



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

July 31, 2022, Volume 01, Issue No. 04

Featured Community

COTABATO COMMUNITY

On June 3 the Notre Dame of Cotabato Community had a small gathering to bid farewell to the personnel who were leaving the institution. Messages and well wishes were given and a simple snack was provided to mark this event. Included in the farewell program were the Brothers moving to other Marist Communities in the country.

The previous school year officially ended on the 1st week of June. Thereafter, teachers and some personnel had their well-deserved breaks. For the Brothers, they joined some school employees in their planned out-of-town recreations. Brs. Jick, Jay-Jay, and Rommel joined the Physical Plant personnel while Jo-an joined the TLE Department teachers. The Physical Plant group was lucky to have Br. Ted around in Glan, who was generous in financing the videoke rental. The next day, the group stayed for overnight at the NDMU farm. Gratitude was extended to Br. Pat for the accommodation and for the community's visit in the evening.

In the past two years, a.k.a. the pandemic lockdown years, three Brothers were assigned to this school community. This coming academic year two of them moved out and were transferred to different communities. Br. Jick is assigned to the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu and Br. Jo-an in Marist School, Marikina. The school community thanked them for their selfless dedication and caring presence among the personnel and students, bid them farewell, and wished them success in their next endeavor.

Joining Br. Rommel to form the new community in Cotabato are Br. Jay Escudero and Br. Raymond Gallardo. The former had been in the community since January after his short stint at MAPAC and the latter was previously assigned at Notre Dame of Jolo.

The Brothers' Community in Cotabato welcomes the presence of Lay partners living in the school (as boarders). They have shared Marist life with the Brothers, such as regular morning prayers and breakfasts. This year, we saw the departure of two long-time boarders/lay partners: Mrs. Ma. Rosario Pizarro-Lubguban and Mr. Jano Dalumpines, because of retirement and change of residence, respectively. With that, new lay members of the community are now staying with the Brothers.



The Brothers visited the wake of Tata, former house help of the Brothers. Also included is Lydia Gesulga, the mother of the deceased and a former house help, as well.



Br. Jo-an's birthday celebration.



Mission Partners' Day last January 29, 2022. (Brothers, retirees and service awardees)



Personnel with the Brs. Sylvain and Josep



The New Cotabato Community: Brothers and Lay Partners

Br. Gilbert B. Bogacia, FMS:

A Brother Who Is Strong and Constant

Br. Gilbert whom we fondly call “Br. Gabe” is a person who is stickler to time and schedule. He had been a teacher and an administrator in elementary, high school and college for many years. He was assigned in all Marist schools in the Philippines except in Jolo. He spent the longest time of his ministry in Lagao, General Santos City as the Provincial Archivist. As a person, br. Gabe has an introverted type of personality and is very methodical. He keeps to himself most of the time but he loves to be in community functions. Community prayers, meetings and outings are considered sacred events for him. For his friends and acquaintances, he is a willing listener and a very conscientious adviser. He epitomizes the saying “Silent water runs deep.”

In this memoir, he wrote a few years back, he mentioned the following avowal about the community;
“Looking back, after 47 years of community living, I can easily pinpoint the feature of a community that made it good, healthy, prayerful and caring. First is the personality of the superior that can command the respect of each member of the community; a type of personality that exudes charity and love for his Brothers. Second is that all members are open to fraternal correction and willing to take adjustment in their own life for the sake of the community.”

Br. Gilbert Bogacia, FMS (A Barrio Lad: A Travelogue of Life: Page 52)

Br. Gabe’s stature and demeanor exude that sense of strictness and of being a disciplinarian in him. His former students, former school personnel, even the Brothers will attest that he was strict and a disciplinarian both as a teacher and as an administrator. These I guess, were learned from the American Brothers who taught him and lived with him.

Even though Br. Gabe is introvert, he has many would not know it – a streak of sense of humor in him. The way he shared his story about picking strawberries while he was at the Juniorate in the US captured this trait ‘to a T’.
“My one unforgettable experience connected with picking fruits was, when I and my companions were asked to harvest strawberries. Despite the house rule that there should be “no eating between meals”, upon seeing for the first time these delicious looking berries; I could not help but to gave in to my curiosity to taste the fruit. So, the sequence in picking them was one to the mouth and one to the basket. The Brother supervising us just smiled at me, but later reminded me of the rule.”

Br. Gilbert B. Bogabia, FMS (A Barrio Lad: A Travelogue of Life: Page 31)

TPBIAM UPDATE

On July 13-14, the Temporary Professed Brothers in Active Ministry had their first gathering at the Notre Dame of Kidapawan Farm. There were five (5) young brothers and two (2) invited aspirants namely; Bro. Cyril (Marcellin Home Community), Bro. Dave (Marbel Community), Bro. Jick (Lake Sebu Community), Bro. Jay (Cotabato Community), Bro. Engel (Marikina Community) and Jake Wilson Rollenas and Kyr Olasiman (Aspirants). They were accompanied by the Provincial Br. Allan and the Province Bursar, Br. Danny.

