



UPDATES:

CHINA SECTOR

Hong Kong Community

Hong Kong

The closure of “Marist Project.” The young man Alex who stayed with us from 18th of March finally went home to be reunited with his family on 27th July.

29th July. Government imposed stricter laws to prevent the spread of corona virus. i.e., not more than two persons gathering, no dining in all food courts and restaurants. Business is suffering. But that is so far the only way to take precaution.

31st July. Government disqualified at least 12 Democrats members from being the candidates for the election in September. Reasons: The government is trying to settle down those who voice out the problem instead of solving the problems. The political situation in Hong Kong for sure will not be the same any more. We will see more arrests and disqualification soon.

In August, with no public Mass, we had our morning prayer and communion every morning in our chapel. A lot of renovation and repair works for the school were done. Dusty and noisy. But a new look after that.

10th August. Mass arrest of young democrats and revolutionists, even the media tycoon Jimmy Lai of Apple Daily, under the National Security Act which was imposed last July the 1st.

Community:

We cleaned rooms and got rid of old junk. Br. Chin and I take turns in maintaining the garden, our vegetable, fruits and flowers. We received a kitchenware for free to be installed in our dining room. We made changes and also renovate our kitchen. The dining room and the kitchen will have a new look by October. Due to the pandemic, we have a small-scale birthday celebration for Br. John Chin, on 11th September. We invited the Principal and Vice Principals to join us for lunch. Fr. Stephen Lo, a Focolare, offered to say Mass for the community on Sundays. We are more than happy to have that.



The Volunteers in Champagnat Youth Centre in Port Dickson led by Ms Qalista S. Dohny. (CYC PD)

Our helper, Ms. Joe Chow, stayed with us for a few days. Her son, a flight steward, just got back from London. She was afraid she might get infected; so, she asked to stay in the community for some time. We were delighted; for we did not have to worry about the meals.



Since September 2019, when our last cook, Ms.

Neddy (the sister of Br. George Valle) left for Canada, we were looking for a cook. We did employ and signed a contract with one. But unfortunately, due to social unrest and the pandemic, our new cook is still in the Philippines. Daily Mass resumed on the 2nd of October. We attend Mass in the morning at St. Teresa Church.

Schools:

Summer online lessons continued in order to catch up with the lost hours of face-to-face teaching and learning during the suspension of classes. Zoom and Google Meet are among the favorites.

On 17th August, the IMC of SFXS endorsed Mr. Yue Ming Wai as the Third Vice Principal of the school.

On 18th August, under typhoon signal 3, the New Teachers induction was held separately, in the morning at SFXS with 4 new teachers and in the afternoon at SFXC with 7 new teachers. Aside from giving the routine information, Br. John Chong shared about the Marist Style of Education. New School Year 2020-21 begins on the 1st of September but with the suspension of classes, everything was done through online program. The morning prayer was prerecorded; it was prepared by Br. John for the week during the suspension.

The EDB announced classes to resume on the 24th of September for F1, F5 and F6 and on the 29th of September for all other forms. But all schools needed to strictly follow the prevention measures. Only half day of schooling (from 7:55 am to 1:00 pm). No activities were allowed after school.

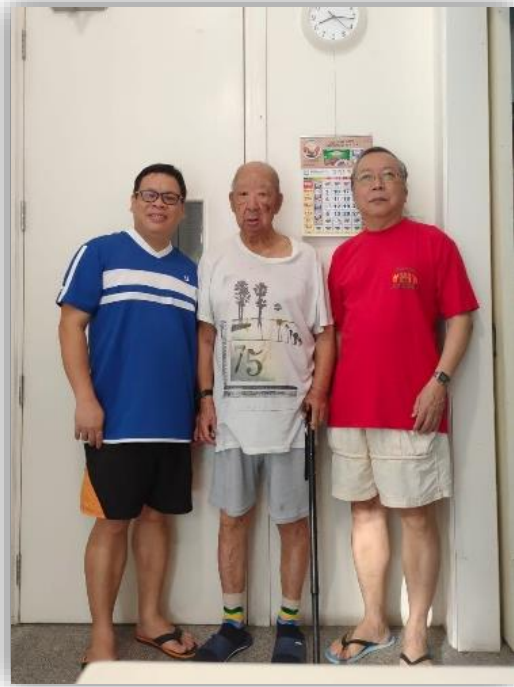
Br. John Chong has joined a year program on “Catering for Diverse Learning Needs” offered by the Education University of Hong Kong. He will need to attend lessons on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm at learning central; at times, there will be online sessions.

