



January.2023

MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA NEWSLETTER



WAVES

Recently I spent some time at the beach, a breakaway that provides opportunities to renew self, reconnect with the Creator and creation.

In life there are constant waves, sometimes rough and dangerous, sometimes smooth, clean, and transparent, sometimes dirty and blurry, but the waves keep moving forward and then the water returns and is ready to be re-shaped in a new wave.

Here the breaking waves and there is the big sea, the water is shaped with the wings of the wind. It looks a routine movement day and night, but the dynamic flow of nature offers us clues of the great Artist, the beauty that we can appreciate, preserve, and praise.

I see people standing and looking beyond, dreaming, wishing... even when the horizon seems not very clear to all, but the Sea is there, with waves of opportunities and providing graces for sailing.

He calls to follow Him, lightly equipped, letting go what might become an unnecessary anchor, identifying His footprints that lead us to the dawn of graces and new opportunities in 2023.

Christ is at the helm, in Him we trust!

Br.Canisio J. W.

Giasnogor School Community BANGLADESH

A grace and hope-filled greetings to all of you from St. Marcellin School Community of Giasnogor, Molouvibazar, Sylhet, Bangladesh!

It was indeed a grace and hope-filled to start the year with these marvelous brothers in the community coming from three continents. From the left, Marti is taking the role of the headmaster and country coordinator, Eugenio as the project in-charge and chairman of the standing committee, Vigilio as the community leader and bursar, George as an itinerant brother and Rubel, the first Bangladeshi young brother, as an online student of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University of General Santos city, Philippines.



Like the 6 seasons of the country which changes every couple of months or so, the community too changes its composition from five to three for various reasons. Rubel the first from the right side of the picture, was the first to leave for his face-to-face classes in August while Eugenio to Spain for the follow-up heart and other treatment. Towards the end of November, Marti attended the 9-day Champagnat Global meeting in Mexico with an exit visa but hasn't come yet. The year ended with Vigilio, George and Topu, a newly professed young brother who is on way to MAPAC before January 4th of 2023.

These are the highlights of the last quarter of 2022 community and school activities under the care of the three brothers Marti, Vigilio and George in collaboration with a Marist Missionary Sister or Smsm from Fiji Sr. Shakuntola Arjun or Sha in short, as the over-all in-charge of the hostel for girls with Pinky Chiran an assistant and Kotrim Yang for the boys with Sumon Hembrom as the assistant, 16 teachers and 3 non-teaching staff. The timely arrival of Topu, from Sri Lanka Tudella novitiate and his home visit, was indeed a big help too in the absence of Marti.

Giasnogor School Community BANGLADESH



The month of October kicked-off with the first batch of 69 class 10 students with 57 girls and 12 boys, finishing their last week of the Secondary School Certificate or SSC Government exams followed by a send-off celebration from the two respective hostels. The results were released on December 16 with the over-all passing rating of 88%. All the students under Science curriculum passed with two getting a Grade Point Average or GPA of 5 while the rest were between 4 & 4.9. Among the Commerce and Arts students, 5 boys and 3 girls failed respectively. So, the over-all rating is satisfactory despite of the closed down of all the educational institutions for almost 2 years in the country due to Covid19 pandemic.



Candidacy program "Come and see" with George on 12th to the 17th of November at the formation house of Mymensingh, Bangladesh. The program is only for the class 10 or Secondary School Certificate (SSC). Five young men came to participate from 3 different parishes namely Pargacha, Mariomnogor and Diglakuna. The two aspirants Timas and Shokomar took charge of orienting them around the house. Thanks Mother Mary for sending these young men to us. Class 12 or Higher School Certificate (HSC) will be in December hopefully.



After the come and see in Mymensingh on the 17th morning, George proceeded to the capital to fetch the Economes from the General Administration in Rome Bros. Goyo and Jorge who arrived from the Philippines the following day. Due to their late night arrival, the brothers stayed overnight at the Smsm's place where Sr. Juliana M. Toluomo received the three with warm welcomed over a cup of tea and coffee in the middle of the night.

Giasnogor School Community BANGLADESH

A Mass followed by the blessing of the 3rd Floor of the hostel for girls on the morning of the 28th. The floor has a chapel, sleeping quarter, study and hostel in-charge rooms. Another group of 20 girls occupied the said floor the same day. Fr. Francesco Rizzo, a diocesan Italian missionary priest and the current rector of the minor seminary next door presided the mass.



