



Marist Brothers East Asia Province



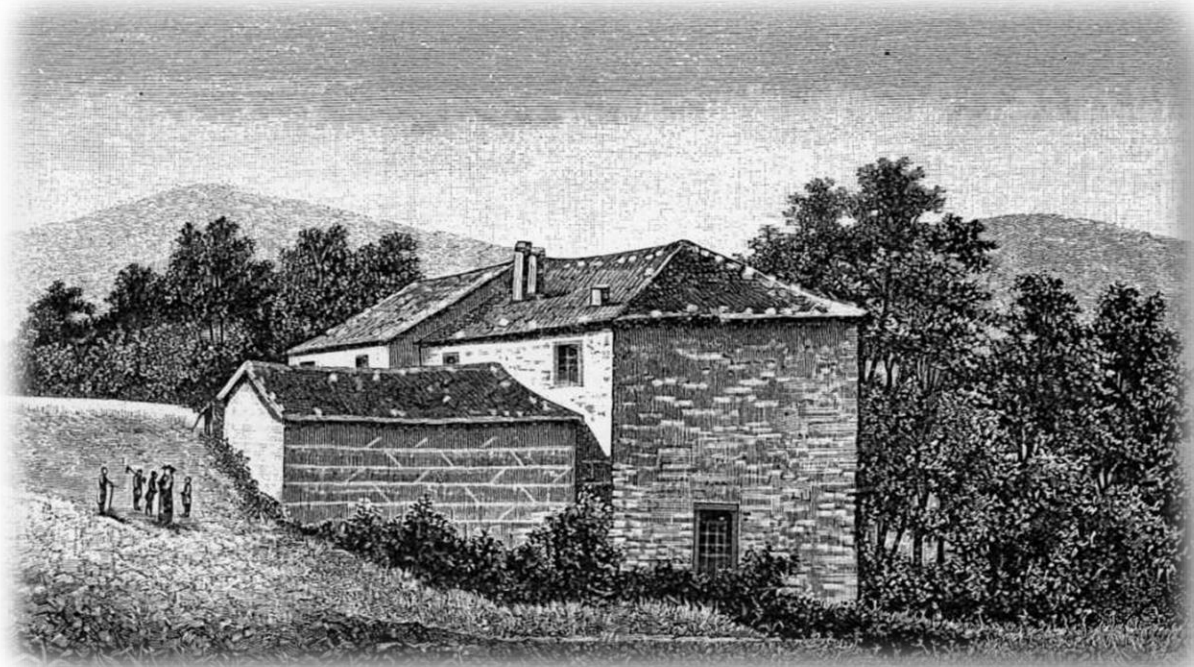
News Bits

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January 03, 2021

JANUARY 2, 2021:

HAPPY 204TH FOUNDATION DAY TO EVERYONE!



On January 2, the Marist Institute celebrates its 204th anniversary. Saint Marcellin founded the Marist Brothers by welcoming the first disciples to the small house in La Valla, France. Below we reproduce the narration of that moment according to the words of Brother Seán Sammon, former Superior General, in the book “A Heart that knew no bounds“.

THE COMMUNITY BEGINS TO GROW

Jean-Baptiste Audras, later Brother Louis, was only fourteen and a half when he asked to join the De La Salle Brothers at Saint Chamond. Judging him to be too young, they advised 33 A heart that knew no bounds him to continue discussing his vocation with his confessor. As luck would have it, that person was the young priest from La Valla. The boy told Marcellin that he had resolved to consecrate his life to God. After talking with Jean-Baptiste and his parents, and reflecting prayerfully on the situation, the priest invited young Audras to join Granjon.

Two months later the house repairs were complete. The first two recruits took up occupancy on January 2nd, 1817. Henceforth, the Bonner house would be referred to, at least in the Marist world, as the “cradle” of the Institute, and January 2nd, 1817 as the foundation date of the Little Brothers of Mary. Its members were to embrace a spirituality that included mindfulness of God’s

presence, confidence in Mary and her protection, and the practice of the “little” virtues of simplicity and humility.

Throughout the remaining winter months, Granjon and Audras lived together in the house. Marcellin taught his charges to read, and gave them the tools they would need to teach children. He also showed them how to pray and to make nails. The latter were sold to provide an income for the community.