The activity started at 7:30 p.m. Each Brother was given a chance to share his experiences in his assigned community and ministry. After sharing, clarifications and processing followed. The Provincial gave updates on the status of the Province. The second day began with the Eucharist Celebration at the Our Lady of Mediatrix Cathedral.



A session on Stress Management by the resource speaker, Ms. Calay Caoile was a wonderful learning experience for all. The practical techniques of coping and handling difficulties in daily undertakings were very helpful.

Indeed, the TPBIAM gathering was a success. The young brothers appreciated the support extended by the Provincial and the Province Econome.

Photo News

The Marist Family Biennial Gathering 2022 was held on July 23 at NDMU, IBED Campus, Koronadal City, Philippines.



The four branches of the Marists in the Philippines composed of the Marist Fathers and Brothers, SM Sisters, Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM), and the Marist Brothers (FMS) were all present together with their respective lay partners. The event was an expression of their desire to keep the "family" together, reflecting on the theme: *Marists breathing forth new life of communion for mission!*



Asia and Oceania AU Leaders Meeting last July 27, 2022. The agenda discussed were the following: Pre-Final Vows Programme, Formation Updates, Tudella Novitiate issues, Re-opening of MAPAC, Tamontaka Updates and Formation Colloquium for Asia and Oceania Regions.



Br. Vianney Kim in his Counselling Office. If you look closely, you might be able to notice the 'plastic curtain' just in front of him, placed as a protective measure against the Covid so that both, Brother and his counsees are prevented from infecting each other.

The MADI (Marcellin's Disciples) group, a group of lay young Marists led by Br. Damaso Chun, gathered to practice an activity on "capturing a Dream". They will use their learnings to the children at home-form "Narshia".

ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMATION OF MARIST LAY LIFE IN CHINA SECTOR

Last July 29, the Coordinator of the laity desk convened the point persons for the animation of laity in China Sector. Br. Elmer Jandic (Singapore), Br. Emil Alada (Malaysia), Ms. Elma Rafil. They discussed some realities of the context that matter to laity life in the Sector. Some workable proposals were delineated and the group decided to meet-up with the local coordinators for the detailed planning of activities to be conducted in the area in the coming months of September and October.



KUCHING *Photonews*

The past weeks have been overly packed weeks for the brothers in Kuching. We are now on our third term and activities are starting to hype up. The hostel, which is technically of the Brother's initiative, is left with only two students. The warden has also left for some personal matters. This left the brothers to take turns in staying over to the hostel or to the house alternately.

Recently, Br. Emil has injured his right ankle. He went to have it x-rayed and checked. It has swollen and was just given medication to ease the pain, just to get ready for the whirlwind of activities that he was set for the school. His month's weekend was occupied by accompanying clubs and students' camp and recollection. His religious education class has recently commenced their exposure program to Perkata School for differently abled children, which happens every Tuesday.

Br. Robert for his part is busy dealing with school matters as the school's headmaster. He still finds time to tend his small garden and dealing with many meetings here and there.



Duke of Edinburgh Students' Camp last July 1-3 2022, a three-day two-night journey which was held in Telok Serabang and Sematan, Sarawak Malaysia.



Year 9 students in their first exposure program at Perkata School.



Beach clean-up of the students.



Year 11 - Camp/Recollection last July 9-10.



The Interschool Sports Competition was held last July 12-15. The school ranked 7th place among the 60 competing schools. Br. Emil accompanied the school's team.

CO-CREATING A SAFER CYBERSPACE FOR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Sixty-Three joined the seminar workshop on Co-creating a Safer Cyberspace for the Notre Dame Diocesan Schools of the Diocese of Marbel last July 13. It was helpful at the OLPH seminar hall with key speakers delivering input online. Fr. Joel Aliligay. The Diocesan Schools' Superintendent noted the importance of the theme in the preparation of school personnel for the new academic year. Key speakers were former Police Col. Shiela Portento, Chief of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons' Division of the PNP Women and Children Protection Center, and Mrs. Conception Sangil. Both thoroughly discussed all forms of cyber threats and how cyberspace affected society children and the young.

The workshop was facilitated by Br. Crispin, Mrs. Lucia Palma, Ms. Cindy Asong and Mrs. Wilhelmina Tajo.



