



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

September 30, 2022, Volume 01, Issue No. 08

Featured Community

SIBU COMMUNITY, MALAYSIA

The Sibu Community is fondly called the 2 A's Community because it is composed of two

Anthony's: Br. Anthony Cheng and Br. Anthony Tay.

Br. Anthony Cheng has already retired but is still active in school activities. He is taking care of the boarders, teaching the boarders and slow learners mathematics sessions. Being the Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary, he attends their gathering every Monday evening. Br. Anthony does what he loves: reading books and viewing video clips about Mathematics and history.

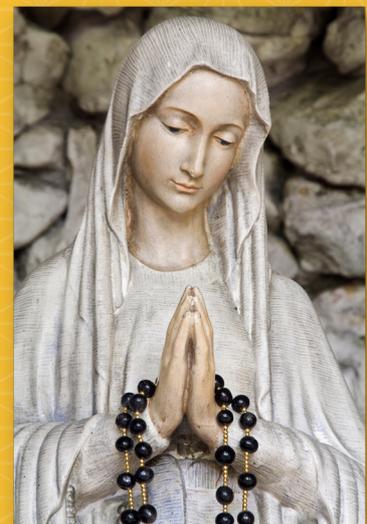
Br. Anthony Tay is the High School Principal as well as the community leader. He is also actively involved in the Parish activities. He is the Spiritual Director of the 3 groups of Legion of Mary. Every Sunday, he helps in the children's para-liturgy by giving a homily to the kids. In sports, he coaches the school boys' and girls' basketball teams.

Last month, the community welcomed the visit of 4 young brothers who came by on their way to Port Dickson, and with them are our Provincial Br. Allan de Castro and Br. John Tan. The Brothers enjoyed the presence of the visitors in the community.

The month of October is the month of Rosary. As usual for the month of Mary, Br. Anthony Tay will host a weekend one-hour online Rosary and Catechism for the Diocese of Sibu. Every Saturday and Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock, he will broadcast the Rosary and Catechism for the Sacrament of Confession. These will be covered through the Diocese of Sibu's Facebook account and YouTube channel.



Brs. Anthony Tay and Anthony Cheng



Jubilarians Renewed Their Perpetual Commitment

Alphil Christian C. Cabe/ Antoinette B. Gevero

Eight Marist Brothers of East Asia Province celebrated the renewal of their religious commitment at the Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU) Gymnasium, Koronadal City, South Cotabato, on September 24.

A mass commenced the celebration of the renewal of commitment of the jubilarians, Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS (60 years), Br. Paterno S. Corpus, FMS (50 years), Br. Hilario C. Sevilla, FMS (40 years) and Brothers Lindley H. Sionosa, FMS, Allan J. de Castro, FMS, Elmer E. Jandic, FMS, Niño M. Pizzaro, FMS, and Rommel C. Occasiones, FMS, in their 25 years.

Most Rev. Cerilo Alan U. Casicas, D.D., the main celebrant, highlighted the three phases of commitment in life, pointing out that it is offered from the best seasons of the youth, in crises, and until death as the ultimate witness of the self-sacrificing commitment.

"Jubilee is a celebration of commitment to the Church, Body of Christ, and His Kingdom," Most Rev. Casicas mentioned in his homily. He then lauded the jubilarians' commitment and fidelity to the vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty.

A motorcade going to NDMU-IBED Gymnasium took place to begin the Tribute Program.

Br. Allan de Castro, FMS, officially welcomed everyone and invited his fellow jubilarians to nurture their vocation in being compassionate healers, bridge builders for the young, and carers of the common home.

Br. Crispin Betita, FMS for his part shared his significant memories in his journey as a Marist Brother, particularly mentioning his experience of taking care of the marginalized children and youth.

"The Brothers have stood as beacons of hope, a sanctuary, an educational community that invites and embraces students, marginalized or not, but who are in need of education," Br. Crispin pointed out in his message.

