

Marist District of Asia

April 6, 2020

In MDA

- Now the Superior is in Rome, because could not go back after the Provincial's meeting in March.
- In the district they are taking care of themselves, cases of covid-19 increasing in each country.
- Projects are closed.
- Br. Ismael who was in CN is now in Bangkok for a while.
- Br. Eugenio Sans is Spain on his home leave, but can't visit his mum in the caring house, due the lockdown.
- Br. Paco can't travel to Tudella to be the new novice master.
- 6 newly professed brothers in Tudella can't travel for their home leave, they will continue some activities in the novitiate in Tudella.
- 6 postulants accepted for the novitiate are in holidays in their countries, probably they can't travel on time to start the novitiate in May.
- MAPAC brothers in lockdown, only classes at home.
- Postulants in Davao, lockdown, formation at home.

We do what we can, what is allowed to do. Each community observes the recommendations of the local authorities.

There are brothers able to help the families and kids with food program, online teaching and mutual support, keeping in contact with the people and praying.

Formation houses continue their activities in an adapted way .

Communities try to be in solidarity with the surrounding areas in creative ways.

Also try to expend less money.

Brothers and lay in MDA are well, no cases of infection by covid-19

What we are experiencing and seeing around the world is hard to describe. This pandemic is changing the world permanently, and so it can be for us brothers and lay.

It makes me rethink about what truly is a "life or death", and beckons reflection on fundamental issues of humankind, and see it more from the Divine perspective.

In this painful time, Easter comes with its full meaning, perhaps now more than ever.

In the scriptures we see what Jesus did in such situations of suffering and darkness, and finally after three days in his "locked in", light emerged! Hope became alive!

It is a painful Holy Week and Easter for many people.

Comes to me the call of the general chapter:

"To be a beacon of light and hope in this turbulent world."

Br. Canísio José Willrich – Superior of the District of Asia