6th October. The SFXC IMC has set up a selection board to plan, to select and to interview candidates for New Principal of SFXC. Mr. Iu our current Principal will retire by the end of this school year.

By: Br. John Chong, FMS

Singapore Community

Singapore



During the early part of the Covid 19, we had just a normal life. We attended Mass every day and reported to school for work. When the cases in Singapore increased every day, the government started to implement restrictions. Masses were suspended; schools and shops were closed; no visitors were allowed, and the movements were very limited. Everyone was encouraged to stay home; only essential shops or stores were open. Since I am the youngest in the community, I did all the purchasing of essential things that the community needs, especially buying our food and “what have you.” I also prepared the food for the Brothers. I missed my daily routine especially attending Mass, the presence of children, the teachers, and the parents. However, the pandemic taught me how to be prayerful and creative, as well as to manage my time fruitfully, especially in preparing the teaching aids of K1 and K2 children while the school was closed. When the government lifted the circuit breaker, the school opened, and other shops also

opened. However, the precautionary measures remain tight even up to this time.



Community life was strengthened since, we have enough time for each other. There was no hurry. The community prayers continued unless some of the Brothers are sick or incapacitated. When that happens, I pray alone. I spend at least 30 minutes for my contemplation which the Provincial Chapter inspired me. Br. Thomas and I always eat together, and I accompany Br. Joseph when he eats his meals especially lunch and dinner. Br. Joseph has permission to eat earlier than us. However, during the circuit breaker, the Brothers have lots of spare time to spend. Br. Thomas and I have regular exercise.

We walk around Champagnat house and CK

compound. Br. Thomas targets 3,000-4,000 steps a day. While I target 6,000- 7,000 steps in at least 30-45 minutes. Most of the time I do manual work/maintenance around the property, planting vegetables and flowers.

Before the circuit breaker, I shared my vocation story and the Life of Saint Marcellin Champagnat to the Champagnat Kindergarten Teachers and Staff, and the MSHS Secondary 1 Catholic Students and Catholic Teachers. When the circuit breaker was implemented, everything was done online.

Zoom Meetings of teachers and Staff of CK are attended either by Br. Thomas or me. Br. Thomas attended the MSHS Board Meeting and CK School Management Meeting.

Last July 27, Br. Thomas and I attended the Thanksgiving Mass of the MSHS Founders Day Celebration. This was the first time for us to receive communion after three months of Church suspension of Masses. Before that, we attended Mass online.



The Founders Day Program of MSHS was held last 2 September and I attended it. CK Teachers Day Celebration was held at the Brothers Community last September 4. Bros. Thomas,

Joseph and I awarded the tokens of appreciation to the teachers. I represented the Marist Brothers during The Catholic Education Sunday last 10 September in a virtual Choir online Mass celebrated by Fr. Adrian Danker, SJ. Br. Thomas and I had our regular check-up. I had my blood test and urine test on 23 July. The result is desirable except for the high blood pressure. Meanwhile, Br. Thomas had his regular check up on September 24. The Cholesterol Test result was fine. Br. Joseph also had his check up on September 24. His diabetes screening results were good.



By: Br. Elmer Jandic, FMS

Br. John Emil Alada with Migrant Workers in Malaysia

Despite the significant strike of Covid-19 cases in Malaysia, with strict observance of SOP's, I had a chance to join the Migrant workers' relief operation activity under the Archdiocese of Kuching. The group delivered and shared a humble set of relief goods to Indonesian and Filipino migrant workers who are in difficult situation due to the closure of their workplaces brought about by Covid-19. What made the experience more interesting was that I was able to talk in Tagalog or Ilonggo as I engaged with the Filipinos.



