



Letter from the Provincial

Greetings to all Brothers and Lay Marists:

In the Province, we have had several Brothers, Novices, and Lay Marists who were diagnosed COVID-positive. Thankfully, they all recovered. However, there were some friends and even some relatives who died because of this disease. Let us remember them in our prayers.

Though the situation has been bleak most of the time because of lockdowns, quarantines, sickness, and deaths, there are also events or news that need to be celebrated.

I am glad to inform you that almost 80 percent of our brothers in the Province have been vaccinated. Most of those who are yet to be vaccinated are scheduled to receive their shots on August 27.

Both the Notre Dame of Marbel University and the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University received government recognition during the “Gawad Parangal” for Higher Education Institutions last July 23.

We are now looking forward for the completion of the renovation of the Province Center which target date is on August 25th.

Br. Melchor Nowelle is nearing the end of his novitiate and has been accepted for first profession. Meanwhile, Br. Arnel will celebrate his Silver Jubilee on September 8 in Kidapawan.

On August 21, a seminar on “Engaging Parents in Creating Cyberspace Home” for the parents of our students had 1,000 attendees. Many more wanted to attend but were not able to get in because the Zoom account used was limited to 1,000 participants.

During the Council meeting last August 6, we approved the following:

- Br. Melchor Nowelle Solinap’s application for First Profession of Vows. The liturgy will be celebrated on September 11 in Samoa.
- Creation of the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center Vision-Mission Team composed of the following:
 1. Br. Rustico Lumbo, FMS – Chair
 2. Br. Hilario Sevilla, FMS
 3. Br. Aljon Yonder, FMS
 4. Ms. Almera Ibanez
 5. Dr. Noemi Silva
 6. Dr. Gina de Guzman
 7. Dr. Alma Hordista

- Renaming the Ecology Task Force as Ecology Ministry. New members were added to the team and a new chairperson was appointed. The team is composed of:
 1. Mr. Jose Nacienceno – Chair
 2. Br. Christopher Gorit, FMS
 3. Br. Armando Mana-ay, FMS
 4. Mr. Edgar Taer
 5. Br. Yohan Oh, FMS
 6. Br. Aljon Yonder, FMS
 7. Mr. Jano Vargas Dalumpines
 8. Ms. Leann Jester Daus Rosali
 9. Ms. Luzviminda Jaban
 10. Ms. Mary June Gonzales
 11. Mr. Ronald A. Lim

- The new composition of the Marist Youth Ministry:
 1. Br. Dionesio Acosta Jr., FMS
 2. Br. Jeffrey Guino-o, FMS
 3. Br. Jo-an Legaste, FMS
 4. Br. Jick de Leon, FMS
 5. Dr. Wilter Friaes
 6. Dr. Ivy Yecyec

- The creation of the Province Investment Committee with the following members:
 1. Br. Romulo Porras, FMS
 2. Br. Manuel V. de Leon, FMS
 3. Br. Arnel S. Alfanta, FMS
 4. Br. Paterno S. Corpus, FMS
 5. Ms. Merlyn Gomez
 6. Mr. Kenneth Anino, CPA
 7. Ms. Joanne Java, CPA
 8. Ms. Gelyn Niño franco

An updated list of the East Asia Province Commissions, Committees and Teams is attached.

- In principle, the budget of all communities and ministries subject to minor adjustments.

Because of the pandemic, the way we conduct meetings changed drastically. From being face-to-face, they are now done using the online platform most of the time. I hope that things will get better soon. I would love to see each one of you in person. In the meantime, though, let us be content with just talking and listening to one another through the electronic visual display.

Let us continue to pray for those who are sick and for the end of the pandemic.
God bless, everyone.


