



Updates:

KIDAPAWAN COMMUNITY AND MISSION

By: Br. Demosthenes A. Calabria, FMS

While enjoying our much-awaited community outing at White Haven Beach Resort recently, I received a call from the Provincial who asked me for two things. And obviously one of the things he asked was to write a *short* article about our community and mission in Kidapawan for the News Bits this week. Though it is always a privilege to share something in this weekly newsletter, I found it very difficult to think of a topic to write apart from the usual narration of events and pictures of the community activities, which can already be found on Facebook and other social media accounts of the Brothers these days.



So, I decided to look from within and asked myself this question: “*What are my life-giving experiences here in Kidapawan?*” The very first thought that came to my mind was my community. I realized how lucky I am to be part of this community of five (5) Brothers, different individuals in terms of talents and gifts, personalities and temperaments, interests and hobbies, just to mention a few. The longer I live with them, the

more I see their uniqueness and appreciate their giftedness as we share the mission of making Jesus known and loved through our respective roles in the school and in the community.

I am personally moved by a Brother’s simple gesture of kindness of setting the meal table especially on Sundays, or offering to prepare for breakfast or lunch when we have no cook,



preparing some refreshment drinks and desserts, and taking care of potted plants and flowers that add beauty to our surroundings. Another Brother inspires me through his diligence in making sure that the community does not run out of supplies especially food, drinks and groceries and providing the financial needs of the Brothers. Another Brother who is trying to be present and faithful to community prayers and daily Masses is also edifying.

To see a busy Brother who gives time and sits down with the community during Happy Hour, sings some songs that help the community relax and enjoy each other's company, is amazing. Another Brother, who takes good care of animals, nature and ecology, and values beauty and rest, is really motivating. These simple acts of the Brothers build the community. Thanks to our Community Leader who is always present physically. I guess, animating a community of 5 Brothers is as difficult as running a College of 163 personnel and 2,739 students. This is our first mission, *'to love one another as I have loved you.'*



MARIST FORMATION FOR ND KIDAPAWAN COLLEGE PERSONNEL



The Human Resource Office of the ND Kidapawan College organized a Marist Formation Session with their faculty and staff last December 3, 2021, Friday. The formation sessions were focused on the Marist Charism and the Marist Core values. Mrs. Christine Aganon Ruiz, the Director of Human Capital Management Office, expressed the importance of the said formation especially for those newly hired personnel and staff. Ms. Ivy Yecyec co-facilitated the event with Ms. Agnes Reyes as the Resource Person.

Marist School Marikina Parents Teachers Association joins the Marist School Socio Economic & Ecological Program

By: Mrs. Chichi Robles, MSMPTA
President 2021-2022

Representatives of MSMPTA Chichi Robles, President & Albert Biason Vice-President met with Marist School Socio Economic and Ecological Program Head,

Bro. Christopher Gorit, FMS last November 19, 2021. We discussed the school plans and project on how we can contribute to the calling of Pope Francis' Integral Ecology. We are called to solidarity as steward of the earth. Our deep regard for the dignity of every person commands us to cultivate a climate of life where each of God's children thrive and join with creation in praising our Creator. Subsequently, he would call for a global ecological conversion.

This year the Pope launched the Vatican's 7-year Laudato Si' action plan to implement environmental sustainability in different sectors of the Church, including the religious orders, hospitals and Catholic schools. And as a Catholic school, Marist is planning to be a part of this 7-year plan.



Marist School Advent Recollection for Parents and Guardians

Ninety-two parents of the Marist School Marikina Parent Teacher Association attended the advent recollection last Saturday, December 4, 2021. "*Paglalakbay, Pagninilay at Paghahanda sa Pagsilang ni Hesus*" was the theme which was facilitated by Ms. Agnes S, Reyes, Co-director of Marist Laity, Rome and Coordinator of Laity Desk, Marist East Asia Province. Participants prayed, read the Gospel, reflected, journaled, contemplated and offered intentions for

their families and for one another. In silence, each one was led to embrace the meaning of advent as each message of the lighted candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love unfolded in the spiritual experience. The parent's shared God is calling them to be more generous, understanding, forgiving, helpful, empathizing, and to bring hope, love, joy and peace as they prepare for the birth of our Lord in this Season of Advent.



BR. JICK DE LEON'S 30TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



An Invitation
to...


