



EAST ASIA MARIST PROVINCE COMMEMORATES THE 205TH FOUNDATION OF THE MARIST INSTITUTE

By: Danny Sabino

General Santos City, Philippines, January 2, 2021. The Marist families celebrated the 205th Foundation Anniversary of the Institute with a mass officiated by Fr. Ronald Plomillo at St. Peter and Paul Lagao Parish. The event was attended by the Marist Brothers and lay partners – Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF), Former Marist Brothers (MAREX), Affiliates and Friends of Marcellin. During his homily, Fr. Plomillo expressed his deep gratitude to the Champagnat Marists. He pointed out the significant contribution of Marist institutions in the education of children and youth and also the meaningful service they offer in their mission for the least fortunate children and youth.



Following the mass was a groundbreaking ceremony of the Marist Care Home facility. The Marist Provincial of East Asia Province, Bro. Dominador “Ador” Santiago, FMS explained the intention of the said facility to cater to the needs of the ageing brothers and those needing special care and medical attention.

After the groundbreaking event, a simple program for the renewal of commitment of the members of the CMMF and the recognition of the 2nd batch of Friends of Marcellin was conducted. Fellowship meal followed thereafter. It was an event where the family spirit was keenly felt and the gift of the founding of the Institute was joyfully celebrated.



CMMF RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT AND RECOGNITION OF FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN

The East Asia members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family took a public renewal of their commitment last January 02, 2022 on the occasion of the 205th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Marist Institutes. Some joined during the face-to-face gathering at the Province Center and others,00 especially from Marikina and Kidapawan, joined online in Zoom.

Members renewed their commitment to follow Jesus in the way of Mary and to grow in the awareness of encountering God in everyday life, to live the family spirit in keeping with the family of Nazareth and to be witnesses and apostles, evangelizers of the world by the quality of witnessing in respective families, community and environment, among young people and in the Church.

Also on the same event, the Friends of Marcellin were recognized and welcomed by the Provincial, Br. Ador Santiago, FMS. The Friends of Marcellin is an organized group composed of individuals who want to know more the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat and desire to live it, are in love with Mary, and have the apostolic Zeal to serve humanity.

For the second batch, there were 34 who have undergone and finished the monthly formation sessions since August 2021- December 2021. Nine (9) came from Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Twenty (20) from Notre Dame of Cotabato and Five (5) from Notre Dame of Marbel University.



MARCELLIN HOSTELKUCHING

Greetings of a healthy and prosperous New Year to everyone!

Marcellin Hostel Kuching is now on its third year of operation since it has opened its door before pandemic started last January of 2020. Since its operation, it has catered the need of a safe and comfortable place for students who come from other districts of Kuching or even to some international students, to stay and feel the warmth of home.

In total there were six students who have stayed in the hostel during its whole operation and they were served by two female wardens. It is also open for some private students who may need a space while taking examination at SJIS. Presently, there are three student occupants staying in the hostel together with their female warden.

It was closed during the second wave of lockdown in 2021 as students must stay at home for online learning.

The hostel can accommodate up to twenty students. There are two separate halls that were initially designed for males and females. It is provided with necessary facilities needed for students to use for cooking, washing, and recreation.

It is a ten-minute walk to school, but Bro. Emil, as the hostel in-charge, drive them to and from the school daily.

The hostel was a response project initiated by Br. Robert after hearing queries from some parents whether the school offer such service. He had a partnership talk with the La Salle Project in Kuching to extend its service to their scholars as well. However, it was put on hold as the lockdown was imposed. We are hoping that things will push through as the situation improve.

On this feast of our founding anniversary as an institute, we are led back to the founding action of Fr. Marcellin: reading the signs of times and responding boldly to the emerging needs. Marcellin's hostel has been a place of solace for students, a home away from home where they feel brotherhood and mutual affection.

Marcellin hostel in its reality is a gift and will continue to open its door to all those who need shelter and support.



“Marcellin Hostel has, in my experience, shaped me tremendously in my journey as a student and as a person by providing a holistic, engaging, and comfortable space to live in. It has also greatly helped me as it has been my home away from home, a vessel that has helped me both in making cherished memories and in discovering myself!”

*Vincent Lai
Year 13 Student*

(It was during his stay in the hostel that he started to deepen his interest in Catholic faith. With his openness to God's work in his life, he was baptized and had received his First Holy Communion in September and was Confirmed in November.

He was born in Brunei yet holds a Malaysian citizenship. He has been staying for a year in the hostel. A self-learned cook, keen observer and dependable when it comes to tasks and responsibilities. He juggles his studies and work on the side-line with ease.)



*Stanfen Then
Year 12 Student*

“In the minds of other people “hostel” is a place where ten people are put into the same room with limited privacy, and it would never link to ‘home’. But for me, 4hostel is always a place where I would call ‘second home’. I’ve never felt in any other places that same feeling but only at the hostel. We were given a room where the maximum capacity is four and of course an enormous amount of privacy.

