



Newsletter of the Marist Novitiate Tudella Sri Lanka

2019

Editorial *Welcome everyone! It's been a while since our previous Newsletter, and many things have occurred here in Tudella and beyond. We hope you enjoy reading about our experiences!*

Motto

Ad Jesum per Mariam

(All to Jesus through Mary)



the school that if they had any activities to do with the environment they could send us a message. So they called us and we joined with the students and staff of the school for a day.



Tree Planting, by Duc To respond to the invitation of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, our novitiate community has done many things to protect our common home. One of those was planting trees with the students and staff of Maris Stella College. In order to prepare for the celebration of 100 years of the foundation of the school in 2021, the administration of the school decided on a 'journey project', to plant 100,000 trees. We had informed

That day was a little hot but



all of us were very happy and energetic to plant trees. We are happy because we can do a little for the "lung" of our generation and for the generations to come after us.

LAUDATO SI "AWAKE THE WORLD" - MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS OF THE REGION ON ECOLOGY - November 5, 2019, by Bro. Réal

From time to time, the religious of the region have a meeting together. It is a good opportunity to share some good practices and to develop some reflections on important issues. The last time we met was on November 5. We were speaking about ecology and our commitment in this sense.

M. Dinesh, a photographer of the region came to present some video illustrating a very terrible deterioration of the region, in particular in some beautiful places around us in Tudella. There is an accumulation of garbage, polluting industries, etc., which have become a terrific menace for the





ecosystem of the nearby lagoon. We were shocked to learn that the law exists for the protection of this environment but none of them are applied due to the corruption that exists at a high level of government. We took the second part of the meeting to discern what we can do as religious to “awake the world” according to the expression of Pope Francis, who has given this mission to the religious in these last years. Mainly we will try to work with the Parishes. We have another meeting in February to see where we are. In the meantime, our community of novices with the group of local Lay Marists, are committed to some concrete ecological actions by cleaning the streets around us. Most recently we cleaned around the Family Apostolate Center close to us, picking up rubbish and gardening, in order to take care of our “common home”.

Visit of Sacred Heart College, by Br Rod We were privileged on the weekend of November 23 and 24 to host a group of Yr 11 students from Sacred Heart College in



Adelaide. Over the weekend they joined in our prayer, work, volleyball game, and our Talent Show, which finished with a wonderful dance together. The interaction of novices and students was a blessing for both

groups, and at the end the students presented us with a generous donation which their school had raised with a year of fundraising. The money will be used for a number of projects, including some hair-cutting



equipment for the residents of Suhana Madura, an exercise bike for the Charity Brothers' school for disabled children, and a donation to a very poor parish that we visit in Jaffna.

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Liu Cong's birthday celebration, *By Liu Cong*

22nd of November was a special day for the novitiate community and me personally. It was my birthday and we also held the memorial Mass of the holy martyrs of Vietnam. The Apostolic Nuncio to Sri Lanka, Rev Archbishop Pierre Nguyễn Van Tot, our good friend, was presented and celebrated the Mass. He also blessed me and said good wishes to me afterwards.



In the evening, we had my birthday celebration party, which started with prayer, with many brothers shared their impression and prayers for me and my family, and some also asked my pardon. I was grateful for journeying with them throughout these years.



In order to make the party meaningful, I prepared a powerpoint to share the part of me that they had never heard of. In that, I confided my confusing teenagerhood, my struggles, my strengths and weakness to them. Most of them patiently listened to my “homily” till the end and showed their interest.

I could say it is the most meaningful birthday celebration I have ever experienced in my life. I also take this opportunity to thank all brothers and sisters in the Marist world, who sent their sincere greetings to me.

Timorese Celebration, *by Gioan*

In this international novitiate we come from different countries, so we have many opportunities to approach and learn many beautiful things from different countries and we have many interesting activities to help us to understand the traditions and the countries we come from.



One of these is celebrating our national days. I am very impressed with the national celebration of my brothers coming from East Timor. In this celebration, I had the opportunity to listen to their story and history. They shared for us about the young country East Timor and the journey of their family during the war. I can see that they have a long story with many challenges they and their family encountered. Moreover, when I listened to their story, it helped me to

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understand and to get more information and knowledge from them, after some presentations about the geography and economic system of East Timor. We watched some videos about the war and during the presentation we enjoyed the food, drink and dancing.

This is one of the most beautiful experiences that I encountered. It helped to have more knowledge and more understanding of those I am living with. It helped us to be closer to each other and it helped to build up the relationship among us and build up the unity in our community, even though we come from different countries. But we belong to the Marist Brothers' congregation and we are Brothers.

Tudella Novitiate Council, by Nick

Our international novitiate at Tudella, Srilanka is a joint project of four Marist administrative units, these being the Marist District of Asia, District of Melanesia, Province of Australia and Province of South Asia.



Four major superiors of these administrative units form the Novitiate Council and the main responsibility of over-seeing the proper functioning of the Tudella Novitiate rests on them.

The Novitiate Council meets twice a year, around March and October. The last meeting was held on 25th and 26th of October 2019. These meetings are occasions for the Superiors to reflect on the life and mission of the novitiate. And certainly these meeting times are really a time of pastoral visit to the novitiate by the Superiors. They stimulate a lot of joy and encouragement in the Novitiate community.

The life of 2019

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