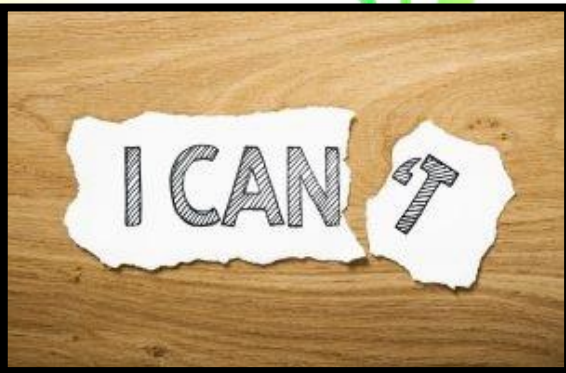


CHANGES...

The numerous events that have emerged in the world history, such as World Wars and industrial revolutions, have not only changed the social appearance, but also have changed the basic framework or system in society. Likewise, various viruses (Black plague, Spanish flu, etc.) had a major impact on the social healthcare and welfare system, as well as economic structures. All people living in 2020, especially those in their 50s or younger, may not know the socio-economic changes that have occurred due to the events mentioned above. However, it is clear that we live in a world in which those changes are based and we get used to living in it.

Rather than saying that the 19th Century began in 1801, it can be said that it started in the 1880s, when the Steam engine was invented and the first industrial revolution that led Europe from agricultural-oriented society to the industrial-oriented society. The 20th Century could also be started when World War I ended and socio-economic power began to move from Europe to USA in 1919. Based on that the logic, I would like to say that the 21st Century began in the COVID-19 crisis this year. This because it is a source of change in the times with tremendous influence to change the Century.



This virus has been testing the crisis management skills of each country and demands major shifts in economy, education, social welfare system as well as the way of coexistence with nature and religious organizational systems. In fact, this change has been

going on from years ago, but I believe this virus has accelerated it. Many people want COVID-19 to end sooner and return to the time before Corona. Yes, it is a natural desire to return to the system familiar to all. However, many scientists and sociologists say that if this pandemic crisis continues next year, whether you like it or not, we cannot fully return to the times before this pandemic and all of us must be familiar with the new normal system. And the socio-economic change will lead to transform the system of the Church. Allow me to say that it may be similar to the impact of the Second Vatican Council.

If so, what changes? We have already entered the era of 'Un-contact'. The Un-contact is different from dis-contact, which means that the connection between each one is completely disconnected. It uses various networks, such as the Video conference, SNS, Online classes, etc. And you and I are already live in it. As Choi Jae-bong PhD said, we are Phono-sapiens (Smart phone+Homo Sapiens) and need to get used to the digital ecosystem in the Un-contact world wisely. For example, in many places, online education will replace offline education. In fact, there is much better content in online education these days. Of course, the quality and quantity of classes will differ depending on each country. But one day, most of societies around the world will demand it. Office work will be done online too. And there will be fewer management positions in the middle of the company operation. Moreover, due to the Telecommuting (Work at Home), the home environment also be changed.

The reason I've shared with you about the change of social system related to COVID-19 is that all of us in this year are the first generation to live in the, so called, 'New Civilization' made by Corona pandemic. There will be changes or transformations in administrative units and communities. Cognitive sensibility will be required and apostolic, formation, community house will be asked to be changed. You will hear a voice in your heart that fears and resists the unfamiliarity in it. For this reason, no one should be left alone, and more sympathetic networks should be connected. Just as no one wants to step back from this New Civilization, everyone should try to work together, walking side by side. In addition, even if the future is uncertain and the response to the changes in the community system is seen slowly, and complaints and feelings of dissatisfaction occur, we need to try to understand that no one prepared for this time of pandemic. Therefore, all of us need to be positive, not optimistic, and gather wisdom to create the best solution for all of us.



