

UPDATES:

ASIAN MARIST NOVITIATE IN TAMONTAKA 2021-2023



Br. Jefriano (E Timor)



Br. Monoj (India)



Br. Augustin (India)



Br. Norberto (E Timor)

Having a novitiate in the Philippines is a project finalized by the leaders of Asia and Oceania (Administrative heads of East Asia, South Asia, MDA, Australia and the Pacific) late last year at the height of the pandemic. The Philippines was chosen to receive the postulants from Davao. Since the other candidates could not travel out of their countries, they were told to have their novitiate in their home country with a Brother as accompagnateur. The 2nd year novitiate is still in Sri Lanka due to the fact that the 1st year novices just finished their canonical year. That time, Br. Paco Garcia was already designated as novice master. For a time, he was in Sri Lanka, but had to come back to the Philippines for the final negotiation and takeover of Brother Hoan Castro. Due to lockdown, he and Br. Ly, a 2nd year novice from Vietnam, had to settle with the novitiate group in Tamontaka.

Br. Pepito Mahong was requested to be novice master in early January. With him in the staff, Brothers Paco, Wency Paterno and Ted Fernandez were to help him organize and determine the set-up for the next two years. By March 2, Br. Pepito was already in the novitiate with Br. Wency helping out in the preparation. Brothers Paco and Ly joined them on the 6th of March. Due to community constraints as community leader in Kidapawan, Br. Ted could only attend the 2nd organizational meeting in



Br. Cuong (Vietnam)



Br. Feliciano (E Timor)



Br. Mai (Vietnam)



Br. Rogerio (E Timor)



Br. Damiao (E Timor)

Tamontaka on March 26 and 27, and settled in as a member of the community on April 7th. By this time, the details of the planning have been achieved (cleaning, & fixing the house, buying and installing the necessary fixtures like electric fans, freezer, fridge, washing machine, electrical wirings, etc.)



Br. Cuong (Vietnam)

The postulants from Davao arrived on April 13th. The community is grateful to NDKC thru Br. Arnel who provided the school bus to fetch them in Davao and bring the postulants to the novitiate. Orientation with Br. Pepito was for 3 days and on the 17th, the group had a tour of the city.

April 19th was the investiture of 14 postulants. The ceremony was on line for the families, Brothers, and friends in East Timor, Vietnam, India, Sr. Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific islands and the Philippines to attend and observe the ceremony. The last days of April were aimed at meeting with the neighboring OND and OMI novices, attending the on-line symposia on cyber-guardians and birthday celebration for the 2 novices on the last Saturday.



Br. Ly, 2nd year novice (Vietnam)

National Days have been celebrated (East Timor Day on May 20 with Brothers Damiao, Felis, Joel, Norbert, Roger, Jeff, Minho and Paolo organizing); the Philippine Day (June 12) was organized by the Filipinos – Brothers Wency, Pepito and Ted; Brothers Augustine and Monoj led the India Day on August 15 and the Vietnam Day by Brothers Mai, Ly and Cuong on September 15.



Br. Paco

So far, the following decided to leave us: Nguyen Huu Dan (Vietnam) on June 24 and the 3 East Timorese – Belarmino Quintao, Paolo Martins and Igidio Mendonca on August 19. Meanwhile, Br. Paco continued his contact with the second year novices from East Timor, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands “on line” in his classes, accompaniment and meetings. He was also in direct communication with his substitute novice masters in those countries. The only drawback is the occasional failure of the internet to connect. Br. Ly of Vietnam was the only one in direct contact with Br. Paco.

The staff has its own task to follow: Br. Pepito as novice master deals with the novices directly in classes (Scripture, Conferences and Music), monthly interviews, daily scheduling, manualia, recreations and prayers. Br. Wency Paterno as community leader handles the weekly marketing, supervised work and accompaniment for two novices. He has recently accepted to teach English. Br. Ted handles the finances, teaches Constitutions twice a week, handles accompaniment for 7



**Present formators
Br. Ted Fernandez, Br. Pepito Mahong and
Br. Wency Paterno**

Brothers and spiritual direction for one. He also handles the secretarial / community documentations and speech practices.



