUT YOUR DAILY DUTIES <i>the best way you can, offer them to God. Your work is then converted into prayer!</i>	10. PRACTICE THE VIRTUES <i>always even if you are tired or don't feel like it.</i>	11. APOSTOLATE OF CONFESSION <i>Bring souls closer to Christ! Invite your friends to receive God's mercy!</i>

NDKC MID-YEAR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

By: Mr. Christopher James Ferrer

Earlier today, my colleagues and I reported on the IBED accomplishments, challenges and lessons in the first half of the year and at the same time the actions to be taken for the other half.

We are grateful and delighted for the synergistic efforts of administrative and academic teams and above all, the **TEACHERS**, our front liners, who have been giving their best, despite all odds.

Marists of Champagnat, thank you for preparing the leaders of tomorrow by nurturing their dreams today!!!

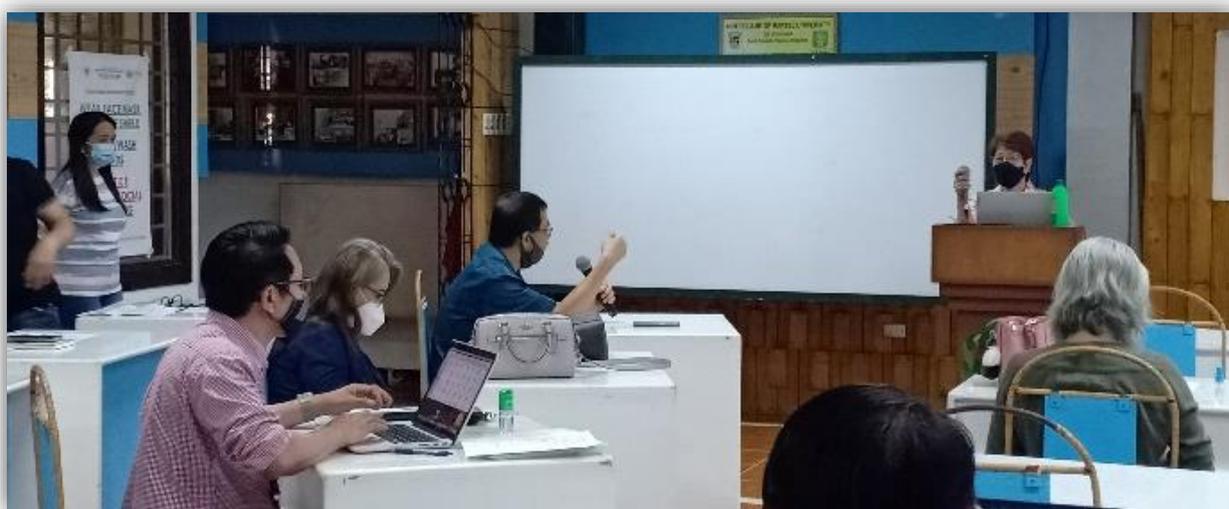


NDMU MID-YEAR EVALUATION AND PLANNING

By: Dr. Joan Palma, PhD



The Notre Dame of Marbel University conducted its mid-year evaluation and planning last February 18-19, at the NDMU Alumni Center. It was participated in by all administrators. The first day was devoted to the presentation of the accomplishments of the different units, the Academic Sector, the Administrative Sector and the Support Services. The administrators also looked into some issues and concerns that were identified during the first half of the school year, and proposed recommendations to address these. The second day was devoted to the crafting of objectives and activities relative to the recommendations mentioned the day before. These new objectives and activities were then incorporated into the annual plans of the different units.