Both Granjon and Audras assisted the young priest with many of his pastoral duties. They visited and helped the aged and infirm in the hamlets, gathered wood for the needy, and brought them food regularly. (*champagnat.org*)

JANUARY 2ND, 2021 – REFLECTION OF BR. ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ, **SUPERIOR GENERAL**

Thinking about the brothers of today and the future recalls five key words:

SPIRITUALITY



On several occasions I have been able to express: I believe that our rebirth as an Institute and its future will have much to do with the concrete commitment of each one of us to take seriously the journey of our own interior and spiritual life. This together with the commitment to encourage each other in this process and in this effort, so that it becomes a common search and not just an individual one.

How is your thirst? Do you perceive a living Jesus in you?

VULNERABILITY

The pandemic has made us experience the vulnerability of the world and our own vulnerability. Perhaps it is time for a change of perspective: to connect with the vulnerability, weakness and fragility of others and discover that it is from there that our strength emerges. To feel that we are not alone, and that alone we cannot... that we need each other and we embrace the strength of God. Christmas speaks to us of a God who showed himself to be fragile and vulnerable. Called to be reborn from what is small, from fragility and simplicity.

How do I situate myself before my own vulnerability? How do I situate myself before the vulnerability of others?

FRATERNITY

Making community, and walking together brothers and laity ... I can not imagine a brother wanting to go alone, the call is to live the mission as a team, accepting and welcoming the differences, valuing them as a richness and not as an obstacle. The home of light is a communitarian one. Walking together calls for open dialogue, unconditional and empathetic listening, as well as openness of mind and flexibility...

How do you value your experience of internationality? What do you do to overcome individualistic attitudes and actions?

DARING

To go beyond our comfort zone, to respond to the emerging needs, which are so many. We are living in a period of great uncertainty and this can lead us to experience fear, to have defensive and protective reactions (which would seem normal, natural...), but we are precisely called to go beyond these fears to launch ourselves into serving the most vulnerable and those living in poverty.

How do you see yourself in the face of uncertainty? What stops you, to launch yourself into responding?

INTEGRITY

The fifth word, I take it from Pope Francis' answer when at the USG Assembly I asked him about some key to the future of religious life. And he answered: **INTEGRITY**. An integrity that becomes necessary not only with personal testimonies of balanced and unified life, but also with community options. We must understand that coherence of life does not mean perfection, but transparency and authenticity. Young people do not want us to be perfect, they want us to be authentic.

What areas of your life do you perceive as most coherent? Which ones do you perceive as incoherent?

We entrust this work to Mary, our Good Mother, in her 204 years... Let us begin in 2021, with an attitude of hope. Hope that is not naive optimism but welcoming the presence of God and giving ourselves to building a better future. Marcellin has marked us from the beginning by his audacious and confident response. Also, with his attitude of welcoming his own vulnerability. We count on this heritage and this gift. A gift that is updated and becomes an inspiration in our days. (Champagnat.org)

UPDATES:

EAST ASIA PROVINCE CELEBRATES 204TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE



Around 40 people, Brothers and Lay Marists, gathered at the Sacred Heart Formation Center chapel to celebrate the 204th foundation anniversary of the congregation. Br. Donesio Acosta prepared the liturgy for the day. The choir was composed of Br. Danny Sevilla, Br. Dave Rano, Br. Gary Danlag, and Br. Karl Angelo Labio. The Mass was broadcast online through the technical knowhow of Bros. Edgar Cerales and Albert Bolibol. After the Mass, the

members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF) renewed their commitment. The few who were physically present were joined, via the virtual platform, by other members numbering around 127 from various Marist institutions in other places here and abroad. Br. Ador, the Provincial, delivered his inspirational message at the end of the ceremony. Afterwards, everyone shared a meal at the province center.

