Marist Brothers East Asia

News Bits

Marists of Champagnat

Volume 4, Issue No. 19

May 10, 2022

UPDATES

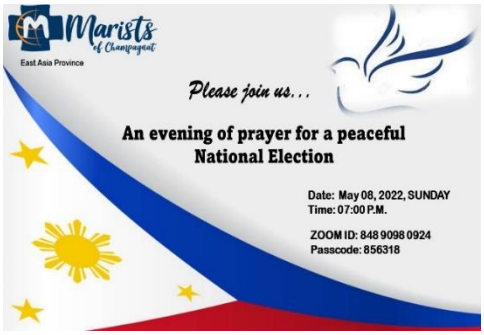
Br. Allan J. de Castro, FMS, Provincial visited Br. Edilberto Mallorca in Buda and Mrs. Almera Ibañez in Bukidnon on May 4.

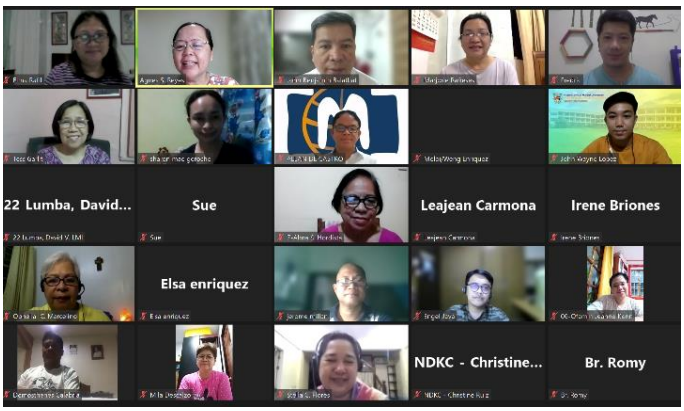
Br. Arnel S. Alfanta, FMS, President of Notre dame of Kidapapawan College in the Philippines appointed as Executive Council Member of the International Marist Network of Higher Education during its 10th Assembly held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Meeting of the Management Team of the Volunteer Network #MaristasDeChampagnat on May 3 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Br. Edgar Ceriales, FMS, from East Asia Province is a member of the said Team. It is organized by the CMI Department of the Institute's General Administration.

PRAYING FOR A PEACEFUL PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

May 08, 2022. Fifty-Five (55) Champagnat Marists of the East Asia Province gathered to pray together for a peaceful and clean local and national election. The new Provincial Br. Allan de Castro, FMS, gave his opening message informing the participants of the crucial role and importance of casting our votes. There is need to be mindful of the future that will generate hope for the children and the youth. Fr. Jerome Millan, the Director of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Marbel gave an input in reference to the Gospel text on the Good Shepherd as the image of the leader we all need to vote. Mrs. Marjorie Rañeses and her team organized the meaningful prayer and reflection during the said event.





Lake Sebu Mission-Vision Group meeting at Marist Province Center on May 8 facilitated by Br. Rustico Lumbo. After the meeting, the group celebrated the Mother's Day at the restaurant.

The first online meeting of the new Provincial Council was held on May 6.

Marist Pride

MARIST CARE HOME

Lagao, General Santos City

PROJECT STATUS

As period ending APRIL 2022, the overall project accomplishment is pegged at 31% with summary as follows:

STRUCTURE	% ACCOMPLISHMENT	REMARKS
ACCOMMODATION BLDG.	26% completed	All Foundation, Columns & Beams are completed; Truss Installation is almost complete; Installation of Perimeter and Interior Walls, Plumbing & Electrical Works are in progress;
RECREATION BLDG.	36% completed	Roofing Structure is completely installed; Wall Partitions, Window and Door Openings are completed; Ceiling Frames, Plumbing & Electrical Works are in progress;
KITCHEN BLDG.	49% completed	All Foundation, Columns & Beams are completed; Roofing Structure is completely installed; Perimeter and Interior Walls are completed; Ceiling Works, Painting Works, Plumbing and Electrical Works are in progress;
DINING HALL	22% completed	Wall Partitions, Windows and Door Opening are completed; Roofing Structure is completely installed; Painting Works, Plumbing & Electrical Works are in progress;
CISTERN STRUCTURE	36% completed	All Foundation, Columns & Beams are completed; Roofing Structure is completely installed; Gutter Installation, Painting Works and Concreting of Cistern Tanks are in progress
PARKING AREA	95% completed	The structure is almost complete; Balance items are Lighting Fixtures, Power Supply Connection and Fire Safety Requirements;
POWER HOUSE	10% completed	Foundation Works are completed; Column Works in progress

Based on the submitted Work Schedule of the General Contractor, the project is **ON SCHEDULE**.

More Photos

THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#80

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

The following article is an excerpt from the AMIHAN, the Marist Brothers Newsletter of the Philippine Province, July-August 1997, Volume 18, #4, pages 8-9. The author of this article is Br. Caesar Fernandez, fms, writing for Kidapawan Community. Caesar Fernandez is no longer a Marist Brother.

KIDAPAWAN COMMUNITY

I am writing to you in behalf of the late Br. Leonard Sonza[1] who is supposed to be our correspondent for this issue. I hope to give you a detailed account of the unfolding events both the joyous and the surprised ones that the community experienced.