The academic year concluded on the 9th of December with students finishing the last day of their exams followed by holidays until January 8, 2023. Results of the exams were released on the 16th after the victory day ceremony in the school and on the 21st, the expected number of class 6 boys and girls for the hostel were accepted for the coming year. Finally, after all these school activities were done, Bros. Vigilio, George and Topu zoomed to visit friends nearby and families of the local brothers Robert and Rubel, with almost the whole day trip, in the mission parish of Pargacha where number of brothers had lived and worked for several years.



May the season of Christmas and the coming 2023 fill your home or community with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter!



Br. George,

Mymensingh Community BANGLADESH



Second week of November, we received 5 young men who had completed their class 10 for our 'come and see' program organized by Br. George as a Vocation promotor. After 4 days program they went back home... due to some reason, they are not able to come back for the formation program and for their further studies.



November 18th to 23 Bros Jorge and Gayo from Rome visited Bangladesh. on 22nd & 23rd they visited our community. Bro. Alex took them to visit the piece of land which we are planning to buy for the formation house and the community building with enough space for a small playground and garden.



Mymensingh Community BANGLADESH



on 22nd November, Bros. Virgilio and Alex Celebrated their 25 years of Religious profession in a simple way with the Local religious and Bishop of Mymensingh. We had a meaningful Eucharistic celebration presided by Our Bishop Ponon Paul Kubi, csc. concelebrated by few more priests. Marist Brothers and SMSM Sisters, along with the other local religious men and women. After the Mass, we had a short facilitation program and followed by lunch.



December 1st Birthday of Br. Robert. While he is in the University, we the brothers and Aspirants went to his University and celebrated his birthday along with his university companions of Holy Cross Seminarians. It was a big surprise for him to see us and celebrated his birthday with his friends and companions. It was another way of showing our brotherly support and concern to the brother in our community.

Mymensingh Community BANGLADESH



December 19th we the community of brothers and Aspirants joined with the Brothers and Sisters in Giasnagor to celebrate our pre-Christmas. simple celebration; Mass, gift sharing and lunch. quiet long travel but its meaningful to join with the others.

on 21st evening, we ad community pre-Christmas with the Aspirants. we had a special prayer service based on the Christmas, at the end gift sharing and Christmas dinner together. The Next day Brother Robert and the Aspirants went to their home for Christmas break. Christmas and New Zear we had participated with the local Parishioners in the Parish Church. Also, 2nd January 2023 we had a simple celebration of our Foundation Day with a meaningful prayer service and dinner in the house.

Br. Alex



Davao Postulancy Community PHILIPPINES



December 27,28, and 29, the Postulants Community visited the community of Lake Sebu during the December Christmas vacations. We stayed at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center. Br. Joseph stopped his studies for some days to be with us. Thank You Brothers for your hospitality, especially Br. Rustico and Jek.



October and November, the time to renew some aspects of our house.

Davao Postulancy Community PHILIPPINES



December 24/25 special Christmas present,” the visit of the three Kings” (Miguel Angel, Ray, and Jone). Thank you for sharing your vocational Journey with us...God bless you in your new mission, formators at MAPAC.



November 2nd a visit to the Cemeteries of Davao... Remembering our brothers that have passed away.

Davao Postulancy Community PHILIPPINES



After a long time, Brother Walter and Brother Salvador left Davao to visit their families due to the covid 19 restrictions. Enjoy the time with your families; we wish you two all the best.



On November 17, Brothers Jorge, Goyo, and Teofilo visited the community.



Termites destroyed the wooden wall and bookshelf. Thank a million to the skillful postulants for setting up a new wall and a new bookshelf.

Br. Juan

Tamontaka Novitiate Community PHILIPPINES



The visitation of the brothers from Rome to our community in the Novitiate; Br. Lindley and Br. Anghel. We were so glad to have them in our Novitiate, especially at the time of Christmas and New Year. We had been going to the very early mass in the morning together. We enjoyed the moments of meal times with one another. We were joking, telling stories, and teasing each other. Br. Anghel and Br. Lindley also had time to share with us about “today’s brothers” as their mission. They had been answering our concerns and questions as well. Thanks a lot for coming to see how are we doing as well as listen to our thoughts.

In the very first class sections we had in the year 2023, there was the presence of brother Lindley. He taught us about Marist Spirituality. It was a great time we had together before he travel back to Rome. He also shared with us a beautiful song named “Rual” which means “the spirit of God”. We hope we can make a record of the song and send it to him soon.