By: *Br. Romulo Porras, FMS*

GRATEFULNESS

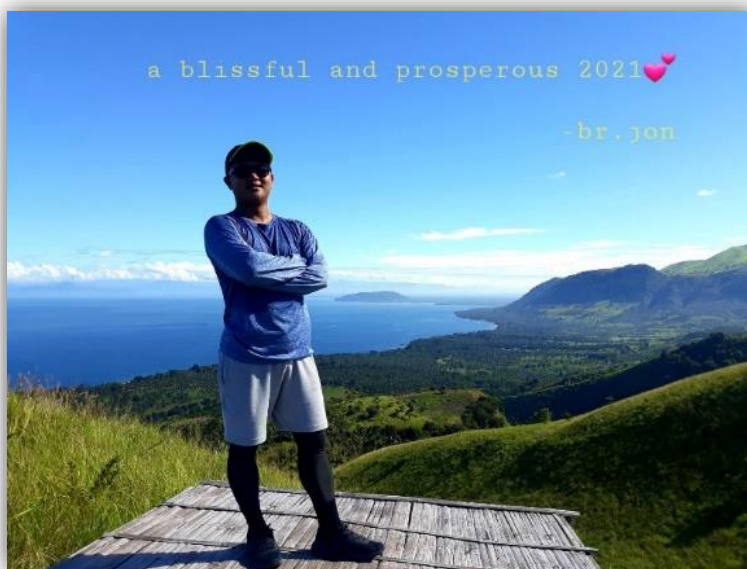


Gratitude is what my heart says to year 2020. I have so much to be thankful for this year, even though as early as March it has rewritten the cycle of time and the movement of the people around the world. It is easy for me to think of the negativities this year but need not to dwell in them. I am thankful to God that

He never leaves me and all my loved ones in the midst of what is going on in our world today; no one has gone ahead. I am thankful for the support my community in Cotabato, in Kuching, and my friends are giving me as I processed my documents and waited for my visa to fly to Malaysia. They became the source of my strength in order not to get discouraged and surrender. I am thankful that I could still smile despite the anxiety I have experienced because of my situation and the pandemic is causing me. I am thankful that



I get to experience and enjoy the magnificent creation of God despite of the strict lockdown. And I am thankful that I still live.



As I continue to live my life in this year 2021, may I sustain the passion and compassion in serving God through other people, and that my trust and faith in Him will be strong and constant.

By: Br. Aljon I. Yonder, FMS

FIRST MISSION AND MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT



Our community in Jolo is composed of three young brothers including myself. I could say young brothers because our ages are not far from each other. I am 26, Br. Raymund is 31 and Br. Mark Robert is 32. In terms of the number of years in the community, Br. Mark Robert, our superior and at the same time the director of the school, has been here for six years. Br. Raymund, our bursar, has been here for two years and currently teaching values education and social ethics for grade 9.

I am the newest member of the community and I have had five months here in Jolo. I am currently teaching values education and social ethics for grade 10; this is my first mission and ministry assignment after my formation and graduation.

My experience in Jolo is not that easy, not because of my community but because of the situation here. Our concern is not only the Pandemic but also security. That is why, every time we go out of the community to attend Mass and different religious gatherings, we are accompanied by two soldiers who are our security escorts; they are living inside the campus. In my first month of staying here, I was conscious and afraid of what will happen to us every time we go out of the community; but later on I got used to it. I am not anymore afraid but I am always careful and I will not go out if it is not necessary.



My experiences in the community are rich maybe because we understand each other, and we can relate to each other. We share stories during mealtime, watch movies and series and sometimes go to the beach and relax. We are also connected to the different religious communities here in Jolo under the vicariate lead by the Bishop. We have spiritual nourishment every month to remind us of our spiritual life and mission. I feel blessed that these experiences help me to grow as a person and also as a brother even in a situation like this.