Br. Dominador A. Santiago, FMS

Province Updates :

From The Korea-Japan Sector

Br. Alfredo Herrera, FMS



Every week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, Fr. Joseph Kim Soe Eul (affiliated to the Korea Sector) comes to our place in Seoul, stays at the Education Center and celebrates Mass for the Brothers. Last August 4, Br. Domingo Lee, Coordinator of the Sector, gave Fr. Joseph a copy of the new Constitutions and Statutes and the Rule of Life which just arrived from Rome. We can see a photo of that moment.

Some weeks ago, we mentioned that Br. Paul is running a group study on the book "Truly our Sister" that presents a new understanding of the person and role of Mary in the Church for our time. This is a book

written by Sr. Elizabeth Johnson on Mary from a feminist theological perspective. The original study group was using the book in English to study and share. However, since some of the members had difficulty in reading the original text in English, Br. Paul has been translating chapter by chapter, as we study them. After doing the translation, he asked a group of ladies to help him in polishing the



translated text. Eventually, these other three ladies became a second study group, this time using the Korean version of the book.



With these same ladies, Br. Paul also discussed and worked with the issue of global warming and the development of an integral ecological consciousness. You can see a couple of photos of these two activities: the study group of "Truly our Sister" and the making of some posters for the development of an integral ecological consciousness.



Marist Schools Asia Leaders' Conference

Ms. Leann Jester Daus Rosali

"In the 22nd General Chapter, the New La Valla, the New Beginning, we were called to be beacons of hope, to be light in the middle of darkness, to be hands of mercy, to be bridge-builders and peacemakers, and to journey together as a global family.", Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, FMS, Director of Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, shared the inspiration for establishing



the Global Network of Marist Schools. "Building the Marist mission network is a good way to realize the Marist life and mission," he emphasized.



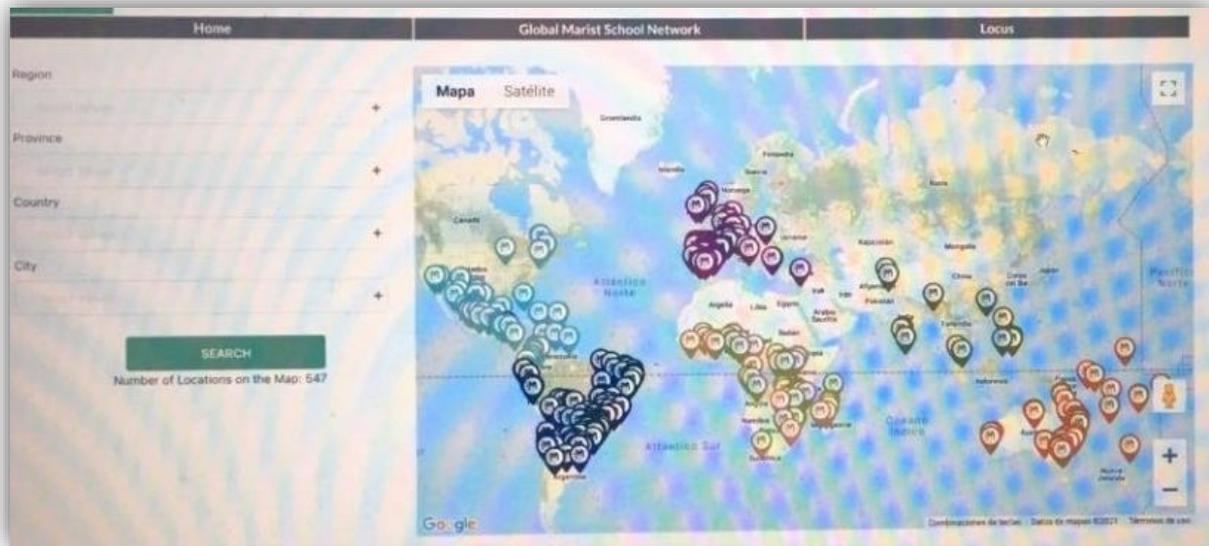
Responding to the call to become a global family, thirty-five Marist school leaders, directors and principals, a mix of Marist Brothers and laity, convened in a virtual Marist Schools Asia Leaders' Conference last August 18. They were from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, and Cambodia.