In his message of gratitude, Br. Paterno Corpus, FMS, NDMU President, recognized the hard work of the Marist community as part of their vocation, his fellow Marist Brothers who nurtured vocation through thick and thin, their Marist partners in their apostolic mission and to all those who gave guidance in the growth of their vocation as Marist Brothers. He extended his sincere gratitude to all those who have taken part in the meaningful celebration of the Jubilee.



Jubilarians' Reflections

"I am grateful for God's call and for all who became instruments to make my vocation grow and develop. I am also grateful and humbled from within for all that had been done over the past 25 years. My gratitude for all offered prayers, they helped me persevere and for God's Grace leading me to continue to look beyond horizons with a heart filled with hope and love."

-Br. Niño M. Pizarro, FMS

"For over the years, we the jubilarians Brothers have stood as beacons of hope, sanctuaries, and communities that invite and embrace children, marginalized or not, but are in need of Christian education. Through our work rooted in family spirit and kinship, barriers and margins are erased, spiritual enhancement and transformative healing and change happen. Just like Christ, we say "let the children come..."

-Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS

"On April 6, 2020, amidst the pandemic, I had a stroke while I was at Bacusanon, Pangantucan mission. This changed my life including my relationships with others, self, creatures, and God. That experience called me to focus on important things in life. In my 40 years jubilee, I express my gratitude to God's love shown by Brothers, family members and laypersons. I am grateful that I am still alive and with my physical condition now, I feel called to intensify my prayer life and to further grow in the quality of community living."

-Br. Hilario C. Sevilla, FMS

For me after 25 years, it was about what Pope Francis said in his message for the 2022 World Day of Prayer for Vocation - MAKING GOD'S DREAM COME TRUE which is having the great vision of fraternity that Jesus cherished when he prayed to the Father that they may all be one. (Jn 17:21).

It was about CONTINUALLY HELPING THE LEAST, THE LOST, AND THE LAST, particularly the young people.

It was about being empowered by the spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat TO LOOK BEYOND as a Marist Brother in this difficult time.

-Br. Allan J. de Castro, FMS

"Living faithfully to my religious vows and doing his will and love every day help me to sustain my religious life for 25 years. I encountered him and felt his presence in the people in the different ministries in the mission entrusted to me. God tested me in different ways in my ups and downs but I considered it a challenge. I believed that because of His compassionate love, I handled and overcame it. My 25 Years as a Marist Brother was a blessing from God. With Him and with your prayers, I hope I can sustain another 25 years and more in my religious life, lived faithfully and meaningfully. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you also for being part of your Marist journey. Most of all, thank you for being part of my Marist life."

-Br. Elmer E. Jandic, FMS



Br. Manny de Leon's Reflection of the Jubilee celebrations

"Br. Crispin Betita (60 years), Br. Paterno Corpus (50 years), Br. Larry Sevilla (40 years), Br. Lindley Sionosa, Br. Allan de Castro, Br. Rommel Ocasiones, Br. Nino Pizarro, and Br. Elmer Jandic (25 years) jointly celebrating their jubilee years on September 24, 2022, in Marbel. Congratulations to all of them for their personal commitments to remain as Brothers. Many are called but few are chosen. And let us thank the Good Lord for keeping them strong in their resolve to live life in the community, share the mission in their ministries and anchor their very soul in prayer and contemplation. What we often forget is that they are still human. It is their humanity that makes them beautiful in the eyes of God. Through their years of vowed life, they experienced unfaithfulness, discouragement, pains, joys, etc. It was not them who actually persevered. It was God's infinite goodness and unconditional love that sustained them all these years. It is also important to mention Br. Willy and Br. Joe who are celebrating their Golden Jubilee in heaven. Kudos to everyone. I can only imagine the number of lives they have and will continue to touch. But I am certain, the young men and women they have taught will not forget that once a Marist Brother has been part of their lives. And that's the essence of the celebration today - experiencing the "giving birth" of Christ in other's lives like Mary did." Here is the picture...