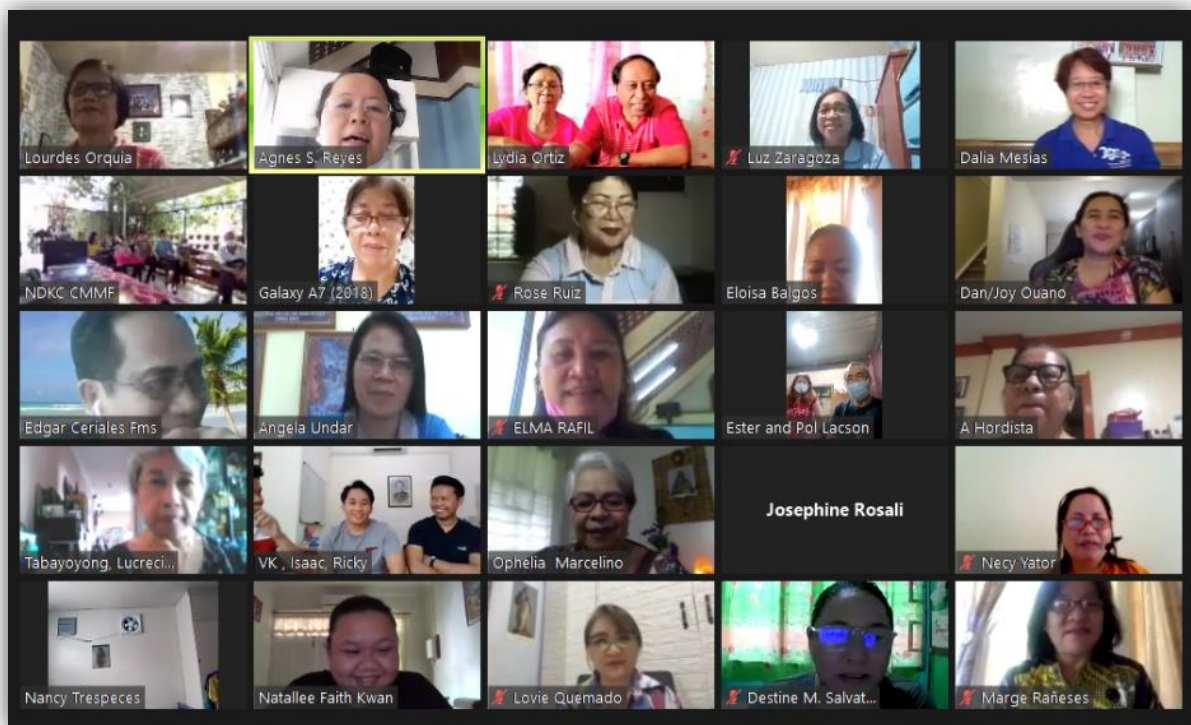
By: Br. Cyril Sumugat, FMS

128 CMMF MEMBERS RENEW COMMITMENT AND 19 FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN JOIN FORMATION ON MARIST LIFE

The East Asia Province celebrates the 204th Foundation Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute with a number present in the Chapel and all the rest were connected via Zoom and Facebook live stream.

During the Eucharistic celebration, 128 CMMF, mostly on virtual connection articulated their commitment. Ms. Elma B. Rafil, Chair of the Laity Committee, presented to Br. Ador Provincial,

East Asia Province, the CMMF Members who renewed their commitment of living the Marist life:



- 38 members from Marbel Community
- 15 members from Cotabato Community
- 15 members from NDDU Community (Main and Lagao)
- 13 members from NDDU Espina Community
- 16 members from Marikina Community
- 28 members from Kidapawan Community
- 1 member from Doha, Qatar

Br. Ador said in his message to the CMMF: *“together with our brothers, we journey alongside with you, hand in hand, we work towards our envisioned future of greater vitality of communion and co-responsibility for our charism.”*

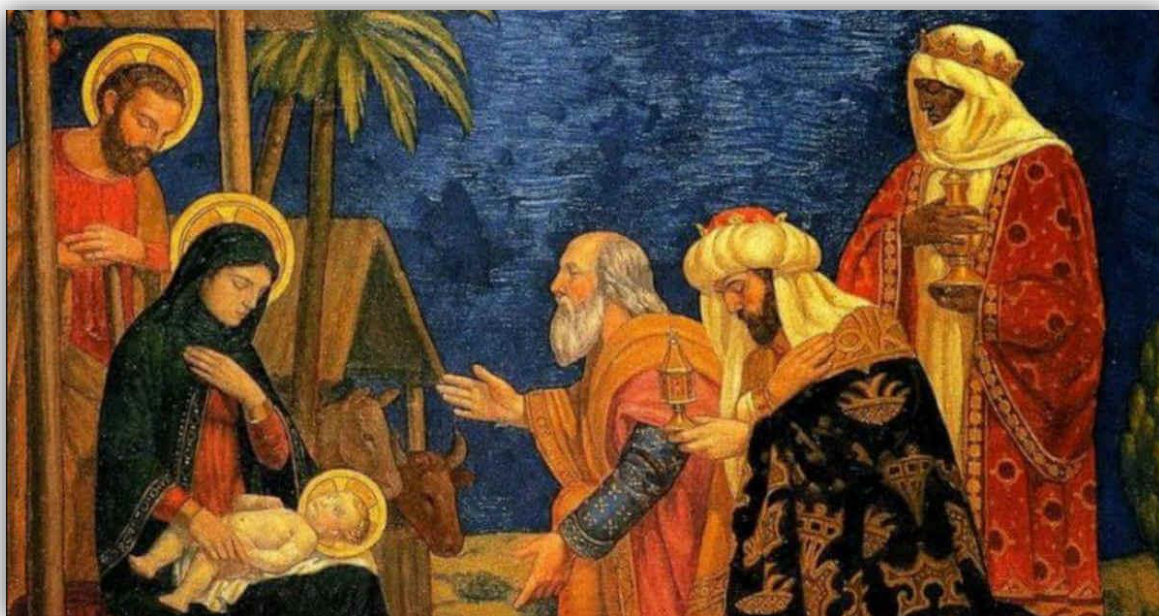
After the CMMF renewal of commitment, 19 Friends of Marcellin were recognized and welcomed to the Marist family. The *Friends of Marcellin* is an organized group composed of