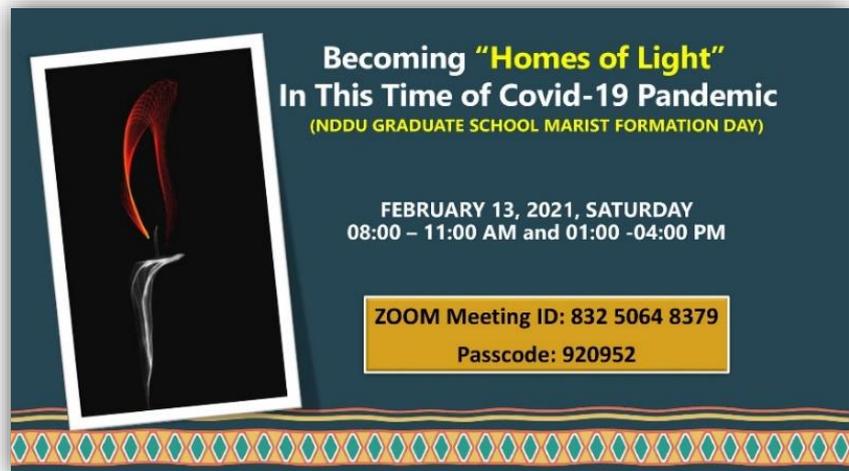
Br. Dominador Santiago, FMS, the Provincial of the East Asia Province and the Acting President of NDMU, was present during the two-day activity. He gave his opening remarks on the first day, challenging NDMU to build homes of light, to be in continued solidarity with those in need, and to create a renewed culture reflective of the Gospel message. In his closing message on the second day, he shared some of his experiences during his assignment for 8 years at NDMU making a confession about NDMU being his 'first love,' and spoke of NDMU as a praying, daring, and caring community.

NDDU INTENSIFIES MARIST FORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL

By Ms. Agnes Reyes

The NDDU Graduate School scheduled a Marist Formation Day on February 13, Saturday, to allow students to experience a time of prayer and reflection and a deepening of the Marist identity. 178 graduate school students participated in the online session on “Becoming Homes of Light in this Time of Covid -19 Pandemic.”

The input given and the reflections shared by the participants were based on the Circular of Br. Ernesto Sanchez, FMS, Superior General. The insights drawn from the document were appropriated to how Marist values are lived out amidst the crisis of the pandemic. Fr. Joemer Candido, DCM, School Chaplain, provided biblical texts that deepened the process.



On February 19, eighteen (18) personnel from Cluster 2 and 3 of NDDU Espina gathered virtually for a time of prayer and reflection also based on the Circular, “Homes of Light”. It was an opportunity for the participants to be in touch with their own context in this time of pandemic and draw encouraging insights on the idea of becoming “homes of light, caring for life and generating new life”. The session concluded with each participant charting a new normal compass. The said compass will serve as a reminder of the dispositions and values they will live by amidst the challenges of the time.



This March, the Campus Ministry Office of NDDU will conduct Marist Formation Sessions with all graduating college students. It is desired that their formation will allow a deeper appreciation of the Marist identity and hopefully, the Marist values will be engrained for them to live day by day.