Kim, fms

POSTULANCY HOUSE – DAVAO, PHILIPPINES



Feast of Saint Marceline Champagnat June 06, we had the Mass with the Marist fathers and Marist Sister, during the celebration **Bro. Tri** renew his annual vows. After Mass we shared our happiness with a meal.

July 02, Arriving of the New Postulants from East Timor.

We have been waiting the Postulants from East Timor to arrive to Davao but the Corona virus has kept them in Manila... July 02 is the new date for their arrival. They will be ten new members in our community so we will have almost **“full house”** with the 8 postulants we actually have, and three brothers in the Formators team.

Corona virus has given us the opportunity to share our space with members of other community. We live at present with the Master of Novices of the International Novitiate of Tudella locked down with us. It is a privileged to count with his experience in Formation during these months, thanks Paco for your generosity.



Bro. Tri and Novice Ly preparing the Hall for the Mass.

One Novice from Vietnam Joseph Ly has been also locked down here so we are able to see in reality how is the life of a novice in the middle of the postulants... thanks for your presence among us.

The new problems and challenges aroused from this lockdown are real and the community wanted to open the doors to a young man needed



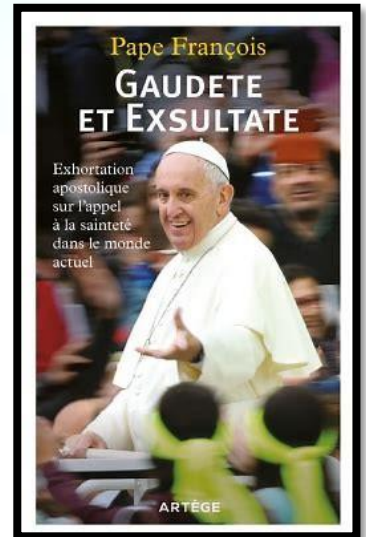


friendly living.

of shelter and food during this pandemic period. Thanks to him we can live at least in for a short form the invitation to share our lives with young people in need. T Dennis for sharing life with us.

After finished the English courses on line we have been trying to continue our Formation reading some valuable material for Pope Francis. First, we studied the apostolic Exhortation **“Gaudete et exsultate”** about the call to holiness.

Then we had a work-shop about the Encyclical letter on the environment **“Laudato si”** at the end we had our Communitarian commitments for eco-



Bro. Juan Castro, fms



FROM TAN CHAU COMMUNITY – VIET NAM

Marist Tan Chau - Ta Do project

Solidarity program - supporting the most vulnerable people during the pandemic.



Among the vulnerable people of the returnees coming from Cambodia, there are several cases whose lives are always a struggle. They are disable people, widow and old people with sickness. We try our best to support them, helping them going through this difficult time.

Rebuilding a hut for an old widow with supports from friends.



We continue to keep the food program running by providing them eggs, fruits and milk daily.



Visit from family, friends and Jesuit Brothers.



My dad (first from the left) came for a short visit. He has gone back home after has his health check-up and attending my sister's wedding party in SG.

Bro. Bao, fms



From the District Superior

Building bridges in time of pandemic

Marist District of Asia (MDA) is a young district which started as the Marist Ad Gentes Program in Asia, 14 years ago. Over the time many young people joined our congregation.

- We are 46 brothers: 19 MDA professed brothers (temporary vows) and 27 brothers from other Administrative Unites.
- 10 Marist communities in 7 countries.
- Formation houses in China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Davao, Sri Lanka, Manila. There are some candidates, 3 aspirants, 11 postulants and 7 novices.
- 19 Student brothers: 11 in the scholasticate in MAPAC, 8 in apostolic communities
- One school in Bangladesh; hostels in Giasnogor, Talit and Pailin.
- Projects in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh and India.
- We also have an ongoing local laity program (MCFM), some people sharing common activities in the community, others living outside.



As you can see, our District is young and more and more becoming with an Asian face. It is very important for us to accompany our young people; therefore, we appointed a mentor brother and a coordinator of the young professed brothers of the District.

