



Marist Brothers East Asia Province



Marists  
of Champagnat

# News Bits

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## Province Updates :

### **OUR LADY OF FOURVIERE COMMUNITY CELEBRATE BR. JEFF GUINO-O'S 35<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The Our Lady of Fourviere Community celebrated Br. Jeffrey's birthday last July 13. The members of the community were joined by Br. Cyril from Jolo community, Br. Engel from Marikina community, Br. Karl from Marbel Community, and Br. Albert Bolibol from Palawan community. They ate in one of the restaurants in town.



### **LAGAO COMMUNITY CELEBRATE BR. RAYMUND'S 32<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The Lagao community celebrated Br. Raymund's 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday with a happy hour and dinner on July 13. The celebration started with an opening prayer led by Br. Romy. At the end of the prayer, we had the singing of the birthday song and the blowing of the birthday candle. Happy hour followed with balut, French fries, and roasted chicken and pork. The Brothers had an enjoyable conversation and meal.

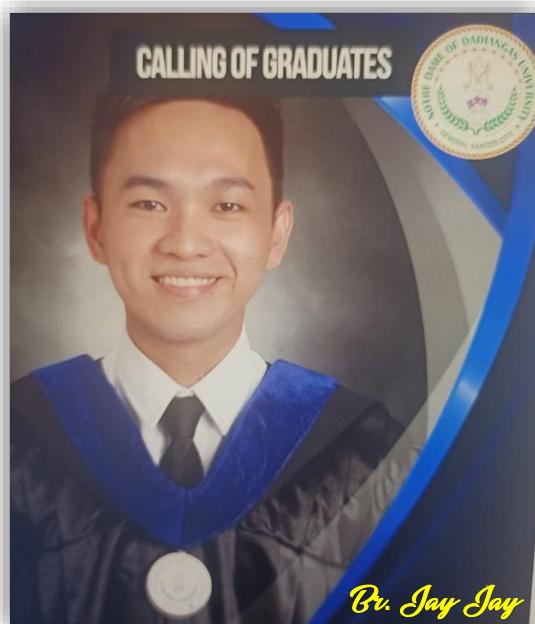
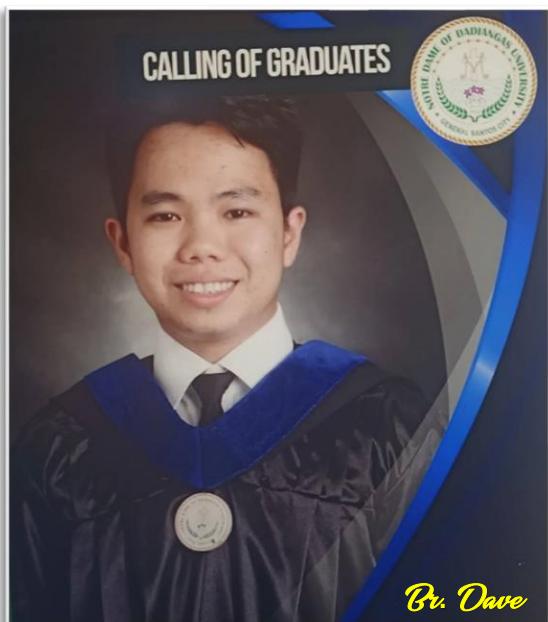


*More photos during the birthday celebration.*



## **TWO SCHOLASTICS GRADUATE AT NDDU**

Our two scholastics, namely, Br. Jay Jay Escudero and Br. Dave Becislao graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Education Major in Religious Education at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University. They had their virtual graduation ceremony last July 16. On July 24, brothers Jay Jay and Dave will fly to Manila to continue their scholasticate at MAPAC. Br. Engel Freed Java who is assigned in Marikina Community will accompany them. Congratulations to Brs. Jay Jay and Dave!