Jubilarians' Photos with their Families



Photo News



Sept 18-20:
Br. Allan visited Cotabato Community and Notre Dame of Cotabato.



Sept 15-Oct 15:
Program for Preparation for Perpetual Profession in Port Dickson, Malaysia starts their face-to-face session "In Malaysia, Brothers #MaristsofChampagnat from Asia and Oceania make their preparation for the Final Profession in the religious life in the Marist Institute." Here is picture...



September 15-17:
Br. Allan visited Kidapawan Community



Sept 21-22:
Br. Allan visited Marbel Community

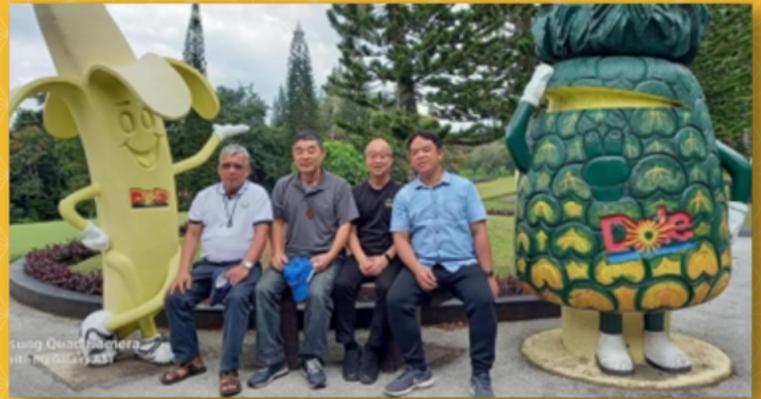
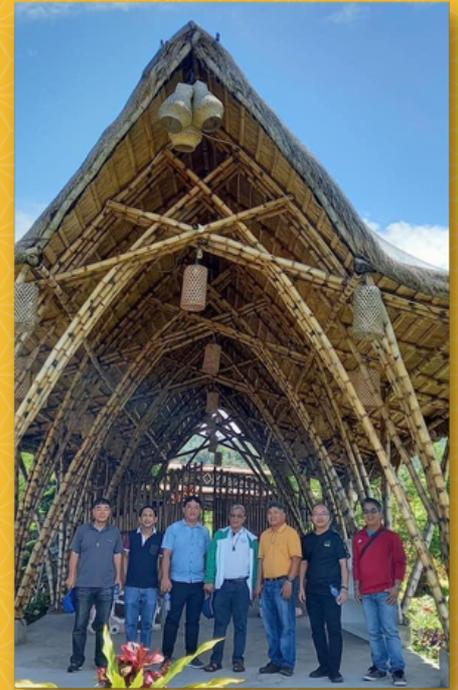


Sept 23-24:
NDDU hosted the NDEA face to face annual assembly after two years. "NDEA Administrators' & General Assembly cum CEAP Regional Assembly 2022 "Pilgrims of Hope moving forward in Synodality"

Photo News



September 25-26:
The Provincial Council had its 4th meeting at the Marist Province center in Lagao. They had an opportunity to visit some tourist spots in the nearby places on the 2nd day of their schedule.



CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM FOR MARCELLIN BOYS

The staff of Marcellin Foundation met last September 30. The intention of the meeting was to have an orientation on the Cybersecurity Program and the roll-out of the cybersecurity modules of the ASEAN and CyberguardiansPH. A target of 75 underserved youth is expected to meet on October 7, Friday from 1:00-5:00 P.M. for the cascading of the said cybersecurity training modules. Br. Ted Fernandez, FMS, member of the Child Protection Team joined the said meeting.



Photos News

St. Joseph International School, Kuching: Fr. Ramon Borja, SDB and two diocesan deacons celebrated Mass at SJIS during Malaysia Day. We thank God for graces from Him during September. Looking forward to Rosary month."



Volunteering Program of St. Joseph International School - Year 9 students at Perkata, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.