Happy New Year to all from the
Novitiate of Tamontaka!

Br. Mai (Novice)

Tan Chau Community VIETNAM

After classes with the children, we went to give lucky money to all the children at the lake, they are really enjoying it and are very happy, and we also take the chance to visit their family and wish their life will get better in another year.



Tan Chau Community VIETNAM



The classes with the children at the lake still going well with three groups with the brother, all the children are enjoying their studies in different parts: reading, writing, and mathematics, and they are more come every day. Some more places ask us to come to teach, but we still do not get enough brothers and volunteers to open other places. The class runs in the morning every day from Monday to Friday, and sometimes we give them some gifts: milk, candy or cake.

Br. Binh



Cu Chi Community VIETNAM



From October 7th to 10th, the two aspirants (Mr. Chinh and Mr. Trung) made a Marian pilgrimage in Vung Tau, about 120Km away from our community. It was their intention to offer themselves to Our Good Mother and to ask Her Guidance on their aspirancy journey. Bros. Cong and Duy accompanied on the journey.

The Vietnam Country meeting took place in our community on December 10th to discuss the current statuses of each community and the future projects. Most of the brothers were present, but br. Kim participated on-line because he was in Korea related to his visa insurance. The Vietnam Country meeting took place in our community on December 10th to discuss the current statuses of each community and the future projects.



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Following the meeting, the four temporary professed brothers (bros. Bao, Thuan, Hung, and Thuong) renewed their vows at the Mass presided by Fr. Vu, parish priest of the My Khanh parish. Br. Cong received their renewal on behalf of the District Leader.

The joy extended to the After-Mass party, and everyone appreciated 'fraternal love'.

Cu Chi Community VIETNAM



Christmas is a time to celebrate beautiful moments and to share the joy of Jesus's birth. In this sense, our community took part in the preparation and presentation of the Christmas festival held on December 24th at the My Khanh parish, Cu Chi. Brothers adorned the festival by singing 'Gloria' in a nice harmony. Besides, br. Duy played as Moses and br. Thanh played as Joseph in 'the NATIVITY STORY'.



Br. Thanh was with us over the past two months. As a precious member, he joined in various works, especially the Christmas decoration and the design of Vietnam Marist calendar.

He flew to Manila on January 4th. We hope that Our lady be with him and his companions who just started 'Another Beginning' in MAPAC.

Br. Kim

Tudella Novitiate Community

SRI LANKA

CHRISTMAS BREAK AT TUDELLA NOVITIATE

During our Christmas break in Tudella Novitiate (Sri Lanka), we have had different activities beside our work at home (Christmas decoration, manual work, Liturgical celebrations, Advent and Christmas especial community prayers, etc) the outing (pilgrimage) to Anuradhapura (place in the central of Sri Lanka Island) and Jaffna (North of Sri Lanka).

SACRED CITY OF ANURADHAPURA

This sacred city was established around a cutting from the 'tree of enlightenment', the Buddha's fig tree, brought there in the 3rd century B.C. by Sanghamitta, the founder of an order of Buddhist nuns. Anuradhapura, a Ceylonese political and religious capital that flourished for 1,300 years, was abandoned after an invasion in 993. Hidden away in dense jungle for many years, the splendid site, with its palaces, monasteries and monuments.

JAFFNA

Nagaddepa Purana Vihara Temple

Is one of the 3 places in Sri Lanka celebrating Buddha's visit (this site is for the 2nd visit, 5 years after attaining Enlightenment. Built by the two warring Naga Kings, Mahodara and his nephew Chulodara – after Buddha helped settle a dispute over the possession of a gem-studded throne; which was then offered to the Buddha, & returned by him to the King, who later enshrined it in a stupa next to the temple.

Nallur Kandasamy Kovil Temple

The Kovil temple is Jaffna's premier place of Hindu worship, going back to the 18th century. The original temple, in the time of the Tamil kings, was destroyed by the Portuguese in 1620 and stood on the site presently occupied by St. James Church 400m from the present temple.