## **A TALE OF OUR SUNDAY FAMILY VISIT TO BR. SUN AND SR. WATER AT LAKE BULUAN.**

*By: Br. Petero, Navuku, FMS*

We were up early this morning for a cycling adventure to Lake Buluan, 15km from NDMU. We met up with a couple along the way and continued to our "ultimate destination". Riding through the villages as families were being awakened by the dawn, as wild ducks feasted by the rice paddies under the watchful eye of their handlers, in a canopy of fog and mist.

The scent of embers, running up and down my aging spine, awakening every bodily sense from the clutches of sleep.... alas...an experience to remember.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by Brother Sun who was also rising from his slumber beyond the magnificent walls of Buluan Lake while resting peaceful within the Lake, were the ripples of Sr. Water.

What a Sunday family visit indeed....



*The Brothers with some NDMU personnel on their way to Buluan Lake.*



*Brs. Jongjon, Petero and Pat by Buluan Lake*

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## **LAITY STRATEGIC DIRECTION, A STEP FORWARD TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM**

Ms. Elma Rafil, Chairperson of the Philippine Sector Laity Committee, convened fifteen (15) laity leaders last July 16. The gathering was meant to review the East Asia Laity Strategic Direction and to put forward the reflection process for the International Forum on the Vocation on the Marist Laity. The group is scheduled to meet again on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July to engage themselves in a deeper reflection on the laity vocation, the Marist lay vocation.

#ForumInternationalMarista #MaristLayVocation

Laity Leaders, Philippine Sector, East Asia Province

Review of Laity Strategic Direction and Planning for Reflection Process for the International Forum  
(July 16, 2021)

# THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#39

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



The following articles are a reprint from Br. Gilbert Bogacia's unpublished autobiography, Searching: A Travelogue of Life, (2007), pages 17-66. This is a series of 9 articles starting from Chapter 4 to Chapter 10. I wrote an introduction which is actually a summary of the first three chapters.)

This is the sixth part of nine.

## Chapter 9

### Life in the Apostolate

My first assignment in the Marist Brothers community was in Notre Dame of Dadiangas College. This was in the school year 1960 – 1961. It was a year earlier when the brothers moved from their old residence near the Parish Church along Beatiles Street. The acquisition of the new school site had so much opposition from the local government because it was intended for public buildings. However, with the brothers' good connections with influential people like Datu Udtug Matalam, etc., the four-hectare property was finally awarded to the brothers.

The school building and the residence, built a year earlier, were made of concrete with GI roofing. Hence, when I arrived in August 1960, the school was already in full session and the brothers were living in the new convento. The classroom building was designed like a letter "I" positioned east to west so that the sun will not affect the classrooms and the corridor. The building also faces the intended national highway and the back with corridor faces the wide-open space appropriate for flag ceremony and other activities.

The offices and faculty rooms were in the midsection of this hollow block structure while the library was in the eastern end. The science laboratories were at the western end. All doors of the classrooms open outward to the corridor and the open space. With this setup, supervision and monitoring of students during flag ceremony, especially in entering and moving out of the classrooms were very easy for the principal and the teachers.

The director of the school and superior of the community was the good-natured Brother Patrick Nicholas Grogan. The other members of the community were Bro. Felix Eugene, Bro. Anthony Bernard, Bro. Nicomedes Conta and I. Brothers Felix Eugene and Anthony Bernard were my former teachers while I was a student in ND Marbel Boys High School. Hence, I had from the start a mild gut-feeling of fear for these two were very strict disciplinarians. These two were always picking on us especially during mealtime. They watched how much rice we eat and what type of magazine and books we were reading. They wanted us to read only heavy stuff like *Scientific American* but despise us when we read *Reader's Digest*. Among the lay faculty were Vicente Gonzales, Pedro Nacua, Cristeto Dinopol, and Benjamin Nanali.