With the theme, "Gathered Around the Same Table: Moving Towards Global Network of Schools," the Marist school leaders were enriched by the talk about Marist Leadership by Br. Max Meier, FMS, and an orientation on Marist Global Network of Schools by Br. Carlos Alberto.

"Champagnat always responded, not reacted, to problems and upcoming problems." as underscored by Br. Max. He was challenging Marist school leaders to stay relevant by responding to the mission as a network. "The Marist tradition about good leadership is anchored in community-building. It is about service, leadership without ego," he added.

The Marist leaders were invited to seize the opportunity to work together for the Marist mission by connecting people and educational institutions. "As a global family, we need to create new models on how to move the Marist mission and the Marist life. The way to do it is through the network. The concept of networking is not only about connecting the Marists of Champagnat around the world but how to live together with one single purpose of creating evangelical communities in our schools," said Br. Carlos Alberto.

Initiated by the Br. Dominador Santiago, FMS, the Provincial of East Asia Province, the Marist Schools Asia Leaders' Conference was a preparatory activity to launch the Marist Global Network of Schools in October 2021.



The conference culminated with a simple yet meaningful invitation to all Marist school leaders. "Let us walk as one global family," said Br. Allan de Castro, FMS.



Philippine Sector Community Leaders Hold A Meeting

Br. Romulo Porras, FMS

All twelve community leaders of the Philippine Sector and the Provincial participated in a meeting held on August 20. Those who were physically present with Br. Ador in the Province Center were Br. Rommel Ocasiones, Community Leader of Cotabato and the chairperson, Br. Danny Sevilla of Our Lady of Fourviere Formation Center, Br. Wency Paterno of Tamontaka and Br. Romy Porras of Lagao. Those who connected online were the following: Br. Mark Roberth Laurea of Jolo, Br. Frank Salcedo of Malutok, Br. Manny Uluan of Marikina, Br. Rustico Lumbo of Lake Sebu, Br. Arman Mana-ay of Kidapawan, Br. Pat Corpus of Marbel, Br. Niño Pizarro of Dadiangas and Br. Crispin Betita of Marcellin Homes.



The meeting started at 9:00 in the morning and ended at 4:00 in the afternoon, with a break from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The main features of the meeting were the sharing of updates from each community including how they are going with their respective Community Life Plans for school year 2021-2022, the concerns raised by some Brothers and the Sector/Province updates and information given by Br. Ador.

Communities Celebration In The Province

Happy Assumption Day!!! Our cook for the evening meal was Br. Steve. (Dadiangas Community)



Lake Sebu Community celebrates Br. Aljon's birthday and the Feast of the Assumption



Missioning Ceremony For Ms. Lizeal Igoy

EAST ASIA PROVINCE MARIST PROVINCE CENTER
MOUL-BED Laguna Campus
Lagoo, General Santos City, Philippines
Tel: (095) 822-2946, 801-2842
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Marist School
MARIKINA CITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Marist VOLUNTEERS
EAST ASIA PROVINCE

Marist School First Quarterly Personnel Mass & Personnel General Assembly
and
Missioning Liturgy & Rite
for
Ms. Maria Lizeal Narciso Igoy

As Marist Lay Missionary Volunteer, carrying out God's mission in the way of the Marist and in communion with the Marist Brothers and Marist Lay Mission Partners in the Marist Mission in Atlantis, Cape Town, South Africa, especially to the young people and the youth on the margins.

About Atlantis: This is a town some 20km outside of Capetown in South Africa. It was developed in the apartheid era as an industrial center to provide employment for 'colored' people. Investment has declined but the people have stayed on. The community works on weekdays at a primary school and a secondary school: as classroom assistants in the morning and organizing sports and cultural activities in the afternoon. The Marist presence for the moment is one of collaboration with the local Church and NGOs working with the large number of children and youth in a variety of youth activities, leadership training, and holiday camps. The community lives in a large house half an hour's drive from Atlantis.