Milestones

Congratulations to the following Brothers who finished their post-graduate studies this school year 2021-2022:

Br. Ernie G. Sentina, FMS

Course:

Master of Arts in Education Major in Educational Administration (MAEd - Educational Administration)

School:

Ateneo de Davao University Post Graduate Program

Date of Graduation: April 30, 2022



Br. Arnel S. Alfanta, FMS

Course:

Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PH.D. Ed)

School:

Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Post Graduate Program

Date of Graduation: July 3, 2022



Br. Allan J. De Castro, FMS

Course:

Master of Arts in Education major in Learning Management (MAEd - Learning Management)

School:

Saint Paul University Manila Post Graduate Program

Date of Graduation: July 30, 2022



The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

B.B. King

Marist Brothers SINGAPORE

The Marist brothers have a special mission to provide a Christian education for children and young people, particularly those who are poor, abandoned or neglected. This explains the letters 'FMS' after their name which stands for Fratres Maristae a Scholis or "Marist Brothers of the Schools". The Brothers in Singapore belong to the Singapore-Malaysia-Hong Kong-China Province. The first Brothers arrived in China in 1891 and in Singapore in 1949.

When the Brothers first arrived, their first ministry was St. Teresa Sino-English School, the school of St. Teresa's parish, which had 100 students in Primary One to Four. Classes for Primary Five and Six were added in 1953. By the time the Brothers left the school in 1954, the student population was 300. In 1949, four Marist Brothers were also invited to teach at Catholic High School in Singapore.

The school had been founded by Father Edward Becheras, MEP, with the help of some alumni of the Marist-run Sacred Heart College in Canton. (Father Becheras would later be responsible for stamping out any vestiges of communism in Catholic High School in the 1950s, while other local Chinese-medium schools struggled with students who were Communist sympathizers.) A year after its founding, the Brothers took responsibility for the administration of Catholic High. A primary section and a boarding house for Catholic students were opened in 1951. In 1974, administration of the school was handed back to the diocese.

The school which the Marist Brothers are most known for today is Maris Stella. It was founded in 1958 by Brother Joche Chanel in response to the overwhelming demand for places in Catholic High School. In its first year, Maris Stella had 300 students with four Primary One classes, four Secondary One classes, and a staff of 11. The school first borrowed the premises of St. Stephen School (run by the La Salle Brothers) and taught the students in the afternoon. As the classes expanded, Maris Stella functioned at different premises concurrently. It was only in 1967 that Maris Stella moved to its own premises at Mount Vernon Road, where it remains. Brother Joche Chanel was its principal until his retirement in 1981 and he expanded the school greatly. Its subsequent principal, Brother Anthony Tan, added many facilities, and started programmes to train teachers in sharing the Marist spirit. Today, the Brothers' mission of "Making Jesus known and loved among children and young people" has become a shared mission with lay teachers under the Marist schools.

Another school that the Brothers are known for is Maris Stella Kindergarten. It was started in Flower Road in the early 1970s in collaboration with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) Sisters who carried out its day-to-day operations while the Marist Brothers provided the facilities and management. The FMM Sisters headed the kindergarten until the 1990s when a lay principal was appointed. # # #

<https://history.catholic.sg/marist-brothers-fms-3/>



PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE

August 1 - 15, 2022

- August 3: To welcome the arrival of Br. Nowelle Melchor Solinap, FMS
- August 4-5: Provincial Council Meeting No. 3 at Marist School – Marikina, Philippines
- August 6: Marist School Marikina Corporation and Board of Trustees Meeting
- August 8: Online Notre Dame of Kidawapan College Board of Trustees Meeting
- August 9: Turn-over of Marist School Marikina to the New School President, Br. Mark Roberth Laurea, FMS
- August 10: Online Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Board of Trustees Meeting
- August 11: Notre Dame of Marbel University Board of Trustees Meeting at Davao City
- August 12: Marist Education Council Hybrid Meeting at NDMU, Koronadal City
- August 13: NDBRC Board of Trustees Meeting in General Santos City
- August 15: Patronal Feast of the Institute, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- August 19-22: Visit to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia Community
- August 22-24: Sibu Community Visitation (Malaysia)
- August 24-27: Kutchnng Community Visitation (Malaysia)
- August 27-30: Singapore Community Visitation (Singapore)
- Aug. 31–Sept 2: Petaling Jaya Community Visitation (Malaysia)

Prayer Intentions:

- **For the well-being of our elderly brothers.**
- **For our benefactors that their kindness be rewarded by God's providence for them and their families.**
- **For the victims of the natural calamities particularly those affected by the recent earthquake in Luzon and the flood in the areas of South Cotabato.**
- **For our school administrators, personnel and students as they prepare for the opening of the new academic year.**
- **For blessings of good health and life's fulfillment to all our birthday celebrants for this month.**