



# News Bits

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## PROVINCIAL'S COMMUNITY VISIT

Last January 9-11, Bro. Ador, visited the community of brothers in Notre Dame of Cotabato, Cotabato City. This was his third stop in visiting the communities after Lake Sebu and the Novitiate. His three-day visit focused on interviewing and informing the brothers about the direction and the latest update on the province. His visit concluded with the community meeting followed by a socialization with the lay partners and borders of the brothers.



## Br. Ador's Canonical Visit to Kidapawan Community

Br. Ador visited the Brothers in Kidapawan Community in January 11-13. In his annual visit, he evaluated with the Brothers the quality of their religious and apostolic life (Cons. 129). During the personal dialogue with each brother, he asked about matters about his health, ministry, relationship with the other Brothers in the



Community and his future plans. He also met the whole Community to give them some updates about the status of the Province. With the presence of the Provincial, the Community had a sumptuous dinner at Sudapin Coffee (in photo), a place few kilometers away from the community. It was our way of expressing our welcome and gratitude for his presence. He stayed on after dinner to join the usual community karaoke singing. We all cheered when Br. Joseph got another 100 score! Thank you, Br. Ador, for your visit. Indeed, the Community is happy having you with us.



## Provincial's Community Visit in Marbel

Our community was blessed by the visit of our Provincial superior last January 13-16. It was an opportunity for every community member to share his personal journey of community living and ministry with Br. Ador. He also met the community as one last January 15 in the afternoon for some important information and updates especially with the upcoming activities in the Province. Later that evening, we had our meal-out at the Farm at Carpenter Hills. Br. Ador left for Lagao early the next day. Indeed, the community is very glad and joyful for the presence and grateful for the time that Br. Ador spent with us.



During his visit, he had a lunch date with his colleagues when he was first assigned at Notre Dame of Marbel College high school department in 1992, Notre Dame of Marbel university, junior high school department now. His colleagues were Mr. Danilo Silva (Retired), Mr. Allan Sumadic (Current NDMU-IBED principal), Ms. Lucia Losaria (Current NDMU-IBED JHS Academic Head) They had lunch at The Farm hotel and restaurant and followed by a cup of coffee and dessert at The Coffee Project.

On January 15 at 2:30 PM, he had a group meeting with Brs. Rustico and Aljon, with Sr. Lalayn Macahilo, OND and Dr. Al Quillope, PhD. They discussed how to integrate the suggestions and recommendations for the document on Marist Asian Spirituality. It was decided that the document will be presented using the "See, judge, and act" method.

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## MY JOURNEY WITH THE FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN

*By Jan Maverick Rabino, NDMU Clinical Instructor*

In this very difficult time, our family was greatly devastated when we were infected with COVID-19. We had to go on isolation, and the anxiety of the unknown took a toll in my health. I questioned God during that time: "Why me, Lord? A nurse who's not practicing in the field got this virus." There must be a reason.

At the last leg of my isolation, I heard numerous stories of struggles and heartbreaks. This was my turning point to inspire these people to teach them about the disease and how to cope with it holistically. I shared to them that there will always be a light at the end of all these difficulties through the story of the Memorare in the Snow, where Marcellin's devotion to our Blessed Mother was highlighted and amplified our inspiration as Marists.



True enough, my journey did not stop there. When Ms. Elma Rafil invited me to be part of Friends of Marcellin during my isolation, the first session was the moment where I felt that the Marist spark in me ignited more than ever; this is when Bro. Lindley Sionosa, FMS shared in the session the same story of Marcellin in the Memorare in the Snow. That pivotal and serendipitous moment gave me the hindsight that I truly belong in the Marist, that there is this Marist Spirit in me that needs to be rekindled and my journey is just starting here in the Marist community. From then on, every virtual gathering with the Friends of Marcellin is an opportunity for me to reconnect, rekindle and embrace the Marist in me.

I have been always Marist by heart. As a graduate from a Marist Institution during my younger years, there is this part of me that will always yearn the Marist Spirit in my life. As I explored life as an adult, I have grown professionally and have seen the reality of life. With this, my longing for the Marist Spirit has been stronger than ever. The thirst for a Marist Family was quenched, however, when I was given the opportunity to be part of the **Friends of Marcellin**.