AUGUST 16, 2021
8:00 A.M.
Philippine Standard Time

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES
gifted to give

Photos during the presentation of symbol and missioning rites.



CPD Organizes Webinar On Engaging Parents In Creating Cybersafe Home

The Child Protection Desk of the East Asia Province organized a webinar for parents last August 21. This was conducted in coordination with CyberguardiansPH, a non-government organization which spearheads initiatives in keeping children safe and protected from all forms of cyberthreats. A total of one thousand attendees who are parents of students enrolled in Marist schools participated in the said event conducted via Zoom.

Ms. Genalyn Macalinao, Policy Head, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Cybersecurity Bureau, spoke about parenting in the digital age and avoiding social media threats. Mrs. Ma. Concepcion Sangil, presented the cybercrime situation in the Philippines and the need to heed the call to take action and be part of this one-nation approach in combatting cyberthreats for the sake of children and youth.

The event concluded with Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS, the Coordinator of the Child Protection Desk, thanking the CyberguardiansPH and the Resource Persons for their valuable input. He stressed

in his message that the inspiration behind all these initiatives for the safety and protection of children is St. Marcellin whose desire is for the best interest and welfare of children and the youth. Mrs. Ma. Lucia Fe Palma, Child Protection Officer, leads the organization of the event and the coordination of upcoming events by the CyberguardiansPH:

- August 25, 2021 - Training for Cyber Youth Warriors
Open to 14-19 years old (High School)
- August 31, 2021 - Training for Cyber Youth Champions
Open to Young Adults 20 – 24 or College Level Students
- September 3, 2021 - Training and Mentoring Team
Young Professionals up to 35 years old.



Fully Alive! - 6th Spiritual Formation Session For Lay Leaders

Last August 20, the laity leaders met with Br. Graham Neist, FMS for their 6th Spiritual Formation Session. This time, the theme reflected on was grateful living. Highlighted in the session was cultivating awareness of and appreciation for the fullness of our lives.

Towards the end of the session, participants reflected on their experience for the past months and shared to the group its impact on one's personal life. To all, the sessions in the Spiritual Formation were very helpful and faith-nourishing. Sincere gratitude was expressed to Br. Graham for his accompaniment.



Fully Alive sessions continue in its monthly schedule every 2nd Friday of the month and is open to those who wish to join and discover more what it takes to be fully alive! #maristlayvocation

THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

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Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



The following article from the internet was contributed by Br. Allen Timola. Br. Allen is presently a member of the Marist Community in Kobe, Japan.

This is the second and the last of two articles in this topic.

THE MARIST BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN KOBE, JAPAN

January 17, 1995

At 5:46, on January 17, 1995, the Great Hanshin earthquake struck. Measuring 6.9 and lasting for 20 seconds, the quake resulted in 6,434 lives lost and widespread devastation in the city and surrounding region. The school was not spared. The experience of the Brothers on the campus was recorded in the Boston Globe:

BR. VINCENT MORIARTY ('56) of Westfield, Massachusetts, was taking his morning shower in the residence at the Marist Brothers International School near Kobe when the earthquake hit this week. "It was like being a ping pong ball in a bottle," he said with a small laugh on the telephone yesterday. "I don't know why I wasn't cut by flying glass and tile. One of the Brothers came in to help, and I grabbed a blanket and got out." ...Brothers Vincent and Augustine spoke of the terror that surrounded them. "There was an 80-year-old woman trapped in a house near us," Brother Vincent said. "It was an old style home that just collapsed. Brother Gus tore away the timbers, and we got the woman out. She's now staying in our gymnasium. So are a dry-cleaning couple whose shop was near the school; their house was on fire and the neighbors pulled them to safety." Though the school has a huge crack down the middle, much structural damage, and one wing separated from the main building, its gym remained intact! Everything around the school just flattened," Brother Gus said, "but our gym is quite sturdy. Now we have 800 people sleeping there or living in our school bus or anything else that's livable." After the quake the Brothers set up a soup kitchen. "We had earthquake soup," Brother Vincent said. "Anything you could find to mix together." Brother Landry, who has been at the school for 27 years, was asleep on the third floor of the residence when the quake hit. "They always tell you to get under the doorsill in an earthquake, but they never tell you how to get to the doorsill. Everything was flying through the room. We always thought Kobe was safe from the quakes," he said. The Brothers are trying to account for the 275 youngsters who attend classes there. "Some of our children live in areas completely devastated by fire," Brother Vincent said. ... "It will take some time before things get back to normal at the school," the Brothers said, "but first we must tend to the living."