We get to have our own cabinet, our own desk for studies and most importantly WIFI. Big thanks to Br Robert, Br Emil, and Ms. Anne (our warden) for their hard work on making the hostel as comfortable as possible so that we can study and rest comfortably.”

(He has been staying in the hostel for third year together with his younger brother. A great musician and talented songwriter, who often plays his guitar and sings his heart out in the hostel, a Japanese culture lover and a multi-tasker. He is an active and responsible Legion of Mary head in school. Partner in crime of Br. Emil in hunting for good food especially Kolo Mee, cycling and discovering random places in Kuching.)



*Stefan Then
Year 9 Student*

“My own experience of the hostel is pretty good. When I’ve been living there for like a few weeks, I’m getting used to it and I feel like I’m living in my own house (even though the first day I still don’t really get used to it, and I cried too 🤔)”

(The Benjamin of the group. He is an incoming year 9 student, a silent yet very deep person, who likes to play games and loves eating lamb and noodles. A pianist and a gym enthusiast.



*Ms. Ann Anak Royance
Hostel Warden*

“Staying in Marcellin hostel is such a wonderful time as I am challenged to balance my role as a warden and my work as a school staff. But anyhow, such responsibility is a new experience for me as I get to learn how to do multitasking. Aside from that, this work helps me to develop myself as a person. I get to lead and help them in their everyday living, giving support in whatever way I can.”

Ms. Ann is a volunteer hostel warden. She facilitates the daily operation in the hostel making sure that everyone is safe and sound. She works closely with Br. Emil in monitoring the students. Aside from being a Volunteer, she is an Assistant Laboratory in-charge at SJIS.

Activity Photos:



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#63

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



1953 TO 1999 STATISTICS ON THE MARIST BROTHERS IN THE PHILIPPINES¹

Total number of those who entered ASPIRANCY	368
Total number of those who entered POSTULANCY	274 (74% of 368)
Total number of those who entered NOVITIATE	234 (64% of 368)
Total number of those who made FIRST VOWS	176 (48% of 368)
Total number of those who made FINAL VOWS	74 (20% OF 368)
Total number of those who left after FIRST VOWS	102 (58% of 176)
Total number of those who left after FINAL VOWS	32 (43% OF 74)
Total number of those who died after FINAL VOWS	5 (7% OF 74)

2000 to 2006 STATISTICS ON THE MARIST BROTHERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Total number of those who entered ASPIRANCY	460
Total number of those who entered POSTULANCY	331 (72% of 460)
Total number of those who entered NOVITIATE	269 (58% of 460)
Total number of those who made FIRST VOWS	195 (42% of 460)
Total number of those left after FIRST VOWS	105 (23% of 460)
Total number of those made FINAL VOWS	37 (50% of 74)
Total number of TEMPORARY PROFESSED BROTHERS	16 (17% of 92)
Total number of Brothers in the Philippines	53+1 (12% of 460)

¹Reprinted from the unpublished book *Marista Filipinas, 60 Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines (1948-2008), In Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Marist Brothers of the Schools in the Philippines* by Julio Gabriel G. Ubas, alumnus of Notre Dame of Marbel University IBED, batch 1988 (Elementary) and 2002 (High School). He is a graduate of the University of the Philippines (Diliman) with a Bachelor's Degree in History; pages 86-89.

East Asia Province Update as of December 31, 2021

1. There are 45 Filipino Brothers with Final Vows and 14 Brothers with Temporary Vows.
2. In Korea-Japan Sector there are 21 Brothers with Final Vows and 1 Brother with Temporary Vows.
3. In China Sector there are 15 Brothers with Final Vows and none with Temporary Vows.
4. Total number of Brothers in East Asia Province: 96 Brothers
5. Formation Update: 5 Filipino Aspirants, no novices and 3 scholastics. There are no aspirants, novices and scholastics in China and Korea-Japan Sectors.

Birthday Greetings to:

January 5
Br. Manuel V. de Leon



Death Anniversaries:

January 3, 1961 - Br. Leon Wang died in Beijing.
January 3, 1971 - Br. Jules Andre died in Beijing.
January 4, 1997 - Br. Antoine Victor died in Singapore.
January 8, 1931 - Br. Prosper died Beijing.
January 8, 1996 - Br. Peter Leonard Thommen died in USA.
January 9, 1832 - Br. Stephanus Joseph died in Beijing.
January 10, 1960 - Br. Paul Felicite died in Beijing.
January 10, 1964 – Br. Joseph Avit died in France.
January 10, 1975 – Br. Emile-Andre died in Issenheim, France.



Let us pray...

1. For prosperity, peace and protection as we face the new year 2022.
2. For the victims of natural calamities that they will find comfort and generous people to help in their needs.
3. For the safety and protection of each one of us as we live our lives amidst the threat of the surge of corona virus.
4. For those who are in anguish and struggling in their lives brought about by the effect of the pandemic.
5. For children and the young experiencing difficulties in their studies and day to day life.
6. For our Brothers and Lay Marists that as the new year begins, we may find the inspiration to carry-on meaningfully the mission for the children and young in most need.