**MS. LIZ IGOY AND HER ACTIVITIES  
IN ATLANTIS SOUTH AFRICA IN PICTURES:**



**ST. CLARE'S SANCTUARY (shelter for abused women)**



**EMMANUEL DAY CARE**



**HOLIDAY PROGRAM**



# Love is still the answer! ❤️

By Ms. Qalista Dhony

Marist Brothers Organisation & Kaizen Borneo Wealth Advisors delivered donation items to Rumah Kanak-Kanak Bondulu Tambunan on 4.12.2021.

Little background-

We planned to have some activities with the children; however, due to changes in school dates, we had to deliver donation earlier than expected. Nevertheless, the main objective to lessen a little the burden of the children was achieved. From the donors who made this work possible, we managed to deliver basic food supplies, used books, stationery sets, pencil colours, toothpaste and toothbrush sets!

Thank you to all donors, in terms of monetary and energy support. You have made it possible. Blessings be with all of us, children in need and caretakers of children.



## The Gift of Christmas: Marist Life Lived, Marist Life Shared

By: Valmie Garcia Mariveles  
CMMF Member – Memorare Community  
(Philippines)

The Philippines is noted to have the longest celebration of Christmas. The very day the “ber-months” begin in September, we hear the sound of Christmas carols, and we see some families begin decorating houses to herald the start of the Season.

In every celebration, we consider “love of family” as our baseline of a happy family gathering. We do the usual practice of giving gifts, express our joy by singing and dancing, laughing while recalling the happy memories of family experiences as ingredients of a joyful celebration.

This year was a different one. We don’t have our children and grandchildren with us. Our house was empty. No grand celebration as we used to have.

My second son informed me that his family could not join us because they opted to spend the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup>, to go to the place devastated by typhoon Odette and help the victims who were displaced, depressed, no food, no water, and no means of communication with their families. My son’s family decided to be absent from us and be present to those who may have lost hope during Christmas day.



Initially, I felt sad. My grandson Jam, who had this idea of being with the typhoon victims for Christmas explained: *“Lola (grandma), come to think of this. Will you be happy, that while we are enjoying Christmas with sumptuous food, there are people who at this time are suffering from hunger and frustration because they have no one to be with, and its Christmas? We look up to you grandma. You taught us to be concerned about others and so here we go... we will be with them for this Christmas.”*

Hearing the noble cause spoken out from the heart of my grandson dispelled my initial feeling of resentment of not having them on Christmas eve. I realized who I have become for them, a role model. They witnessed my apostolic services done for the least favored of our local community, my reaching out to those in need and the catechesis I render in our basic ecclesial community created an impact on them. I can confidently say that I have shown them the way of service for those who have less.

This experience gave me a realization that the sound formation I have, that is, deepening my life in the way of the Marist influenced my family. The Champagnat Movement, Memorare Community, provided me with opportunities to be grounded in my faith and nurtured deep inspiration to live the Marist way of life in simplicity and with a heart of compassion for others. I had inculcated in them the value of sharing love to others, a trademark of Marist life. My influence on them as Marist was deep that they made it their own way of life too. For that, I feel that we are truly blessed. This realization that I have lived and shared my Marist life and that it has given impact to my family is one best gift I have this Christmas.

**Peacefully our beloved Bro John Heng Hee-soon returned to Lord on the 12 January 2022 at 2:45pm in our Marist Residence Sibü, Sarawak**



For the last five years he was assigned to that community. Twice a year he would travel to KL for examinations and treatments. Last year, he went to a medical centre in Kuching, recommended by a doctor in Sibü for examination and treatment. Since then, he was provided the palliative care in our Marist Residence Sibü.

Our Marist Brothers Sibü, Catholic community, alumni and friends were very generous and kind to him during his final journey on earth. He was faithfully to his daily routines. He recited his prayers in silence in the chapel and participated the Online Eucharistic Celebration on TV. And every Wednesday, a Claretian priest comes to preside the Eucharist in our community chapel. Br John Heng just managed to take in liquid food with difficulty. His friends and alumni supplied fresh fruit juices and milk powder to him. He was faithfully to his meals. After his breakfast he used to read Chinese and English newspapers. He also checked and replied his WhatsApp messages. He kept his sufferings to himself. When others asked him, he would reply “So far so good”, “Still manageable” ....

On 15 January, the body of beloved Br John Heng was moved from the school gymnasium to the next door, Sacred Heart Cathedral Sibü. The funeral mass presided by Bishop Joseph Hii. The burial took place at Salem Catholic Cemetery Sibü at Bukit Lima. He loved to be the Sibü people and chose to be remained there forever.



# THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

## #65

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



## FROM MARIST PHILIPPINE MISSION TO EAST ASIA PROVINCE

*The following article is reprinted from the research paper done by Bros. Niño Pizarro<sup>1</sup> and Demosthenes Calabria<sup>2</sup>. The Research Paper was part of the requirements of the Patrimony Course in Rome in 2008.*

*This section is part of Chapter IV on pages 97-98.*

The Philippine Province before it became part of the East Asia Province, started as a Philippine Mission area of the United States in 1948. As a mission area of the US Province, it then, became responsible for its development. The growth of the Philippine Mission after a few years could also be attributed to the hard labor of the Marist Brother missionaries in the country. On September 23, 1960, with the indult given by the Holy See, the Philippine Mission of the United States became a District under the United States Province. Later on, in 1968, the Philippine District was elevated to the status of a Vice-Province and thus, gained greater governmental autonomy. On November 28-29, 1981, a Chapter was held at the Novitiate House in Tamontaka. One of the vital issues discussed was the status of the Vice-Province. The chapter delegates were reflecting on the positive and negative implications of being a Province or of going back to as a District. It was a very crucial point but at the end the result of the voting was favoring the Vice-Province of the Philippines to become a Province. One of the important reasons given by the chapter delegates was in order to "respond to the signs of the times and to the call of the Church by extending the Marist Presence and apostolic work..... Living in a country that is the beneficiary of centuries of foreign missionary endeavors, the Marist Brothers feel so impelled to bring the Gospel message to their fellow Asians on the principle of evangelization that he who has been evangelized evangelizes in his turn."

The Vice-Province, after completing all the necessary requirements to become a Province, was approved by the General Administration to become a Province on November 3, 1983. The report given by the Provincial of the Philippines to the General Administration contains items that would tell one that the Vice-Province had possessed qualities to become a Province. They are as follows: the Vice-Province had eleven communities, 10 of which were in the Philippines and one in Guam; there were sufficient staff for administration and animation of Formation Houses and communities; there were sufficient resources to assure autonomy; and it showed hopes for future growth because of the number of local Brothers and good number of candidates persevering in formation houses.

As a summary we have the following data:

1948 Philippine Mission under the United States Province

1960 Philippine District under the Province of Esopus<sup>3</sup>

1969 Philippine Vice-Province under the General Administration

1982 Philippine Province

2007 East Asia Province (An integration of Philippine and China Provinces and Korea District.

<sup>1</sup>Br. Niño Pizarro is currently the Junior High School Principal of NDDU, Lagao Campus.

<sup>2</sup>Br. Demosthenes Calabria is presently the Director of Student Affairs of NDKC.

<sup>3</sup>The US Marist Province was divided into two Provinces namely Esopus and Poughkeepsie.

The then Marist Philippine District was under the Esopus Province.



## *Birthday Greetings to:*



January 18  
B. Karl Angelo Labio, FMS



January 23  
Br. Albert S. Bolibol, FMS

## *Death Anniversaries:*

January 17, 1905- Br. Andre Leon died in Beijing

January 18, 1993- Br. James Aloysius Brennan died in Scotland

January 21, 1996- Br. Basilio Rueda died in Mexico (9<sup>th</sup> SG, 1967-1985)

January 21, 1993- Br. George Norbert died in Germany

January 22, 1881- Br. Francois died at Hermitage (1<sup>st</sup> Superior General)

January 22, 1981- Br. Henry Ho died in Sibu, Sarawak

January 22, 2004- Br. Mr. Javier Herrera Hernandez (affiliated member) died in Mexico

January 23, 2014- Br. Joseph Claudius Wu died in Beijing.



## *Let us pray...*

- For the universal Church that it remains faithful in carrying out God's mission.
- For all of us Champagnat Marists that we will be protected as we stay under the mantle of Mary's protection and guidance in these times of crisis.
- For our Province as we begin our preparation and journey of discernment towards our 6th Provincial Chapter.
- For the sick members of our families and respective communities.
- For the fast recovery of Br. Jeff Antiquisa who got positive from COVID-19.
- For the repose of the soul of Br. John Heng Hee Soon, FMS.
- For the repose of the soul of Dr. Teresita Catapang, dentist & benefactor of the Marist Brothers.