Water tubing adventure

In early August the community had its first break (August 2 – 6). The Brothers visited several Marist establishments in the South – NDMU, NDDU, Province Center, Marcellin Homes and some time for relaxation in Glan and Lake Sebu.

Some modular inputs on Discernment (June 12) and Genogram (Oct. 21) by Sr. Estrella, OND; Contemplative Prayer (Fr. Tony Pueyo) on Sept. 6 to 9; Scriptures by Fr. Yoniz, OMI in October for 3 sessions with the ONDs and OMI

postulants ; 3 sessions each in August was conducted for Music by Mr. Ali and basketball laboratory with Mr. Mike Undar. Both are currently at NDC as teachers.

The second break (semestral break actually) was held in the first week of October right after their desert day. The break started with a retreat (Oct. 8 - 11) by Fr. Ed Verdadero at the OND Spirituality Center in Gen. Santos City. On the 11th we were guided to Maitum where the group visited the local museum of the local tribes and their burial grounds, enjoyed water-tubing ride at the river rapids and had a meal, prayer and Mass with the Baustista Family, a relative-friend of Br. Ted. The group also took the rarely taken route of Palimbang to Lebak. It was a quick and smooth ride that passed thru Milbuk and Kalamansig. While at Lebak the group had a learning tour of the expansive mangrove. Each planted a tree at the shallow mangrove. The journey back to Cotabato via Upi Nuro was quick yet we arrived Tamontaka at about 7:30 pm.



During retreat

So far, the evaluations of the two outings have been so favorable that the pandemic has not totally waned the enthusiasm of the group; yet care and protection were still foremost.

Br. Ly, our 2nd year novice, left for Vietnam on October 15. In Manila, he was joined by the other 4 Vietnamese from MAPAC who were locked down for months in Manila. The group was quarantined in Saigon after arrival. Ly had his family visit after quarantine and now, continues his novitiate with Br. Kim as his mentor.

Br. Paco, the official novice master of the Sri Lanka novitiate, is a member of the International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide. The Brothers in Rome who take charge of the commission called for a face-to-face meeting at Alicante, Spain. Since Paco is now free to travel to Spain, he secured the necessary papers within a week. He flew from Davao to Manila; in the evening, to Madrid via Qatar on October 27th. Thus far, his schedule for the meeting, family visit and preparation to travel to Sri Lanka in early January next year is his concern.

We surely appreciate the presence of Br. Paco in the staff. He was an encouraging support to Brothers Pepito, Wency and Ted. His orderliness, sense of humor and deep sense of Brotherhood left us an indelible mark in the formation of our young Brothers.

Thank you, Brother Paco, and best wishes in your new assignment in Sri Lanka....!

Activity Photos:





Asian Marist Novitiate in Tamontaka

MARCELLIN HOMES COMMUNITY

Katangawan, General Santos City. Philippines

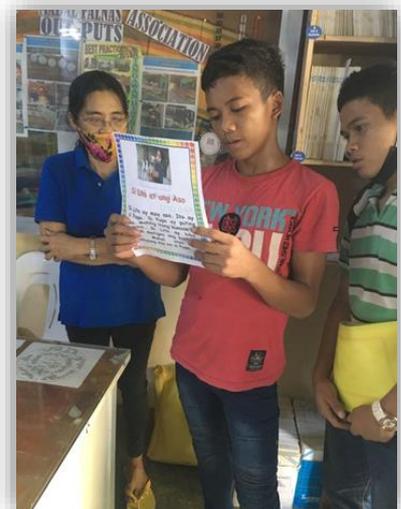


DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – GENSAN:

Bro. Crispin (middle) and Bro. Cristino (right), went to DEPED-Gensan and discussed with Honorable ROMELITO G. FLORES, CESO V matters relating to the academic situation of the boys of Marcellin. Mr. Flores is currently the Schools Division Superintendent of DEPED-GENSAN.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM:

This is a typical learning session at ALS-Tinagacan, where one of the boys is learning how to read aloud, while Ms. Sorayda Gulle, teacher, guides them.