For the last few months, we have been to different places attending burials of our personnel, student and the members of the family of our faculty and staff. Many of us were a bit apprehensive and desperate in finding ways to stop the "tenth plague." Some suggested that, first, at the burial everyone should pass under the coffin; second, the rosary beads have to be cut. I don't know the spell was never stopped by these actions. This simply tell us that death comes to us like a thief in the night when we least expected it. This gospel message truly described the death of Br. Leonard Sonza.

I bid him goodbye on the 24th of July before heading for Banga. He promised to be in Marbel on the 26th. I congratulated him in advance on his 65th birthday without realizing that it was his last. Also celebrating his birthday was Br. Christoper Gorit, our novice assigned in the community. The community rendered him a celebration attended by priest, religious and a few friends. He was surely happy and enjoying the sumptuous meal intended for a good number of visitors but only few came. That evening he was insinuating that he'll be leaving for a long time.

A promise he made to some of his visitors including Br. Noel Fernandez to which they did not understand.

A bus load of visitors arrived early in Marbel from Kidapawan on the 26th for our perpetual vows. Br. Leonard was one of those who have shown his support Their presence assured Br. Rey Aude and myself that we are not alone in our journey.

After the celebration, our community was evenly divided. Brs. Armando, Leonard and Christopher went back to Kidapawan while Noel, John and myself proceeded to Lagao for the meeting. John and myself had a great time with Pat, Edgar, Ed and Willy. The Dadiangas Community brought us to the famous Giacomino's Pizza. At breakfast, while sharing jokes and laughter, the phone rang echoing the sad news.

Meanwhile, Leonard and Armando attended a party that evening where the former really enjoyed. Leonard seldom attends evening parties. In the morning, he attended the first Mass

at the Kidapawan Cathedral. Again, he usually goes to church at &:00 a.m. He came back and wore his working clothes, had his breakfast and Chris found him sitting there motionless. Armando and Chris brought him to the hospital nearby but he breathed his last on the way. Leonard's sudden death[2] was announced during the 3rd Mass much to the surprise of many people. They were dumbfounded… then there was sobbing. People flocked at the funeral parlor to see their beloved Br. Leonard.

Upon receiving the news while in Dadiangas, we hurried back to Kidapawan together with Wency C., Edgar and Larry. Preparations had already been done. We waited for hours at the funeral parlor. Noel helped out in dressing up Leonard for the last time. His remain was laid at the school chapel for three nights. Some Brothers, students, parents, friends, priests, religious and relatives came to pay their last respects to Lenny. Masses and prayers were offered. On a Wednesday evening, students and parents delivered their testimonies and experiences of Br. Leonard. From their sharing, one can't miss the kindness, faithfulness, and gentleness of Leonard. He best exemplifies brothering in terms of the "pedagogy of presence." He was visible to students even to the market vendors of Kidapawan. People cried so had for they lost a friend, a counselor, a *lolo*[3] and a Brother.

At 8:00 in the morning of Wednesday, a big crowd gathered at the Cathedral for the Mass officiated by Fr. Ronnie Villamor and five other diocesan clergy. Br. Provincial delivered the homily highlighting Leonard's service to the people for 43 years. His classmate and *kababayan,*[4] Br. Pops can surely attest to this. John, who had cried like a baby cow, thank the people of Kidapawan for their support although words were very elusive.

A caravan accompanied Lenny to Cotabato City for the burial on Friday. At the funeral, sadness enveloped those who attended while at the same time happy for Br. Leonard will be there to pray for us.

After few days, we were finally able to settle down from the sad experience. Life must go on although it will never be the same without him the community. And in the words of Leonard, "The ordinariness of life, when seen in the perspective of faith, speaks of the reality of the unseen." Indeed, his death gives us all a lesson above faith in God. May his examples teach us in following Christ by living our life to the full, caring for the people and the environment.
Well, Leonard's death left us with five major jobs, namely, physical plant director, recollection master, parenting coordinator, supervisor, and *kaabag*[5] every morning. Any applicants? Maybe Br. Pops can fill up some of these vacancies. # # #

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[1]Br. Leonard Sonza was a member of Kidapawan Community. Other members of the community were Br. Armando Mana-ay (Director), Br. John Tan, (President), Br. Caesar Fernandez (HS Principal), and Br. Noel Fernandez.
[2]Br. Leonard died on July 27, 1997
[3]A grandfather.
[4]A fellow town mate.
[5]A parish lay person who helps distribute holy communion during Mass.

Birthday Greetings to:

Death Anniversaries:

May 09, 1997 – Br. Renato Cruz died in the Philippines.
May 09, 1915 – Br. Louis Kostka (killed in WW 1) died in France.
May 09, 1916 – Br. Jean Victor died in Shanghai.
May 10, 1987 – Br. Marie Raphael died in Japan.
May 14, 2007 – Br. Hilaire Zhou Xian Hui died in Shanghai.
May 15, 1980 – Br. Emile Marie Pontier died in Le Rossey.
May 16, 1901 – Br. Joseph Malachie died in Beijing.

Let us pray...

- *For the eternal repose of the souls of Godofredo Boston, Jr. (Ms. Tinette's father) and Gleen Boston (Ms. Tinette's brother). Ms. Tinette is a Sagip Ka 2000 employee.*
- *For the healing and comfort of the sick, those suffering, and struggling with any difficulty.*
- *For continued blessings of those affected by the pandemic and other calamities.*
- *For the indigenous people especially in our mission areas.*
- *For the Filipinos that they may remain at peace in awaiting the final election results.*
- *For the perseverance of our young Brothers in their vocation.*
- *For all birthday celebrants and for their personal intentions.*