We organized young brothers' gatherings within the countries or cluster countries, and once a year a general gathering. Beside that the mentor and the district leader have regular contact with them through visits or social media.

On June 10, 2020 we had the opportunity to have a video chat with all the professed brothers in MDA, **Br. Ernesto, Brothers Soteris and Sylvain** (link councilors of the District), **Br. Ismael** (mentor brother), and the **District Leader** (who remains in the general house due restrictions of the pandemic).

It was a time to strengthen brotherhood, sharing life experiences in this time of pandemic, listening to our leaders, ask questions and pray together. It was a joyful moment of connecting hearts in new ways, brothers gathered in groups and all connected around a virtual table.

The young brothers appreciate the care of the Institute for them and are enthusiastic in being brother and serve those little ones in need.

Some of the young brothers are following university studies in order to get a degree; a qualification that will help them in their ministries.

With your support to our young people in MDA, and with Our Good Mother and Champagnat's blessings we will continue building bridges in the Institute.



Br. Canisio J.W. fms

Marist Novitiate Tudella Sri Lanka

Marist Novitiate Celebration of The Religious Brother's Day

The community decided to celebrate this day in a more meaningful by giving out some of community's and individual's money to help poor neighbourhood during this Covid pandemic. We also had a small party back in the community.



An Imaginative Trip to Rome

The Novitiate community's members got to know about the Vatican and beautiful sights in Rome through wonderful preparations, done by the Novices and the Brothers. Though all international flights are banned, we still had an "imaginative" flight to Rome with novices as flight attendants, and the event continued by presentations on Rome, ended by an Italian meal.



Newly Professed Brothers on Their Holiday

The Newly professed Brothers, together with **Bros. Rod** and **Chinthana** went on a week holiday after the lockdown and restriction in the country had been lifted. The holiday house was close to the beachside, so we could spend a lot of time going swimming, learning for the first time how to surf, collecting some snails... We all really enjoyed this holiday. Thanks to all...

Community games and brotherhood.

Every Friday we gather together to share our joy and fraternity through games and activities. Thanks to all those who coordinated the games, and cheers to all the participants. Lots of fun and laughter!!! Cheers!!!



Bro. Tran Long

From Talit Community – West Bengal, India



Renovation of the hostel building

Renovations of the hostel building was started in the first week of February 2020. But couldn't continue due to COVID-19 pandemic national wide lockdown; work and all the activities had stopped for almost three months.

In the first week of June 2020, renovation work started again. So far work is in full swing and major works were finished except painting. We are expecting to be completed within few weeks' time. Thanks to Bishop, who is shouldering every expense for the renovation of the Hostel building.



Bro. Malangmei, fms

From Pailin Community – Cambodia

The Construction of the Girls Hotel commenced

As a result of a bold decision of the community and the MDA Council, the construction of the girl's hostel which is a component of the Marist Education Centre started eleven days ago.



(The above is the master plan of the Marist Education Centre depicting various buildings. The completion of the girl's hostel will bring the number of houses in the compound to four.)

Since then, we have seen various construction machines and trucks coming to our place to do various jobs and bring materials for construction as well.





Another amazing scene of the site now is the presence of four couples with their children and all are participating in the work. This is something as Marist we are concerned however, the workers and the people around here, say “ate, bongpro, adt panyaha” simply mean “no brother, there is no problem”.



Bros. Francis & Max, fms

FROM VIET NAM

NEW START



We are on the continuum of a constantly changing process.

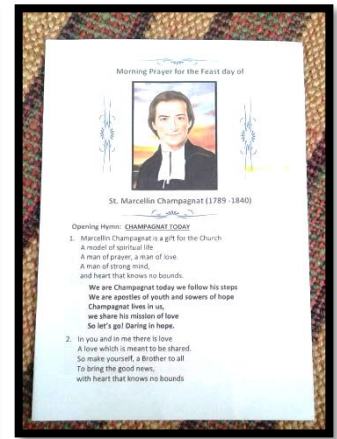
How newly and lively is the freshness of every moment! Our life, where we have the opportunity to start again, leaving the past behind, is like drawing new sketch always on a new blank sheet. Today, too, you and I are celebrating a new day with a new drawing on a new blank sheet. Indeed, a new history has begun for Bros. Thuan, Hung and I who left Hanoi and came to Saigon and Tan Chau last month. Please, pray for the three brothers to walk always on the moments of blessing.