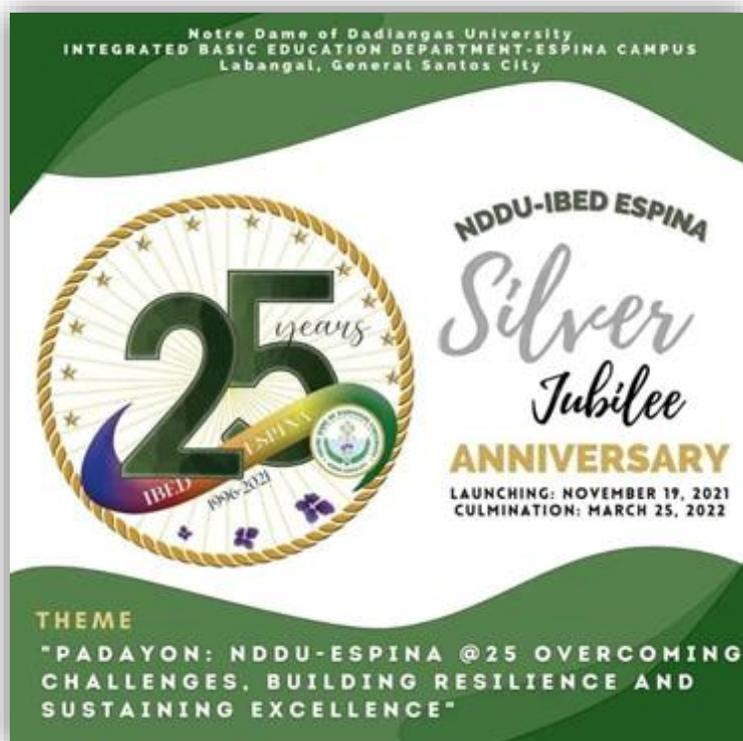


BARANGAY KATANGAWAN:

Marcellin Foundation is situated at Barangay Katangawan, General Santos City. Last November 19, the boys attended the twin occasion of Bgy. Katangawan; namely, the State of the Children's Address by the Barangay Captain – Ms. Rodriguez and the celebration of the National Children's Month. The photo shows the two Barangay Kagawad of the Katangawan handing out a sack of rice to Bro. Cristino and some of the boys of Marcellin Foundation.



NDDU-IBED ESPINA LAUNCHES ITS SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Twenty-five years of significant presence brings great joy and happiness to the lives of many who have been touched by NDDU-IBED Espina.

From its humble beginnings in 1996, with 153 pupils from Grade 1 to Grade 3 it evolved to what NDDU-IBED Espina is today. It offers a complete Basic Education Program. Thanks to Mr. Roberto Urgelio for his generosity in donating this piece of land and to the late Bro. Wilfredo Lubrico, FMS and Bro Robert McGovern, FMS, the Marist Brothers, and NDDU Administration for the foresight and decisiveness and action for starting and laying out the foundation of Espina campus.

For 25 years, IBED Espina has been blessed with countless blessings: From the land to the construction of buildings and facilities donated by the benevolent donors and benefactors;

Scholarship grants from government and private organizations; The recognition of the Basic Education Program of the Department of Education; The PAASCU and ISO Accreditations just to

mention a few. All these achievements and successes would not be possible without the previous and present NDDU administration. They deserved our recognition and appreciation.



On November 19, 2021, NDDU-IBED Espina has officially launched its 25th Foundation Anniversary celebration with the theme “PADAYON: NDDU-IBED Espina at 25 Overcoming Challenges, Building Resilience, and Sustaining Excellence.” A Eucharistic celebration was held at the Kapilya San Marcelino in Espina campus. It was live-streamed via Zoom, YouTube, and the FB page of IBED Espina. Rev. Fr. Manuel Alfred Bayta, CP was the Mass celebrant. The school administrators, headed by Br. Manuel V. de Leon, FMS, faculty and personnel, PTAA officers, parents, SSC officers, student representatives, and some guests were present during the Mass. A simple lunch was served at the covered court to end the morning’s program.