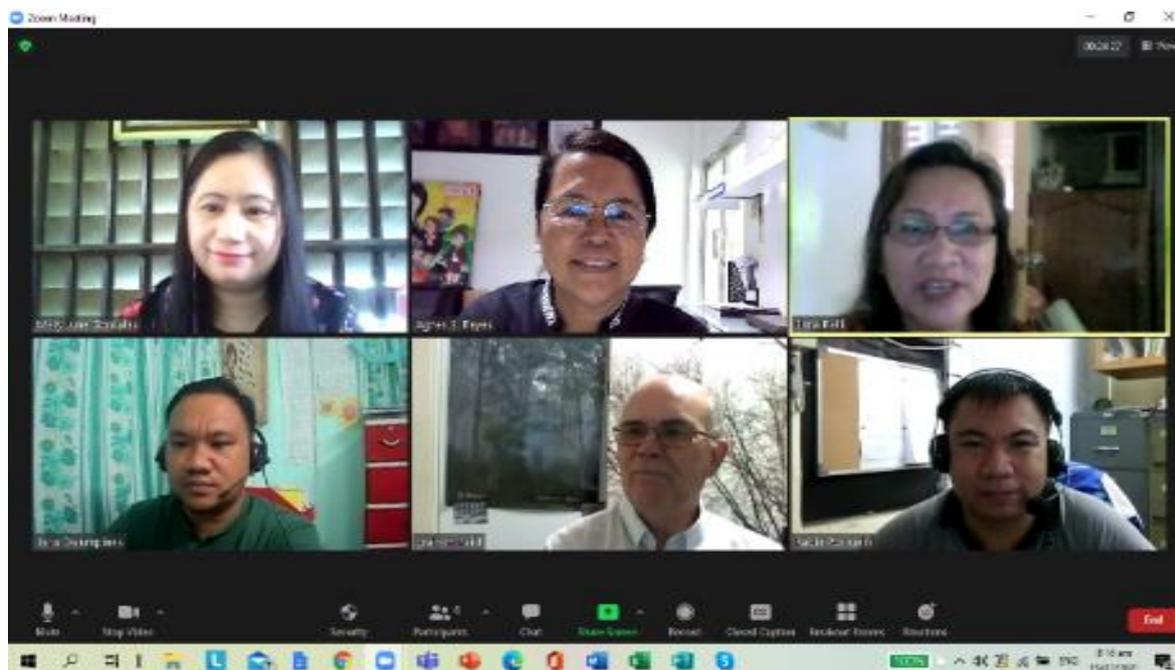
Marist Formation for Friends of Marcellin:

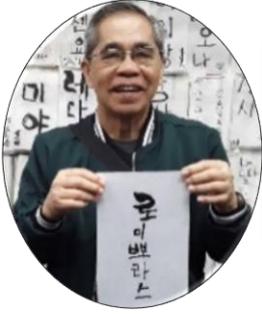


Last February 6, began the first session of the Friends of Marcellin. Twenty Two (22) joined the formation. They will continue on to participate in the succeeding online meetings, once a month, until August. Friends of Marcellin, who came from the different sectors of the Province, are individuals who are just beginning their Marist life and desire to grow more in knowing and living the Marist way.

Formation of Laity Leaders with Br. Graham Neist, FMS

The Laity Leaders had an initial meeting with Br. Graham Neist, FMS last February 15, 2021. The aim of the said meeting was to carry out the proposal of having an intensive formation of laity leaders twice a month, beginning this March.





THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#19)

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

A BIT OF HISTORY OF PHILIPPINE MARIST BROTHERS¹

From the point of view of a Non-Marist Brother

This article is a reprint from the AMIHAN NEWSLETTER, January-February 1997 issue written by Fr. Robert Sullivan, OMI.

Part 2 of 2 Parts

Bro. Maurus James got sick years later and was brought to Manila for treatment. After some time he was brought back to Cotabato Notre Dame Hospital. He died soon after that. The winning coach was reporting to headquarters. He was always faithful to the Rosary before every game. That's what the team saw.

Bro. Peter Leonard was a very different type. He taught Biology and when the lesson was about vegetation or about the function of an animal's body, the lesson would be outdoors. And real grass and real seed, real leaves were the text. The same applied to animals and their parts like why do some animals have eyes on the front of their head but others have eyes on the side of their head?

During vacation time, Bro. Peter would disappear. They would get a post card from him from some remote part of the Philippines. Most of the time he would help farmers and move from one place to another. He worked liked all the others and enjoyed it. He would be back a day before the opening of enrollment.

Maybe Bro. Peter was most famous for his "Coconut Medal." This was just a very old dried up coconut tied with fibers so that it could be carried.

Every Monday morning, the coconut medal would be awarded to the one who had done the dumbest thing during the past week.

The coconut medal became famous because you could not get rid of it and everybody in school knew about the coconut medal.