MARIST ECOLOGY MINISTRY

09 DECEMBER 2021 | 7:30 PM | VIA ZOOM

A FORUM ON COP26

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY
01-12 NOV 2021
GLASGOW

GUEST SPEAKERS

MR. NADAREY "YEB" SAÑO
Executive Director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia
Former Philippine Climate Change Commissioner

MS. MARINEL UBALDO
Philippine Climate Activist at COP26
Speaker at UN Climate Conference

Meeting ID: 893 7400 7932 | Passcode: COP26



Join us for
Prayer and
Reflection

**Prayer and Reflection on the Eve of the
Feast of Mary, the
Immaculate Conception**

Date: December 07, 2021, Tuesday
Time: 07:00 – 08:30 PM, Philippines Time

Spirituality of the Heart.

Resource Person: BR. OSCAR MARTIN, FMS
General Councilor

ZOOM Meeting ID: 824 0368 7007
Passcode: 591766



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#59

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



THE FLIGHT OF ALL TIMES?¹

The following article is an account of the plane trip of Bro. Thomas Austin accompanied by Bro. Edmund Conrad Paradis from Marbel to Cotabato after his visit of the Marbel community. Bro. Thomas was the Provincial of the American Province of the Marist Brothers visiting the Philippine Mission in 1950. He was the Provincial Superior from 1947 to 1953. Br. Edmund Conrad, also known as Sparky, was the first director of Marbel.(Thanks to Bro. Paul Meuten for emailing me this information).

Provincial Bro. Thomas Austin came and Bro. Edmund “Sparky” Conrad was entrusted to bring him back to Cotabato. The account of this flight is one for Ripley’s.

It seems that Bro. Director had hoped to take the Provincial into a “real wilderness,” after having honored him with customary pass-in-review. But he writes that “his leave-taking made up for that.” Indeed, it did!

The distance by plane from Buayan to Cotabato is put at 70 km or not quite 50 miles. Thus, first south by car from Marbel to Buayan as the roads to a nearby airport in Allah Valley could be unreliable. Then, departure from Buayan and north by plane. And here we go!

In short, the start was Buayan airport, the intended destination: Cotabato² after a normal forty-minute flight. However, as the airport in Cotabato “had been condemned”, a larger plane would take the passengers to Cagayan de Oro and a smaller one from there to Cotabato.. Hence, under the best conditions, you have made a trip of about 400 kms to go 70.” And, heading from Marbel to Buayan, muddy roads made them almost miss the plane but for that one also being late. There can be a silver lining to trouble. Then a scheduled stop-over in Allah Valley, only ten miles away from Marbel, “but you don’t dare take a chance on the road” to get there. Then on to Cagayan de Oro, diversion to Davao because of bad weather which was then countermanded by the flight went right over Cotabato to Misamis. From Misamis to Cagayan, but the pilot could not find the airport and flew back to Misamis. Here the plane was ordered to Tagbilaran (we are now in Bohol!) where weather ended any further “meandering.” Torrential rains ruined the facilities of Holy Name College where the travelers had sought accommodations and they met the famous Fr. Bates, SVD, (famous as his slogan about Mercedes-Benz trucks and their performance in evacuating people after a Mayon eruption made it to print). A severe rain storm wreaked havoc on the buildings, flooded every floor, library and kitchen. A quasi miraculous attempt to reach the airport ended in not being able to return to the school and Fr. Bates and Thomas Austin sleeping there in the car while Sparky and the SVD Superior benefited from Sparky’s inventing an appropriate “white lie” about connections with the company president and slept in the plane. Next day on a puddle jumper³ back to Cagayan, breakfast at the Jesuit school, then the Ateneo de Cagayan (now Xavier University), missing their 10:00 a.m. flight which had left at 8:00 a.m. More hours of waiting, a 1:00 a.m. flight which had left at 8:00 a.m. More hours of waiting, a 1:00 p.m. flight materializes and finally Cotabato.

I estimated the distance we covered at about 1100 kms. And if we had paid for the whole plane ride it would have cost each of us 139.75 pesos. The airline took quite a beating on that, didn't it?