persons who want to know more the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat and desire to live it, are in love with Mary, and have the apostolic Zeal to serve humanity. Across the Province of East

Asia, these persons responded to the invitation of taking formation pathways towards discovering and deepening the richness of Marist Lay life:

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Jan Maverick Rabino	NDMU, Koronadal City
2.	Jan Balasabas	NDMU, Koronadal City
3.	Pollyn Joy Alfonga	NDMU, Koronadal City
4.	Mark Fano	NDMU, Koronadal City
5.	Ian Jay Sunio	NDMU, Koronadal City
6..	Jun Yang Badie	NDMU, Koronadal City
7.	Wilma Mercado	NDMU, Koronadal City
8.	David Neil Joseph V. Lumba	Marist School, Marikina
9.	Joseph Liu	CN
10.	Daryll Devillers	NDKC, Kidapawan City
11.	Vuikuang Apau	Port Dickson, Malaysia.
12.	Rickey John	Port Dickson, Malaysia
13.	Natallee Faith Kwan	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
14.	Isaac Alfred Simbun	Selangor, Malaysia
15.	Qalista S.Dohny	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
16.	Arvin Tejada	Department of Education, Koronadal City
17.	Jonard B. Acuña	NDC, Cotabato City
18.	Queeny Joyce L. Cipriano	NDC, Cotabato City
19.	Arviljune R. Arevalo	NDC, Cotabato City

By: Ms. Agnes Reyes



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#12)

Br. Romulo Porras, FMS

The Marist Brothers' First Two Years in China (1891-1893)

Transformation took place after some three years of Brothers work at the French College in Peking and St. Louis College at Tientsin (now Tianjin). Br. Marie-Candide wrote to the Brother Assistant General on April 10, 1892 stating that:

It has been a great pleasure for us to realize that the children are being transformed in a good way. Now they are more open and seem to have lost their naturally devious ways; the older one are just as mischievous, impressionable, playful and witty as children from Lyons.¹

The turnaround made by the children and the school impressed the Missionary community in China, and it was not long before another institution was entrusted to them. This was the orphanage at Chala-eul, which, just like the school in Peking, was also transformed dramatically to the utter amazement of those in the Missions.²

There are 135 children here from the age of 7 to 25 who are left to themselves... The teachers who are in charge have no care for them..... there is the most disgusting filth all over the place...³

Three months later, the orphanage looked significantly better and became more organized, and a transformation had taken place with the children as well.

Here is the content of the interview of Bishop Sarthou with Brother Marie-Candide.

The Bishop was incredulous about the transformation that took place at the orphanage.⁴

Bishop: Is it true that you are entirely happy with your children?

Brother: It is absolutely true, my Lord, we are fully satisfied.

Bishop: Everyone knows that they are gluttons, lazy, thieves, and liars. Are you not being fooled?

Brother: My Lord, we are with them day and night, and so far, we have not had to punish any one for a fault of this kind.

Bishop: In that case they are just frightened, and you use the bamboo on them?

Brother: Not one of us so far has ever used the bamboo on a single child!

Bishop: But how many have there been who have run away from the house?

Brother: Not one, my Lord, on the contrary, two came back who had been absent for six months.

Bishop: In which case, I understand nothing!

Brother: My Lord, I understand only one thing, the Good Lord is answering the prayers that we have begged for a bit everywhere, for the success of our work.