Kim, fms

From Mymensingh Community – Bangladesh



June 6th, we celebrated our Founder's feast day in our community of two brothers (**Bros. Alex and George**), **Sumon** - postulant (who came for his community experience) and **Shubo** - Aspirant. During this pandemic situation, we didn't have any visitors for this celebration, but we invited only our house owner and his family who are living next door. The family came out of the house after 90 days of COVID 19 lockdown to join with us for the feast day lunch. Morning we had a special prayer based on our Superior General's message on the Feast day of St. Marcellin Champagnat. Afternoon we had lunch with the House owner's family, also part of thanksgiving for their support to allow us to use their house. Also, our house started to get colouring after years of being built. Simple house with few plots and we are using it as the house of formation for Aspirants and Candidates. Due to the COVID 19 lockdown, no one lives in this house except Bro. George and I. Once the lockdown will finish, hopefully we will get some young men who are in our contact and we will continue our formation program. Until then, we both brothers can share our brotherly love and support in every aspect of our community life.



Bro. A.H. Alex, fms



VOWS RENEWAL

– **BRO. ALEX**

On 7th of July Renewal take place in Viet Nam



On 20th of May, the day our Founder's birth Vows renewal took place in MAPAC



From Giasnogar Community – Bangladesh

Brother **Eugenio** accompanied our two volunteers, originally from Catalonia, Spain, to take their respective flights in Dhaka and return to their Home countries. At 7pm, we found a restaurant and had our dinner in the city. It was an excellent fraternal moment to chat a lot about the community and our mission with the poor boys and girls, teachers and well support of the Marist Missionary Sisters who are part of our mission here. At the end we said good bye to the volunteers and Eugenio took them to the Airport and he also left for his home holidays. Now still he is in home holidays due to the COVID 19 he couldn't return back until today.

This Global pandemic situation blocked our daily routine. Students from the school and hostel are at home, the compound is empty, teachers are at their home, we brothers and sisters stay in the compound and taking care of the place. I had two and half a month's Bengali classes in the city staying with the Jesuits fathers. Due to the Lockdown, end of May with the help of the Postulant who was there for his community experience I came to the community to stay. Because in the city everything was locked and I had no chance to go or my regular classes. Now I am having my classes by online.



Sr. Julianna smsm Birthday celebration



St. Marcellin's Feast day



Bros. Cesar & Marti at the new bridge

Bro. Cesar, fms

Our New MDA District House from July 1, 2020



New Address:

54 Sathorn 9
South Sathorn Road
Yanawa, Sathorn,
Bangkok 10120, THAILAND.

Postal address:

Box 1109, Silom, Bangkok,
10504 - THAILAND





“LIKE MARY,
IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY
AND FEAR, WE NEED FAITH,
TRUST, AND **PASSION FOR GOD**
AND FOR HUMANITY,
AS SOLID FOUNDATIONS
TO GO FORWARD.”

Br. Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General

BIRTHDAYS

July 2020:

1st Marti Enrich
7th Pierre Joseph
7th Tran Long
25th Virgilio Bwalya
26th Isma Valls

August 2020:

03rd Cesar Barba Gomez
04th Malangmei Thaingamlung
05th Le Van Duy
13th TREMMEL Bernhard
15th Tran Dinh Luan
23rd Juan Castro

September 2020:

01st Eugenio Sanz
07th Jose Maria Sierra
09th Lê Danh Thưởng

**Good wishes and
Prayers Brothers!**

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