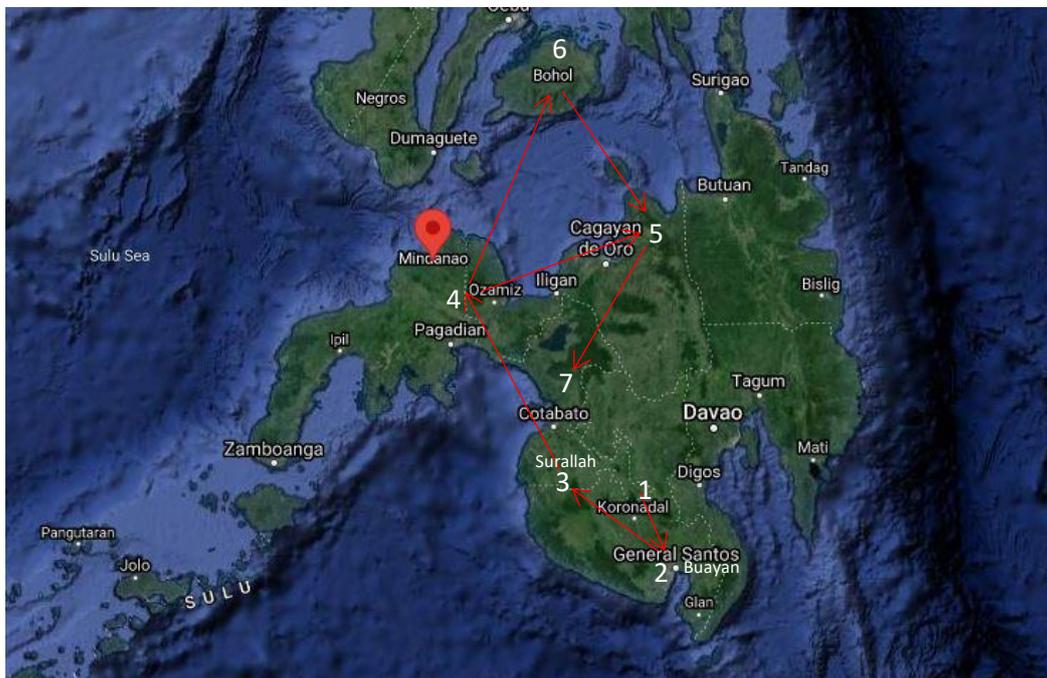
In Cotabato I did a lot of shopping and left with Brother Provincial for Cagayan on Thursday a.m. via puddle jumper. We left at six and were in Cagayan at 7:10 where we waited until nine-thirty for the Manila plane. I said goodbye to him, and saw him off.

The little adventure had started on Sunday morning at 8 a.m. and ended on Tuesday afternoon around 2 p.m. Indeed, few can claim such an “uneventful flight.” More “mechanical” plane troubles on the way back on Friday, Sparky was home in Marbel “a weary old man.” Will or can anybody really believe this story? I have omitted all the juicy comments about food or better, its unavailability. # # #

¹Meuten, Paul, FMS, *The Marist Brothers of the Schools in the Philippines, The Mission Period: 1941-1960 (A Compilation of Essays)*, Folder 1, 2014, pages 263 – 264.

²The distance from Marbel to Cotabato is 127.4 km or 2 hours, 16 min travel by car today on the cemented road.

³ a small plane



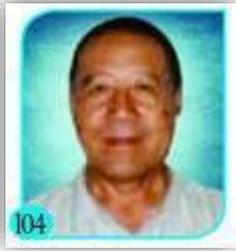
Plane's route: from Sunday morning to Tuesday afternoon.

1. From Marbel (now Koronadal City) to Buayan⁴ by car
2. From Buayan to Surallah⁵ for a stop-over
3. From Surallah to Cagayan de Oro but not able to land so onward to Misamis
4. From Misamis to Cagayan de Oro but airport could not be found so back to Misamis
5. From Misamis to Tagbilaran in Bohol for an overnight stay
6. From Tagbilaran back to Cagayan de Oro the next day
7. From Cagayan de Oro to Cotabato

⁴Buayan airport is now the General Santos City International Airport in Barangay Fatima. Philippine Airlines will start its Gensan-Kuala Lumpur-Gensan flight on December 9, 2021.

⁵Surallah Airport officially named as Allah Valley Airport has stopped its operation many years ago.

Birthday Greetings to:



December 8
Br. Norbert Wang Zhen Yong



December 9
Br. Hilario C. Sevilla



December 11
Mr. Enrique Gayda



December 13
Br. Paul (Keun-ho) Won

Death Anniversaries:

December 6, 1941 – Br. Marius Louis died in St. Genis-Laval.

December 7, 1959 – Br. Adon died in Kwongzhou.

December 8, 1945 – Bosco Wang, a junior died in Beijing.

December 9, 1879 – Br. Louis Marie, 2nd S.G. 1860-1879 died in France.

December 8, 1997 – Br. Bonaventure Cocco died in USA.

December 9, 2017 – Br. John Lek died in Singapore.

December 10, 1963 – Br. Marie Jules died in Johannesburg.

December 12, 1976 – Br. Ralph Emilius died in Hong Kong.



Let us pray...

- For the sick brothers, affiliated members, benefactors, family members, friends and students.
- For Br. John Heng who has terminal cancer.
- Br. Andrew Real Fournier, a former Manziana Administrator who has terminal colon cancer.
- For all essential workers, that God will protect them as they continue to serve others.
- For those most susceptible to the Coronavirus, that God will protect them from illness and surround them with the peace of knowing that they are loved and cared for beyond measure.
- For all our birthday celebrants, may they receive God's abundant grace in their lives.