By: *Br. John Emil Alada, FMS*

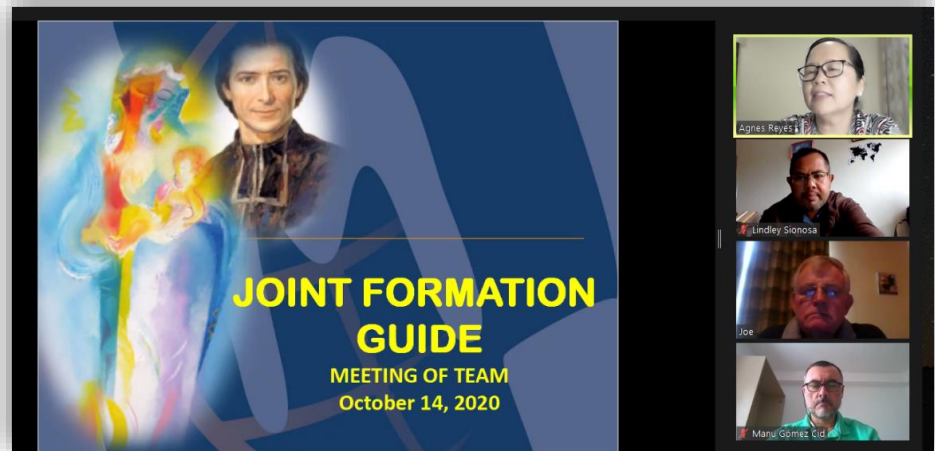
LAITY DESK

ON NURTURING MARIST LIFE: THINK TANK TEAM MEETS FOR THE JOINT FORMATION GUIDE

Last October 14, the Think Tank Team had their initial meeting to share ideas on the plan to have a Joint Formation Guide, to clarify its purpose, and to define the next steps to realize its objective. The group met in the light of the General

Administration's

Strategic Plan, particularly on the initiative to “offer and systematize experience of Joint Formation for Brothers and Lay”.



The Think Tank Team is composed of Agnes Reyes and Manu Gomez Cid, Co-Directors of the Secretariat of Laity, Br. Lindley Sionosa, Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, Br. Joe Walton, of the Manziana On-Going Formation Team, and Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa, Link counselor for Laity. They highlighted in their reflections the importance of making the proposed Joint Formation Guide an opportunity for brothers and laity to deepen the sense of communion and co-responsibility for the future of Marist life.

By: Ms. Agnes Reyes

Information:

- Provincial Council meeting on October 20.
- Br. Sylvain connected with the Community Superiors from the China Sector to schedule his Zoom meeting with the Brothers in their respective communities. Attached to the News Bits is the schedule of Br. Sylvain's meetings with the Brothers. He will also schedule meetings with the different communities of Korea/Japan and Philippine Sectors.
- Br. Dionesio Acosta's trip back to the Philippines was postponed because he was not able to get a Schengen visa needed to pass through Paris, France. He will wait until the Cuban government allows international travel.

Birthday Greetings to:



October 20
Ms. Irene Paterno
(Affiliated Member)



October 24
Br. Niño M. Pizarro



Prayers please...

- ✚ For sick and infirm, that their patient suffering may show forth the presence of God as a source of their strength.
- ✚ For medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the coronavirus.
- ✚ For all the missionaries around the world.
- ✚ For more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For Families adjusting to new ways of life.
- ✚ For the business owners and families facing financial stress.
- ✚ For our schools / universities, students, teachers, administrators, and alumni.
- ✚ For the employees who lost their jobs due to pandemic, that may God continue to provide their needs.
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for this third week of October.
- ✚ For the intentions of our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.
- ✚ For the good health and safety of all the Marist Brothers in the world.