In the afternoon, the part II of the program was resumed via an online platform. This included messages from Br. Allan de Castro, FMS, the Vice Provincial and Br. Manuel V. de Leon, FMS, the university president. The Jubilee logo was also unveiled and presented. This Silver Jubilee celebration is a yearlong celebration. It will culminate on March 25, 2022.

For 25 years, IBED ESPINA has been faithful to its mission of evangelization through education by making Jesus known and loved. Since its humble beginnings in 1996, IBED Espina has been providing quality Marist Education to the people in the area. It has produced quality graduates who are today Christian leaders and competent professionals serving in the community and our society.

As we mark this school’s milestone, I enjoin all of you to celebrate with us this momentous event in the life and history of IBED ESPINA Campus.



GELYN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Lagao Community Brothers and house personnel, Province Office Staff and Sagip Ka Personnel celebrated Gelyn's birthday on November 15. Gelyn's actual birthday was on Sunday, Nov. 14, Gelyn is the province secretary and the lay-out artist of our weekly News Bits.

The event was a celebration of God's goodness and blessings.



Gelyn shared her thanksgiving for the gift of life by sharing food with the children of Marcellin Homes.

Happy birthday Ma'am Gelyn!



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#57

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



BRIEF HISTORY OF NDDU IBED ESPINA CAMPUS¹



On January 13, 1993, Mr. Roberto V. Urgelio of Agri Corporation donated a five-hectare piece of land to Notre Dame of Dadiangas College and after three years, the initial construction of Notre Dame of Dadiangas College-Espina Campus began. On March 27, 1996, the ground breaking ceremony took place and finally in June 1996, the Espina Campus opened and began accepting Grade 1 to Grade 3 pupils. A socialized tuition scheme was adopted for the purpose of making Marist Education accessible to all. The school was placed under the supervision of





Kapilya ni San Marcellino

Dr. Alma S. Hordista, the Principal of the Elementary Training Department. The first commencement exercise for the Elementary was held in March of the year 2000. The High School Department was opened in School Year 2000-2001 as an extension of the Lagao Campus. Kapilya San Marcelino was constructed in 1999 and in the same year, the second building was constructed.

In 2002, the application for separate recognitions for both elementary and high school was granted and so during school year 2002-2003, the Espina Campus was re-named “Notre Dame of Dadiangas College – Integrated Basic Education Department, Espina Campus” then on June 24, 2006 Notre Dame of Dadiangas College become Notre Dame of Dadiangas University.

At present, the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University – Integrated Basic Education Department, Espina Campus looks forward to more innovation to uphold its commitment for Quality Education.

<https://www.schoolandcollegelistings.com/PH/General-Santos-City/106282391086583/NDDU--IBED-Espina-Campus>

¹NDDU IBED Espina Campus is located in Barangay Labangal, General Santos City, 7.3 kilometers from NDDU main campus, passing through Doña Soledad Subdivision.



Death Anniversaries:

November 23, 1964 – Br. Ernest died in Beijing.

November 26, 1947 – Br. Louis Norbert died in Beijing.

November 29, 1903 – Br. Pierre Pascal died in Chungking.

November 29, 1956 – Br. Marius Bressoud died in France.

November 29, 1978 – Br. Lece Clet died in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

November 30, 1961 – Br. Louis Honore died in Heilongjiang.



Let us pray...

- ✚ For all the departed Brothers, Family members and friends.
- ✚ For all our sick Brothers, relatives, friends, alumni, members of the Marist Family, especially for Br. Ador.
- ✚ For our Brothers in mission.
- ✚ For more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For peace and unity.
- ✚ For our schools / universities, students, teachers, administrators and alumni.
- ✚ For the employees who lost their jobs due to pandemic, that may God continue to provide their needs.
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for this third week of November.
- ✚ For the intentions of our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.