



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

January 15, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 01

Featured Community

MARIST BROTHERS JECHON COMMUNITY

SOUTH KOREA

Our Marist community in Jechon opened in 2004 under the Diocese of Wonju, Korea. An interesting characteristic of the place in which our community is located is the fact that a couple of the so-called "holy places" (shrines) in Korea, exist not very far from our place. The holy place of Baeron is one of the most important because of its great spiritual significance as the fountainhead of the spread of Catholicism in Korea. It also served as a hiding place where Christians made some earthenware to survive, thus escaping the persecution of 1866.

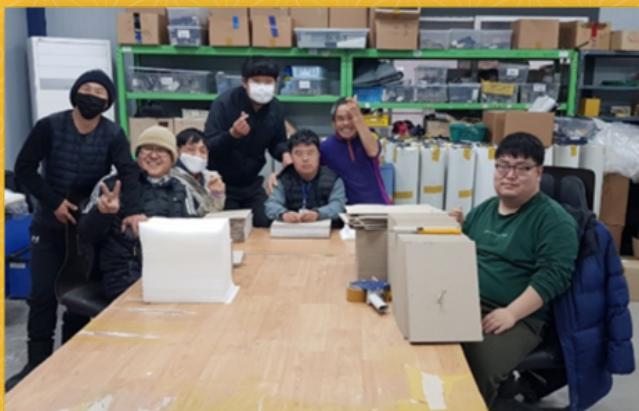
In 1904 the church of Yongsomak was built and it remains one of the oldest churches built in the country. Since 1914 it was renovated in a semi-gothic style.

The community of Jechon is formed by three Brothers: Br. Timothy Song, Br. Anthony Choi, and Br. Abraham Kang. We strive to discover God's presence in nature, to respect and care for each other, and to build a loving community that welcomes other people as we witness to them God's love.

The apostolate we do here is multifaceted: during the warm seasons we run a retreat house that receives all kinds of people, but especially some groups of children and youth who love to have their retreats in the midst of nature. Our responsibility is to clean, wash, cook, and support the groups that use our facility. We also do some farming in the land surrounding our house and by doing so, we keep alive our Founder's desire and encouragement for the Brothers to love and do manual work.

During the cold winter season, we join our community in Chungju to work together with disabled adults making certificate cases, guest books, and different kinds of stationery. These rather younger adults are former students of our vocational training center for young people with intellectual disabilities.

As we continue our day-to-day ministry, we ask for your support through your prayers for us and for all the people we work with in our mission.



RE-OPENING OF MARIST ASIA PACIFIC CENTER (MAPAC)

The Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) located at #86 Champagnat Ave, Marikina, 1800 Metro Manila is the training center for post-novitiate brothers from the Oceania and Asia regions. After the pandemic, the center resumed its activities starting this January 2023. There were five (5) staff assigned to this community led by Br. Dominador A Santiago, FMS as the Rector, and eleven (11) young brothers from Fiji, East Timor, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and the Philippines joined the formation training.



LAITY LEADERS STRENGTHEN ANIMATION PRIORITIES FOR 2023

On January 6, Ms. Elma Rafil, Chair of the Laity Committee, convened a meeting of all laity leaders of animation of the Philippine Sector. Coming from different Marist communities across the Philippines, it was an apt exercise to begin the meeting with a sharing of personal stories. All participants shared what was the most significant positive experience they had in 2022 and what do they look forward to in the coming year 2023.

Key agenda were discussed during the meeting. First was the sharing of the message of the Asian representatives of the International Forum on the Vocation of Marist Laity by Marjorie Rañeses. It was



followed by the review of the Statement of the 6th Provincial Chapter. From these resources, the team of leaders identified and prioritized major activities to implement for 2023 as follows: Revitalization of the Friends of Marcellin, strengthen the MarEx group, come up with training for lay animators and propose a Province-wide Joint Formation Program. Dates where identified for the implementation of these priority activities.

With each one assuring support, the meeting ended with a note of excitement for the new year, looking beyond new endeavors, promising to generate new hopes.

Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family: Rediscovering the original passion that moved us to be Marist

Eighteen (18) CMMF Marikina members were present in the first reflection session for the year, last January 11, 2023. They invited Br Lindley Sionosa, FMS, co - director of the Secretariat of the Brothers Today to facilitate the gathering. He initially shared about his work in Rome, living with the General Administration a new way of being Brother and Marists of Champagnat. inspired by the breath of RUAH, the participants rediscovered the original passion that brought them to be Marist. This joyful experience made them renew their commitment in caring for and generating Marist life.



MARIST EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL (MEC) UPDATES

The Marist Education Council in its meeting on Nov. 11, 2022, finalized the appointments of the area chairs of the different committees. The chairs are as follows:

CM-RE - Sr. Sela T. Fakahua, SMSM
Marist Charism - Br. Paterno Corpus, FMS
Pastoral Care - Mr. Rabindranath Porsuelo
Academics - Graduate School - Dr. Juvy Reyes
Tertiary - Dr. Joan Palma
Basic Education - Br. Noel T. Fernandez, FMS
Student Services - Ms. Marites Carlitos
Administration - Dr. Andres Magallanes, Jr.