Sept 28: Br. Valdicer Civa Falchi , director of CMI visited the International Community LaValla200 in Atlantis South Africa with Ms. Liz Igoy Here is the picture...

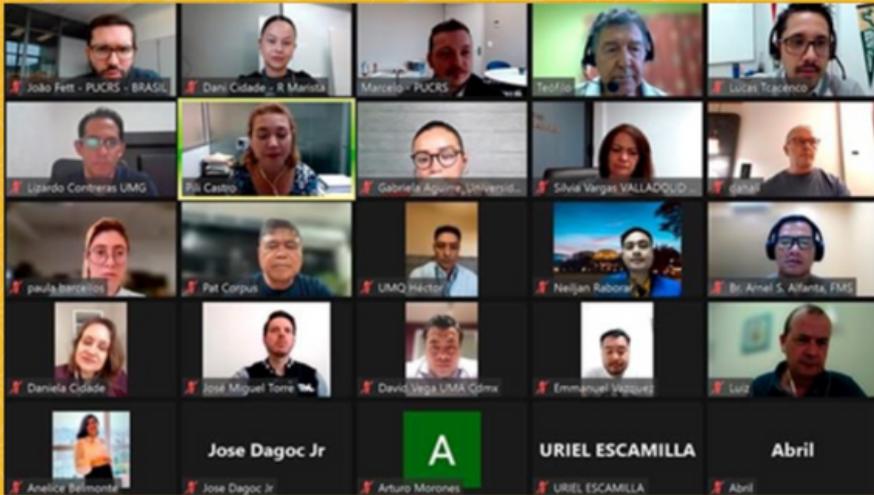


St. Joseph International School Kutching- Y8 Students Annual Camp

Photos News

September 22:

Br. Arnel Alfanta and Br. Pat Corpus attended the online meeting of the communication personnel and leaders of Marist Institutions of higher education from ten countries. The online meeting aimed to strengthen links and synergy within the International Marist Network of Higher Education (RIMES). It was also attended by Br. Marcelo Bonhemberger, President of RIMES and Portuguese-speaking representative of the PUCRS.



September 25:

Br. Jacobo Song visited Br Wency at Lagao Community during the 4th PC meeting. Br. Wency spent wonderful years in Korea as formator.

September 23:

Ongoing Formation Program for Brothers in 3rd Age began on September 3 in Manziana for English-speaking brothers (8 Marist Brothers, 2 Marianist Brothers, and 1 Marianist Priest). In the picture is our Br Rene Reyes who joins the said renewal formation...



September 28:

Marist Education Council (MEC). We gathered to invigorate and celebrate 'MARISTNESS'. A phenomenon that is shared and lived among Marist Marist Education Council Evaluators Workshop @NDDU Campus... Thanks, Br. Manuel de Leon, Br. Arnel S. Alfanta, Dr. Andres Jr Magallanes and Dr. Ising At Alma Hordista, Dr. J. Mendoza, our trainers and facilitators, and of course, my team E

A glimpse of the Province

Legacy of Br. Paul Clet Lives On In Catholic High School

Marist Brothers, Sibul, Sarawak, East Malaysia

Prompted by fate and faith, a humble man born in Hebei Province, China ventured out and landed in Sibul where he sowed the seed of education for the poor.

The man of great determination, known affectionately as Rev Bro Paul Clet or just 'Elder Principal' by his students in Mandarin, has spent two decades with the Catholic High School here, uplifting it to become one of the most reputable Chinese private schools in the country.

Tens of thousands of students have since passed through the gate of the Catholic High School when he served as its principal from 1977 to 1995, the year he retired. Many of his former students returned from overseas to attend his 90th birthday celebration at a hotel here last weekend to pay their respect and honour.

The gathering was hosted by Catholic High School Old Students' Association as a double joy get-together to celebrate Bro Paul's 90th birthday and the association's 40th anniversary. Bro Paul is from the Catholic Church's religious order of the Marist Brothers. The order was set up in 1817 in France to provide education to the underprivileged during the French Revolution.