Although the administration building and gym had withstood the quake, the two classroom wings were damaged beyond repair. An ambitious renovation plan had now turned into a near-impossible reconstruction dream. The Marist Brothers organization simply could not provide the funds required to rebuild the school. It seemed as if the school's doors would close forever, and, thus would end its history. However, the school community rallied, and with amazing fortitude and determination, they secured loans and funds that would literally raise the school from the ashes.

On February 20, 1995, a mere five weeks after the earthquake, students returned to their school. Prefabricated classrooms were in place and students had to contend with the sounds of construction all around. This would continue until March, 1997, when a new classroom building was officially opened. Other struggles would remain, including a 30-year repayment plan that would severely limit any further growth. The Brothers would also gradually withdraw their formal involvement with the school, and by 2004, the school was operated and staffed by lay administrators and teachers. The Brothers still retain a presence on campus, as the rebuilding also included the construction of a Mission Centre. One of the first Japanese Brothers, Brother Yoshida, still resides at the Mission Centre, and Brother Ramon, who served in Japan for over 60 years, returned to Spain in 2018.

Regrowth

The economic recession in Japan, beginning in the 1990s, coupled with the financial crisis of 2008, has had a significant impact on international education in Japan. Kobe itself has yet to regain its position as a top commercial center in Japan. Nevertheless, MBIS has rebounded strongly. The British curriculum was replaced with an American one, and in 2017 the school added an international component, becoming an IB World School, and offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma as a graduation pathway. In 2018 it became one of the fastest-growing international schools in the region, with a record number of students, testing the capacity of the current buildings and facilities. The school will soon celebrate 70 years of service to the people of Kobe, and looks set to remain strong for many, many years to come. ###

Second and last of the two articles.

<https://www.marist.ac.jp/about-us/history>



Death Anniversaries:

August 24, 1945 – Br. Marie Prudent died in Beijing.

August 24, 1962 – Br. Jules Sermondadaz.

August 24, 2004 – Br. Leo Bauer died in Germany.

August 24, 2013 – Manuel Villareal Castelazo (Affiliated Member) died in Mexico City.

August 26, 1956 – Br. J.M. Theophane died in Beijing.

August 28, 2016 – Br. Fernando Armendez died in the Philippines.

Let us pray for the following:

- For the Family members of Mrs. Ophelia Marcelino (Retired Teacher of Marist School), Benito Cruz (her father), Florencia Amante (her Aunt), Paula and Nigel, Mayan (her cousins) and nephew Gabin who are battling with Covid 19.
- For all the departed Brothers, Family, Benefactors, Affiliates and friends.
- For healing and comfort of those who were tested positive for COVID-19.
- For giving abundant measures of grace to missionaries around the world.
- For our schools / universities, students, teachers, administrators and alumni.
- For the employees who lost their jobs due to pandemic, that God may continue to provide for their needs.
- For Medical Doctors, Nurses, Medical Technicians, Caregivers and those working in the Medical Laboratories.
- For the end of the pandemic.
- For good health and protection of all the members of the Marist Family.
- For our Brothers working in other countries.
- For more vocation to the religious life.
- For the intentions of our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.
- For all birthday celebrants for the month of August.