MARIST EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



East Asia Province



Photo News

January 5:

Birthday celebration of Br. Manny de Leon at their family ancestral house in Lagao, General Santos City.



January 7:

The first meeting of the Marist Youth Ministry Core Group at the Marist Province in Lagao. Included in the Group are the youths coming from different Marist schools and universities. The meeting focused on the Marist Youth Ministry Manual.



January 4:

The arrival of the Scholastics in Marist Asia Pacific Center



January 7-8:
The Brothers of Jecheon Community in Korea-Japan Sector started the year 2023 by helping the disabled workshops in CHUNG-JU Community.



Photo News

January 7-8:

Marikina Community Recollection at Baguio. As the year 2023 begins, the Brothers of Marikina Community spent some time at Sta. Catalina Spirituality Center to reflect on the themes that filled our year (or years) that we're leaving behind and the lessons we've learned that we will take with us to make this year even better.



January 11:

The Philippine Sector Finance Committee had a special meeting at Marist Province Center in Lagao together with the invited Finance Officers of Notre Dame of Kidapawan College and Notre of Marbel University.



January 13:

Arrival of Br. Norbert Mwila, FMS of Southern Africa Province at East Asia Pastoral Institute for his Sabbatical Course. He will join Dadiangas Community by May 2023 as a student brother.

January 7-8:

The Brothers of the Kota Kinabalu Community attended the Sunday Mass and anniversary of the 2 Korean Priests (SST) at Woori Jib, Kg Potuki, Kinarut, Sabah, Malaysia



January 11:

Unveiling of the Headstone of the late Br. Joseph Damian Teston, FMS at Marist Cemetery in Tamontaka Novitiate, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.



206th Marist Institute Foundation Anniversary

January 2, 2023 Celebration

The East Asia Province celebrated the 206th Marist Institute Foundation Anniversary with the Holy Mass at Notre Dame of Dadaiangas University Chapel.

The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Eugene Porras, and attended by a good number of Brothers, Lay Marists, and friends. A Missioning ceremony for four (4) volunteers was held, a send-off for volunteers/cultural pilgrims to Lebanon, Australia, and Africa.

The Brothers in Hong Kong Community had their celebration and prayer, too.



A Glimpse of the Province

2023 IS OUR DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR

As we usher in the year 2023, we cannot help but think of 75 years ago, that was in 1948 when our four pioneering American Brothers set foot in the country and planted the Marist mission in Cotabato. In other words, January 2023 marks the beginning of celebrating the DIAMOND JUBILEE (75 years) for the Philippine Marist Brothers.

With this issue of the Marist Life Newsletter, allow me to reprint a portion of the article entitled “A Short History of the Marist Brothers (FMS) in the Philippines,” as published in the souvenir book called “Daring in Hope, Fifty Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines.”

“In 1945, shortly after the Japanese invaders had left the country, especially in Mindanao, the Marist Brothers received a renewed urgent appeal from the Oblate Fathers. This was to help in bringing the blessings of Catholic education to the boys and girls who lived in their diocese of Cotabato, located on one of the southernmost islands of the Philippine archipelago.

“In answer to this appeal Br. Louis Omer Duprez, who was then Provincial of the American Province, flew to Cotabato in 1947 to make an on-the-spot survey of the condition in that far-off place. He recalled: ‘Measured in terms of teaching facilities or material worth, Cotabato is one of the most forlorn spots on the face of the globe. But the people are good and the need for Catholic teaching is great.. Working with the good Oblate Fathers there is a great opportunity for apostolic work among untold numbers of God’s children in a land that almost seems to have been forgotten.’

“The Provincial Council (of the USA) approved the establishment of the Mission and in 1948 a call was issued for volunteers to serve in this new and distant field. Out of a host of volunteers, four Brothers were selected to form the nucleus of this first Mission. There were Br. Maurus James Doherty from St. Ann’s High School in New York; Br. Peter Leonard Thommen from Central High School of Lawrence, Mass .; Br. Humbert Damian Teston, also from St. Ann’s HS, and Br. Herbert Daniel from St. Agnes High School, New York City.”

“With the establishment of the Notre Dame High School in Cotabato, the American Province of the Marist Brothers began its first foreign mission activity. ...”

And as the saying goes, “and the rest is history....|”

And now that we have set the tone, we now look forward to the setting up of a year round activities for 2023. ###

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Religious Calendar 2023 is now ready for distribution.