Br. Kikko



1 Buddha at Anurdhapura



2 At Anuradhapura



3 Anuradhapura Temple

Tudella Novitiate Community SRI LANKA



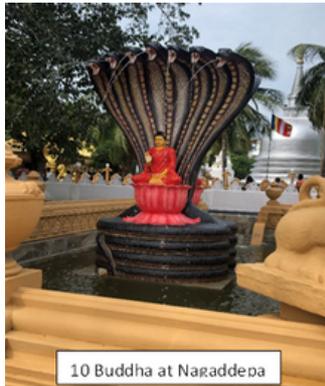
4 With two young Buddhist



6 In Anuradhapura



5 Visit to Anuradhapura Pagoda



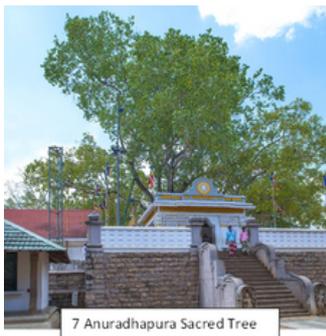
10 Buddha at Nagaddepa



9 Nagadeepa Purana Vihara Temple



8 Waiting train



7 Anuradhapura Sacred Tree



12 On the way to Nagaddepa Temple



13 With Salvatorian Community (Jaffna)



14 Ready for Christmas Eve Mass at Ekala Parish



15 With Ekala Parish Choir

La Valla Home Community THAILAND



On 02nd Nov, 2022, the community welcome miss Evelyn (Lay Marist) who making a distance from Pailin to Bangkok and to Lavalla Home for a visit.



On 20nd Nov, The first Thai and English class for adult workers from Myanmar in Marist Learning Center. The number reach to 90 students in one of Sunday Class. Simple lunch provided after the class.



La Valla Home Community THAILAND



On 26 Nov, a Vietnamese Dominican priest (doctor) and his assistant offer free health check-up for students and parents at MLC.



On 18 Dec, Marist Learning Center organized a Christmas Celebration for students, teachers, staffs, and parents. There were so much of joy seeing the students performed traditional and modern dances, singing, drama, and catwalk.

Br. Tri

District House Community THAILAND

Donation to the Thai-Myanmar border project of the Living Water Foundation, which br. Jose Grande is participating in a certain part under the name of 'Marist Brothers'.

Date: 26,28 Dec. 2022

Location: Chonburi, Samut Sakorn, Outskirt Mae Sot



More than 300+ children were blessed through LWF and we are grateful to donors who have share their love to these children. We prepared, stationaries, snacks, candies and some needed items for them. We also had a chance to hold soccer match for children at Chonburi province. Majority of the children at Chonburi (Sattahip) and Samut Sakon are non-believers and we share the good news to them by stories telling, teaching Christian songs and through prayers.



Art work of migrant children displayed at Christmas party. The principal is also a Santa Clause for the party. All of these children are from Myanmar.



We were able to donate 300 blankets to the most needy places. Blankets were shipped to Mae Sot using logistics because they couldn't be fit into our truck. Then we pick them up at logistics at Mae Sot and our contacts came to pick them up at the location.



District House Community THAILAND



This place is in a remote area (corn field) where IDPs are taking refuge. We were able to visit them and donate clothing, toys, snacks, candies and blankets because cold season is finally here. In the evening and in the morning, the temperature can get low down to 17 C. Children and elderlies remain at this place while some men went to work (seasonal workers) to collect corns.



People are taking refuge among bamboo trees using tarpaulins. Living condition is harsh for them because water is a scarce source.

This is another location further down the corn field. Many are struggling for their livelihood. Young people have lost their future because there is no schooling available and some young girls already have children at the age of 13 or 14 years. These are the unseen consequences or effects of ongoing civil war as well as unrest along border areas.

District House Community THAILAND



Living Water Foundation is deeply thankful to our Heavenly Father for the wonderful opportunity given to us to be part of the joy among the needy. In meantime, we are very grateful to all donors who have taken part financially, through prayers for our ministry outreaching the needy in community, remote areas as well as along border areas.

May the Lord continue to bless you all with joy, prosperity, and countless blessings in 2023. It's a privilege for all of us to take part hand in hand in His divine ministry.

Marist
District of Asia
MARIST BROTHERS



MDA VISION–MISSION STATEMENT **2022 - 2025**

We, the Brothers and Lay Marist of Champagnat,
Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Mary and Marcellin Champagnat
Become faces of hope that look beyond
And promotes a Global intercultural family
In places where we have taken roots.

In our quest to live our vocation as Marists
And responding to the emerging needs of
our respective mission places,
We strive to build homes of light where everyone feels welcome
And strengthen our human resources through formation
And training to ensure vitality and sustainability
in our various ministries.