For example, if someone was caught cheating in a test, he was the next honoree to get the coconut medal because cheating in an exam is really stupid.

On Monday morning he would be awarded the coconut medal. He had to bring it with him. He had no place to hide it. It was too big to hide easily. If he tried to hide it, that be stupid, so he would get it again next Monday.

When noon recess came, he would have to carry the coconut medal along the street among countless other students who could see him and who knew what the coconut meant. When he got home he would have the same shame of showing the coconut medal to the family. Then on next Monday, he would have to walk the street again carrying the coconut medal back to school with great relief and with many prayers that he would not be chosen by the class to get the same medal again. It happened more than once.

In spite of the horrors of the coconut medal, it was done very democratically. A list of the most irresponsible acts of the week were written on the board and the class was asked to select the one that deserved the medal. Even your friends might vote for you. Everyone knew how dangerous Monday mornings were but it was most dangerous to stay out of class hoping that one might escape from the medal. That technique was used only once and then Monday morning would have the best attendance of the week. Everyone wanted to avoid the shame and humiliation of carrying that coconut through the crowds of other students. Facing them and facing one's family were two kinds of agony.

The class never got angry about the medal and they came to realize that the medal was Bro. Peter's way of telling them to grow up and accept responsibility for their acts. In the end and in spite of the pain of the medal, the boys appreciated Bro. Peter and what he did for them. Even a year later they could tell you what Bro. Peter had said in class. It made them very attentive, good students and good men.

In the first week of February 1949, Cotabato burned down. It had been built only of nipa and wood so it burned easily. Cotabato burned two more times before they began to get cement and safe building materials. In that February burning, the Church and convent of the Oblate Fathers also burned. The Marist Brothers invited us to live with them. It was an offer that we could not refuse because the alternative was to live in a hotel. We had many good times together. The old convent of the Sisters was big enough to accommodate us all. It was good for both the Brothers and the Fathers. They were able to meet and enjoy one another. There were four Brothers already mentioned and also Fr. Mongeau, superior of the Oblates. Fr. Edward Gordon, pastor of the Parish, and Fr. Robert Sullivan, dean of the Notre Dame College.

Bro. Peter always went to bed early. If you spoke to him just after he had gone to sleep he would wake up. But if he had about 20 minutes to get to sleep, he would carry on a conversation. Br. Damian demonstrated this to me one night.

Because there were only nipa partitions, there was still light through the area even in Bro. Peter's room. So, Bro. Damian spoke up and said, "Hey, Pete! Did you give a quiz today? Answer: "Yes, in Biology."

Bro. Damian: "How many questions?"

Bro. Pete: "Ten."

Bro. D.: "Did many pass?"

Bro. Pete: "Yes, twenty eight."

Bro. D: "What was the first question?"

Bro. Pete gave the answer, but I do not remember it now. With that the demonstration was over. Bro. Peter could carry on a conversation in his sleep.

Bro. Damian is now Superintendent of Religious for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia. He was under medical treatment for a long time but he has recovered now and still works for the diocese.

I do not know where Bro. Peter is but we can make a good guess that he is helping people who work with their hands. (He died last year, 1995.)

By September of 1949, our new classroom building and convent were finished right beside the church. After seven happy months with the Marist Brothers the Oblate Fathers moved to their new quarters.

We continue to meet every Sunday night when we had supper together.

Every year , new Brothers came and then the Marist began to expand to new openings in Marbel where they have developed the high school to a University, done by a lot of diligent work and good teaching. Nothing substitutes for the personal interest that the Brothers have in each student.

They went to Lagao in 1952 and its off-shoot in Dadiangas now known as Gen. Santos City, the fastest growing city in the Philippines.

The Marist adventure into Jolo is a story by itself. They almost had to fight their way into that Moro town. Now the Moros are proud to say that they come from Notre Dame of Jolo.