I had eight teaching periods of 40 minutes each, daily. The subjects were Religion, English, Algebra, and Social Studies, divided almost equally among the freshmen and sophomore classes. I also had sport supervision every afternoon. At age 25, these teaching loads did not bother me much. I still had some time



left for personal and community activities. Sports supervision, while requiring much time, was not difficult to prepare. With the help of some senior students, I just made sure that the required equipment was ready for immediate use.

My novitiate and scholasticate training had not prepared me for this actual community living, most especially when some members were acting like “the devils’ advocate.” They seemed to be constantly putting us (Nick and I) in a crucible to test us in all things we were supposed to do. If it were not for the constant support and helpful advice of Bro. Patrick, our director, I would not have survived my first year of community life. What made me keep going as a brother was my belief that this oppressive situation will not last forever. And with my faith in the Blessed Virgin to help me weather this problem, I just tried to behave as if I am deaf to all the unkind criticism they threw at me.

My second year in this community was quite bearable. The two disagreeable personalities were transferred to other communities: Bro. Felix Eugene to Cotabato and Bro. Anthony went home to the USA. Brother Patrick was still our superior. Unfortunately, Brother Nick Conta left the institute. The other new members were Bro. Bonaventure Cocco, Bro. Celestine Francis, Bro. Leonard Sonza, and Bro. Agustin Cabrera who was designated as principal. I would find him later as a very strict administrator.

My teaching assignment was similar to the previous year’s load. This time, besides Religion, English, Science and Algebra, Geometry was added. Hence, I had to double my time in learning and preparing these subjects, most especially the two Math subjects.



Looking back, after 47 years of community living, I can easily pinpoint the features of a community that made it a good, healthful, prayerful, and a caring one. First is the personality of the superior that can command the respect of each member of the community; a type of personality that exudes charity and love for his brothers. It is a kind of personality which is approachable, very perceptive, empathetic, willing to listen and to always help someone with problems. Second is that all the members are open to fraternal correction and willing to make adjustments in their own life for the sake of the community. I am sure that if there were no “give-and-take” in living the community, all activities, especially

the community prayers, and house chores will become routinary and done in lifeless motion. Everyone will behave like “tiptoeing among needles.”

In retrospect, with the many communities that I had lived in my 47 years of religious life, even though none can be considered as ideal, I can truly say that this was the most challenging community on the face of the earth. # #

*(To be continued)*

# *Birthday Greetings to:*



July 21  
Jake Wilson S. Rollenas (Aspirant)



July 25  
Br. Christopher C. Gorit

# *Death Anniversaries:*

- July 19, 1919 – Francis Pai, junior died in Beijing.
- July 19, 1946 – Br. Louis Michel died in Beijing.
- July 21, 1963 – Br. Claudius Maria died in Hong Kong.
- July 23, 1919 – Br. Marie Elie died in Beijing.
- July 23, 1990 – Br. Regis Antonin died in Shanghai.
- July 25, 1965 – Br. Marie Pastor died in St. Genis-Laval.
- July 26, 1942 – Br. Joseph Victoric died in Shanghai.

# *Our Prayer:*

Good Father,  
we are grateful for your company on the journey of life,  
you walk with us in faith, hope, and love.

Thank you, Lord, for calling us to be your disciples.  
Confident in your words – “Do not be afraid”–, we overcome our fears and hesitations and commit ourselves to following you.

Mary, our Good Mother,  
we count on you in moments of doubt and dryness of heart. Deliver us from the fruitless search for false consolations and,  
through your maternal intercession and the support of our brothers,  
help us to overcome all obstacles and to complete our journey.

Father Champagnat, with your guidance,  
we long to advance, step by step, with hearts full of gratitude,  
and encouraged by the witness and fidelity of those brothers  
who have gone before us.

*(Rule of Life #65)*



*Let us remember in our prayers the eternal repose of the soul of Francis Nacianceno, 93 years old, father of Joe Nacianceno of Marist School, Marikina.*