Bishop: In which case, you have only to continue, especially have a great deal of patience.

Because of the successful work of the Brothers in the first institutions in China, soon a request was made for them to take over another school – St. Francis Xavier’s College in Shanghai. The Franco-Chinese College was also opened for Chinese boys in Tientsin, beside St. Louis Church.⁵

^{1/} Taken from the letter of Br. Marie-Candide to the Brother Assistant on April 10, 1892, page 29 of the Dawn of the Word in Silence, The Adventure of the Marist Brothers in China, by Ms. Nathalie A. Pasa and others, New City Press, Manila © 2017

^{2/} Dawn of the Word, page 29

^{3/} ditto

^{4/} ditto, page 31

^{5/} ditto, page 32.

INFORMATION:

- January 9 - Commissions, Committees, Teams, Desks, and Task Force Leaders’ meeting.

Birthday Greetings to:



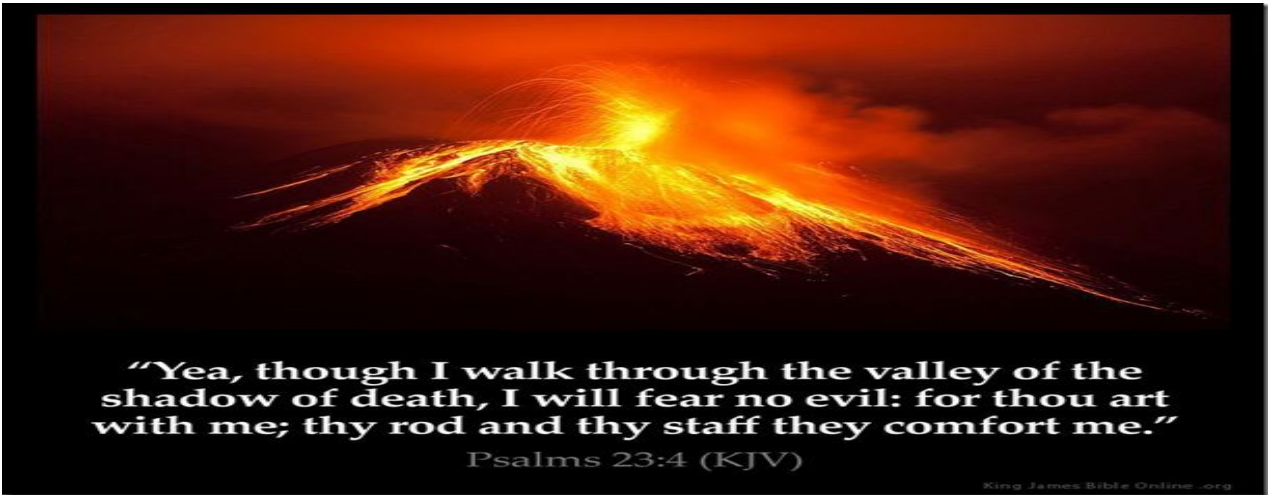
January 05
Br. Manuel V. de Leon



January 08
Br. Denxel Resi O. Nartatez

Death Anniversaries:

- January 03, 1961 – Br. Leon Wang died in Beijing.
- January 03, 1971 – Br. Jules Andre died in Beijing.
- January 04, 1997 – Br. Antoine Victor died in Singapore.
- January 08, 1931 – Br. Prosper died in Beijing.
- January 08, 1996 – Br. Br. Peter Leonard Thommen died in USA.
- January 09, 1932 – Br. Stephanus Joseph died in Beijing.
- January 10, 1960 – Br. Paul Felicite died in Beijing.



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4 (KJV)

King James Bible Online.org

Prayers please...

- ✚ For God's blessings upon us.
- ✚ For healing of our sick family members, relatives, and friends.
- ✚ For protecting us in all anxieties.
- ✚ For all the missionaries around the world.
- ✚ For the end of the pandemic.
- ✚ For the prayer intentions of the Brothers, Lay Marists, Benefactors, Families, and friends.
- ✚ For those who have died recently, especially for Mr. Ramon Navarra, a former principal of Notre Dame of Cotabato, Mrs. Virginia Manalo, a former administrator of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, and Engr. Genaro Chavez, an alumnus of Notre Dame of Cotabato.