



*Marist Brothers, Provincial Office,  
No. 10, Marcellin Nivasa, Mirigama Road,  
Negombo, 11500, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: / Fax: (94) 31 2238130, (94) 31 2237011  
Email: mervynfms@gmail.com /lankafms@gmail.com*

April 30, 2020

**Dear Brothers,**

Greetings from Negombo!

Easter is so BIG that we have to celebrate it for many Days. Happy Easter to you once again and all the Marists with you.

For the last several weeks we have been living with many restrictions and limitations and who knows how long we will have to continue to live in the same way. Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see how widely a virus spreads person to person in a devastating way and immense damage it is doing in numerous ways to our countries. We are living in a time of great crisis, so it is only human that we experience considerable fear and anxiety. Mary has protected us well through this crisis. Let us be thankful to her always.

While thanking you all immensely for complying sincerely with directives given by our respective governments for the sake of the common good, I would like to appeal to you once again to adhere strictly to the instructions and guidelines given by the authorities which means not to do anything that might spread the virus to others with whom we live in community. It is not the time to look after ourselves only but to care for others. As consecrated people it is our utmost responsibility and our calling to lead our lives as responsible citizens. Let us strive to become 'Protectors of Life' which will certainly demand of us sacrifices.

May we also use these days to deepen our prayer and spiritual lives? Pope Francis encourages us, "Let us call upon today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activities risks being fruitless and our message empty."

In Pope Francis's letter written on the Month of May he has provided two prayers to Our Good Mother, you are encouraged to pray them in the month of May at the end of the Rosary. I have attached the same for your convenience.

May these days of anxiety and fear draw us ever closer to Jesus and let's all pray with Pope Francis to Mary Our Good Mother.

Kindest Regards and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Perera', with a horizontal line underneath.

Bro. Mervyn Perera  
Provincial

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Scheduled Transfers and changing over of responsibilities.**

I have requested Lazar in his role as the Sector leader of India to see that the planned transfers and changes of responsibilities are done smoothly, when there would be satisfactory safety and mobility within the country.



### **Bro. Paul Bhatti**

After three years of committed mission with the Lavalla 200 community in Tabatinga, Paul will return to Pakistan when the restrictions are lifted in international travelling. Welcome back home Paul.



### **Brief Note from Bro. Farancis**



Life at North Sydney Marist community continues to uphold its life-giving rhythm despite of lock-down around. We all (the elderly ones and the young ones) have graciously adapted to the required changes in our life style to keep each other safe and healthy. As an international student brother, I feel highly supported, helped and assisted in my academic and all other needs.

In relation to my academic journey, it has been remarkably an enriching and learning experience. As per planned by 30<sup>th</sup> of June my study will be over from Australian Catholic University. I am looking forward to be back in the province by end of July depending on the availability of international flights.

### **Rainbow News**

The Rainbow Family celebrated World Women's Day on the 15 of March 2020. The days program included a lecture to make them aware the Corona Virus Pandemic and a motivational talk by Sr. Velankanni (Advocate) how to face the challenges and difficulties the women under go in the society.



### **The Annual Day and sport day at English medium school**



The annual day and sports day at Marist Nursery & Primary School held on 7th March 2020. The chief guest was Rev.Fr. John Peter, Principal, Holy Cross Matric. Hr. Sec.



School. It was encouraging to witness the active participation of many parents.

### **Bro. Nicholas Fernando**

I thank Bro. Nicholas Fernando on behalf of all the Brothers in the Province very sincerely for the wholehearted contribution he made as the Master of Novices in the International Novitiate Tudella for the last six years. During his tenure the exemplary life style he led, the relationships he strived to develop among the Novices and the staff were praiseworthy. Thank you very much Nick for the enormous contribution you made in your capacity as the Master of Novices to Promote Marist Life and the Mission.



Nicholas has already shifted to the Candidates house in Negombo after the first Profession ceremony of the newly Professed. He keeps himself very busy at present helping Bro. Noel, to prepare the two candidates to begin their Postulancy in June.

### **Bro. Charles Fernando.**



I would like to thank Bro. Charles Fernando immensely for saying Yes to take care of the Candidates House for an interim period in spite of the limitations he is experiencing due to his health condition. I am very grateful to Charles on behalf of all the Brothers in the Province for his generosity in giving the helping hand when the Province was in great need.

With the arrival of Nick, Charles has moved to his former room at Marcellin Nivasa. A warm welcome back to Charles.



### Aspirancy house

Aspirancy house was inaugurated in M.S.C. Negombo in January 2020. Former Hostel of M.S.C. was modified to house these future Marists. Two formation programmes run side by side in this venue:

Aspirancy programme for 10 day scholars from Grade 10 upwards attending M.S.C. Negombo (5 students), M.S.C. Thimbirigaskatuwa (4 students) and St. Mary's College Negombo (1 Student)



Pre- postulancy programme for 2 prospective Marists preparing them for the stage of Postulancy. The team work of the Formation community composed of Bros. Charles, Noel, Sasmika and Sheron has been a great boost for the good that happened there. Presence and work of Bros. Chinthana, Remi and Sales are to be valued. In addition the support of the lay teachers of the staff of M.S.C. Negombo and former teacher of M.S.C. Negombo is to be appreciated. Two pre- postulants in addition to their Marist studies follow the "Savana" Theology programme on Saturdays.

The two would be postulants' have shown quiet notable improvement in their prayer life and English language. The planes are in place to increase number of aspirants in year 2021.

### Death of Bro. Noel's Brother in-Law.

Linus Perera of Yatiyana died of a Kidney failure he suffered for sometime. His funeral took place On the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Yatiyana Roman catholic cemetery with the participation of family members and close associates of the family. I commend his soul for your kind prayers.

### Birthdays of Brothers:

#### Month of May

02<sup>nd</sup>, Sesu A. (91) 9994771878  
03<sup>rd</sup>, Anthony Francis (94) 779797497  
10<sup>th</sup>, Raj Kumar (91) 9585758874  
17<sup>th</sup>, Kumarasinghe Perera (94) 718375958  
18<sup>th</sup>, Johnson Gnanasekara (91) 9994559937  
31<sup>st</sup>, Jeyaraj M. A. (91) 9944940419

Happy  
Birthday