Thanking his former students at the gathering, he said: "You have worked with me tirelessly; we have changed the face of Catholic High School. Some students who returned were shocked to see the school had undergone a total facelift and transformation." "We shall continue to nurture this school for the children of Sarawak," he added. His former students know him as a man of determination and faith and a fatherly figure.

"During my school days, I tried to avoid bumping into him in school because Elder Principal had that stern look of a strict father, but after I went overseas, I missed his fatherly guidance," one of them said.

Bro Paul served the longest as principal of Catholic High school.

He was born in Hebei on Feb 17, 1926, during hard times when China went through a political upheaval caused by the struggle between the Communists and the Kuomintang regime after the fall of the Qing Dynasty.

A determined person, young Paul took education seriously. He studied in a local school and went through three years of teacher training in China.

In 1947, after the surrender of the Japanese in China, the ambitious young man ventured out.

With a burning desire to answer God's call, he entered the teaching profession through the Marist Brothers - a religious order with a mission to provide education to the needy throughout the world set up by St Marcellin Champagnat, a priest in France.

Bro Paul landed in the then Malaya to teach in Penang and Kuantan in the 1950s. He also taught for a while in Singapore.

He was sent to Sri Lanka in 1950 to study English, to France to the headquarters of the Marist Brothers Order in 1961, to Rome in 1962, and to Switzerland in 1963 for further studies. In 1967, Bro Paul returned to teach in St Luke's School in Kuching, Catholic high schools in Melaka and Petaling Jaya, and another school in Ipoh.

He came to Sibul in 1977 to become the principal of Catholic High School until his retirement in 1995.

During the two decades he was there, Bro Paul went through hard times as there was little money to develop the school. Despite the constraints, he managed to set up a computer and language center in the school where he also formed one of the first school dance clubs in Sibul. He also extended the school hall, library, and hostel.

Former students recalled that in order to cut costs, Bro Paul himself became a toilet cleaner, a gardener, and a garbage collector, helped by his students.

“Even after his retirement, Brother Paul went into mushroom farming within the school compound to supplement the income of Catholic High School.

“He planted, nurtured the crop, harvested it, and packaged the produce all by himself. Then, he delivered it to his customers, also by himself.”

“Many customers were his former students, who are successful businessmen. They willingly bought the produce from him because in this way, they can continue helping the school together.”

Today, the school has 1,140 students and 58 teachers. It now has a six-story block costing RM10 million that houses 32 air-conditioned classrooms, a principal’s office, a teachers’ room, an administration office, a canteen, a lecture hall for 300, and others.

The legacy of Bro Paul Clet lives on in Catholic High School Sibul.

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2014/10/02/legacy-of-bro-paul-clet-lives-on-in-catholic-high-school/>



PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE

October 1-15, 2022

September 29-30:
Meeting of the School Management
Committee of Maris Stella High
School at #25 Mount Vernon Rd,
Singapore 3680512

- October 1-11:
- Annual Retreat of the Brothers
of the Korea-Japan Sector
 - Meeting of the Community
Leaders of the Korea-Japan
Sector

October 12-14:
Dadiangas Community Visitation

October
Birthday
Greetings



Sept. 07 - Br. John Yang Zhenxiong

Sept. 09 - Br. Rene A. Reyes

Sept. 09 - Br. John Oh (Seon-Keun)

Sept. 12 - Br. Anselmo Kim (Dong-ryeul)

Sept. 14 - Br. Laurence Park (Kwang-joon)

Sept. 15 - Br. Rommel C. Ocasiones

Prayer Intentions:

- For our Pope and our church leaders that they may be given strength and inspirations in shepherding God's people.
- For the victims of natural calamities that they may find generous support to help them in their needs.
- For our laity and brothers in a mission that may be protected from all harm.
- For more vocations to Marist Brothers and laity and for the perseverance of all those in formation.
- For the health and well-being of our sick and elderly brothers.
- For the intentions of the birthday celebrants for the month of October.