As the Brothers spread out, we lost contact with each other. We had been close together in the early years when our houses were only one kilometer apart, but when the distance is 125 or 175 kms., it is hard to meet often.

We still remember the wonderful early years together we were building schools and basketball teams and good students who became responsible men. # # #

¹The above article was made possible through the effort of Mr. Jose Nacianceno, campus minister (at that time) of Marist School, Marikina City and editor of Marist Herald, the publication of the campus ministry office. This article was published first in the Amihan Newsletter before the Marist Herald.



INFORMATION:

- Br. Pepito L. Mahong, FMS was appointed by the Administrative Unit leaders of Asia and Oceania and confirmed by the Superior General and his Council as the Novice Master of the Immaculate Concepcion International, Inter-Regional Novitiate in Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. He will report to the Novitiate at the end of February.
- The International/Inter-Regional Novitiate in Tamontaka will commence on April 13, with 14 first year novices (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia) and 1 second year novice (Vietnam). The Formation team is composed of Br. Pepito Mahong, FMS (Novice Master), Br. Paco Garcia, FMS (Novice Master of Tudella Novitiate, Sri Lanka, in temporary residence until he could travel to Sri Lanka), Br. Teodulo Fernandez, FMS, and Br. Wenceslao, Paterno, FMS.
- Br. Pepito has resigned as Marist Youth Ministry Coordinator effective immediately.
- Br. Dionesio Acosta, FMS is appointed as the New Marist Youth Ministry Coordinator effective February 25, 2021.
- There are four (4) attachments in this edition of Newsbits:
 1. Br. Ben Consigli, FMS' Lenten reflection.
 2. A day of Remembrance and Prayer for the Victims of Sexual Abuse prepared by Marist Australia.
 3. Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2021.
 4. The Way of the Cross a prayer for hope and healing amidst a global pandemic by Zack Stachowski.

Birthday Greetings to:



February 21
Christian Jay Lumactod
(Aspirant)



February 22
Br. George E. Valle



February 22
Ms. Isabelita Bona
(Affiliated member)



February 23
Mrs. Romana Yecyec
(Affiliated member)



February 24
Br. Moses Cho (Min-Kyu)



February 28
Br. Michael Park (Sung-won)

Death Anniversaries:

- February 21, 1942 – Br. Antonin, Pioneer & Provincial died in Tianjin, China
- February 21, 1993 – Br. Geraisme died in Hong Kong.
- February 22, 1938 – Br. Xavier died in Beijing.
- February 23, 1935 – Br. Emile Etienne died in Beijing.
- February 23, 1942 – Br. Diogene, 6th S.G. 1920-1942 died in France.
- February 24, 1972 – Br. Claudius Reneson died in Hermitage.
- February 24, 1960 – Br. Joche Andre died in China
- February 25, 1906 – Bros. Joseph Amphien, Leon, Luis Marice, Marius I, Prosper Victor died in Nanchang, China
- February 26, 1971 – Br. Gonzales died in Bourg de Peage.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For the eternal repose of the soul of Mr. Cyronne Jhon P. Sevilla, 36 years old, nephew of Br. Danny Sevilla, who died due to acute respiratory failure.
- ✚ For all the departed and dearly missed Brothers, Family and friends.
- ✚ For our sick Brothers, relatives, friends, benefactors, students, alumni, members of the Marist Family
- ✚ For our Brothers working in other countries.
- ✚ For deepening our faith and devotion with God.
- ✚ For more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For peace and unity.
- ✚ For those who are in need and in trouble.
- ✚ For our schools / universities, students, teachers, administrators and alumni.
- ✚ For the blessings of those affected by the pandemic, that may God continue to provide their needs.
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for this fourth week of February.
- ✚ For the intentions of the Brothers, our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.

Facebook.com/DefendPopeFrancis



Lent is a good time
for sacrificing. Let
us deny ourselves
something every
day to help others
Pope Francis on Twitter