Provincial's Schedule

January 16 to 29, 2023

January 16-18:
Cotabato Community Visitation

January 17:
7th Provincial Council Meeting (Online)

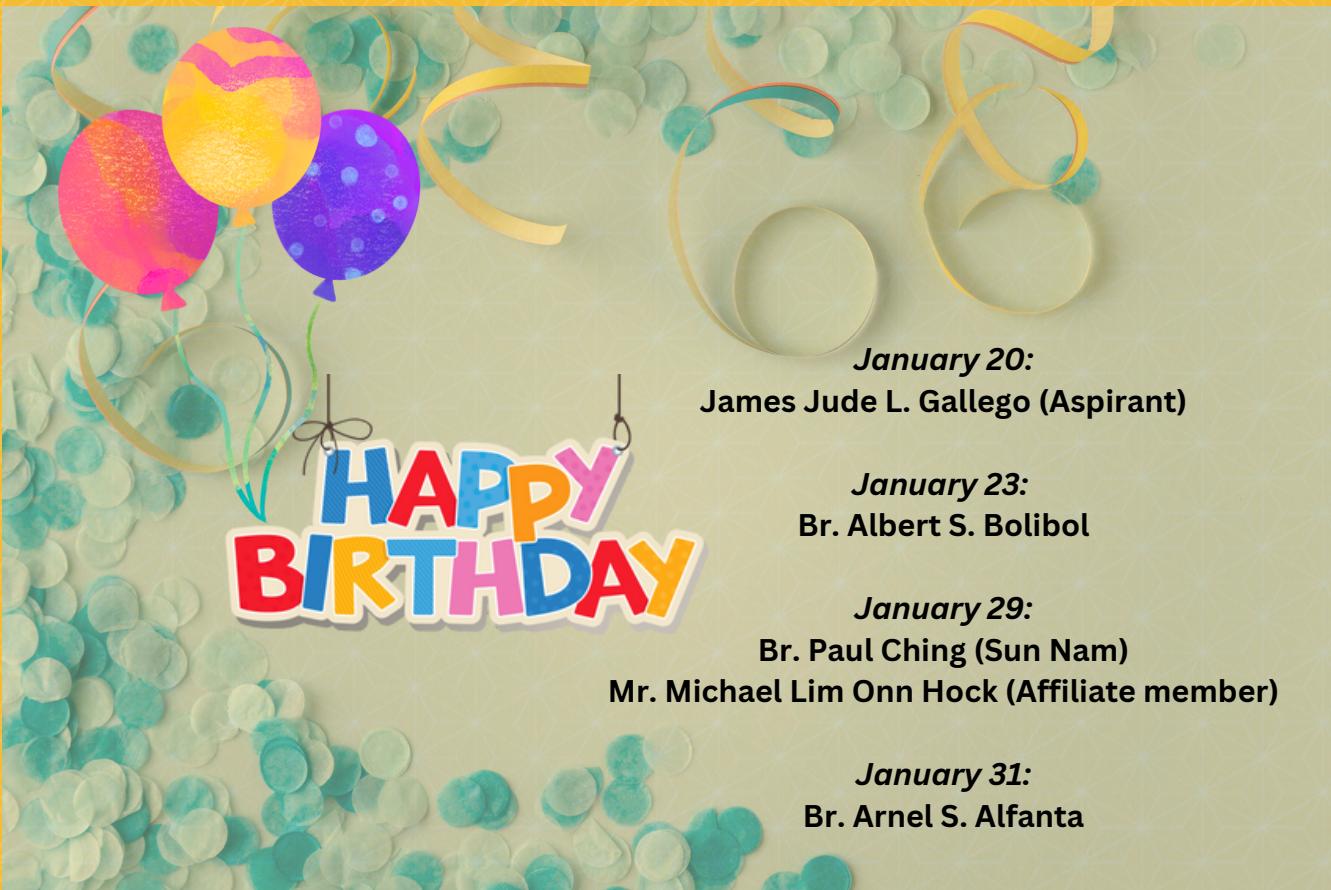
January 18-20:
Kidapawan Community Visitation

January 20-22:
Lake Sebu Community Visitation

January 23-25:
Marbel Community Visitation

January 25-27:
Dadiangas Community Visitation

January 27-29:
Fourviere, Lagao and Marcellin Home Community Visitation



January 20:

James Jude L. Gallego (Aspirant)

January 23:

Br. Albert S. Bolibol

January 29:

Br. Paul Ching (Sun Nam)

Mr. Michael Lim Onn Hock (Affiliate member)

January 31:

Br. Arnel S. Alfanta

Prayer Intentions:

- For the Universal Church that she remains faithful in bearing witness to its evangelizing mission.
- For our brothers and laity in a mission that they feel God's providence in times of their difficulties.
- For all families that they remain steadfast and faithful in their love for one another.
- For all Marist educators that they continue to be storytellers of Marcellin's tradition.
- For healing of those who are sick, the comfort of all afflicted and enlightening of those in deep crisis.
- For the intentions of the birthday celebrants.