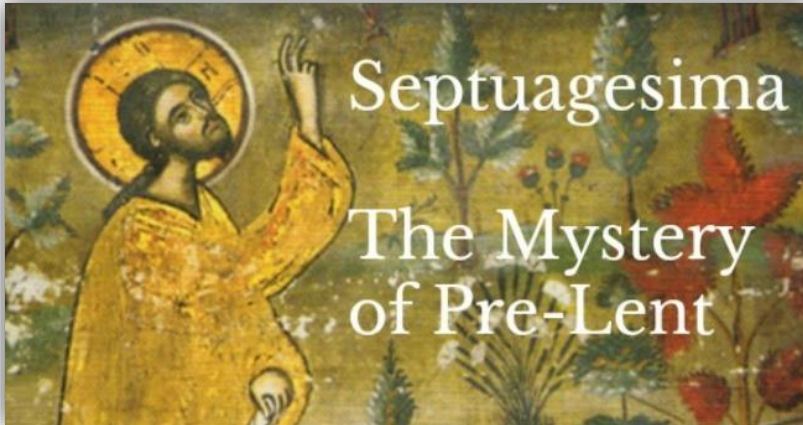




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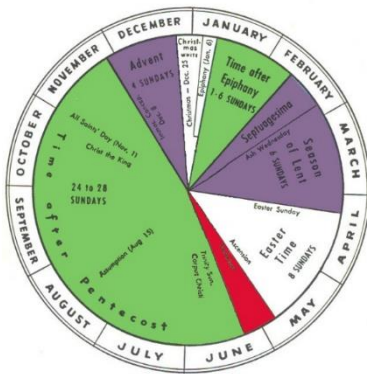
Septuagesima Sunday: January 31st, 2021



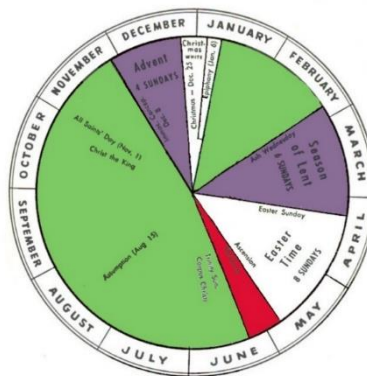
What is Septuagesima?

The number of liturgical seasons in the 1962 and current Roman Calendars differ only by one season. The Extraordinary Form follows the 1962 calendar which includes a Pre-Lent season called *Septuagesima*.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR



THE LITURGICAL YEAR



Images Note: To the left is the 1962 Extraordinary Form Liturgical Calendar Wheel, which includes Septuagesima season. The right image is the Current Ordinary Form Liturgical Calendar Wheel, Revised in 1969. Visually, there is only one difference between the calendars, and that is the one extra season of Septuagesima.

The word *Septuagesima* is Latin for “seventieth.” It is both the name of the liturgical season and the name of the Sunday. Septuagesima Sunday marks the beginning of the shortest liturgical season. This season is seventeen (17) days long, and includes the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season never changes, but the start date is dependent on the movable date of Easter that can fall between March 22-April 25. Septuagesima Sunday can be as early as January 18. (www.catholicculture.org/commentary/what-is-septuagesima/)

UPDATES

Br. Willy's 2-day Wake at Marist School Marikina

by Marjorie Veronica Raneses



Marist School Marikina joins the Marist Brothers in mourning the passing of Br. Wilfredo E. Lubrico, FMS who succumbed to complications of prostatic cancer at the age of 68.

A visionary leader and prophetic missionary, Br. Willy held key positions in varied Marist institutions and academic organizations. He served as president of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University and Notre Dame of Marbel University for many years, the chair of the board of trustees of Notre Dame of Kidapawan College, the

president of Notre Dame Educational Association, and CEAP Board Member and PEAC Program Director for Region 12.

On January 26 – 27 Br. Willy's remains lay in repose at the Our Lady of the Magnificat Chapel. The varied Marist school communities in the Philippines together with his family members and relatives paid homage to this truly endearing and inspiring Marist brother through Masses, nightly prayers, and vigil that were live streamed via Zoom and Facebook.

During the first day, Bishop Noli Buco, JCD, DD Auxiliary Bishop of Antipolo presided over the 6 PM Mass and concelebrated it with Rev. Fr. Merwin Tahad from the Diocese of Imus and Rev. Fr. Edward Bacus from the Our Lady of the Abandoned Shrine. At 8 PM a nightly prayer was led by members of the Marist Marikina Community and the family of Br. Willy.

On the second day, the 6 PM Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jeffty Mendez, CP the parish priest of St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, and Rev. Fr. Vivien Nuera, CP. The 8 PM nightly prayer was led by the NDMU Community. This was immediately followed by a eulogy that saw colleagues and family members expressing their fond memories with Br. Willy and giving testimonials of his admirable character as a person and as a Marist Brother.



At 3 AM on January 28 a special send-off ceremony was conducted before Br. Willy's remains were transported to Mindanao via Philippine Airlines.

Indeed, Br. Willy will be sorely missed and will always be remembered as a true champion of the Filipino youth and the Marist education and mission.

IN MEMORIAM OF BR. WILFREDO LUBRICO, FMS

Brother Willy, the Beacon of Light

by Prima Guipo Hower, NDL67, NDDC71

Past President 1995-97, Notre Dame GSC Alumni Association Intl



Let me begin with the opening line from the novel LOVE STORY by Eric Segal. "What can you say about a 68-year-old BFF who died?" That he loved mugs. People. Museums. Travel. Libraries. Books. He also loved Dimboy his miniature poodle; Aning his apo sa tuhod and his Lubrico family. And yes, not to forget, Ukay-Ukay.

He just happened to be President of not one but two universities – NDMarbel and formerly NDDadiangas, earned a doctorate degree, and an awardee of the highest honor from the Pope – Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice 2015. He never allowed such high falutin pretentious titles or awards to go to his head as many do. He'd be the first to admit he has a radical streak. I think of him as the brave soul who marches to the beat of a different drum! His critics are few relative to his multitude of admirers. But he didn't let it stop him from achieving his goals for the common good. He bore his pain with dignity and grace. Much has been said about his achievements in the academia. I want to speak of his humanity - his shining legacy. The love stories told by thousands of his admirers will endure long after the structures, the gardens, the titles, the facades are gone.

I knew of Bro. Willy in the Juniorate at Notre Dame of Lagao fifty years ago! I was then the secretary to Bro. Henry Joseph Ruiz, Director of NDDC. But our friendship deepened when he became the President of NDDC in 1996 ended only by his death. I called him my "Little Brother" being two years younger than me. He visited my family for days every time he was in the U.S. On his 2007 visit to Tampa, I introduced him to the Deans (my bosses) at the School of Nursing, University of South Florida. Invited to speak at a

weeklong Nursing Profession Series, he discussed the "Brain Drain of Nurses" in the Philippines. He received a standing ovation and a USF Mug. We went home to my house, and without skipping a beat, he transformed from Guest Speaker to cleaner of our tile floor! Fascinated by a disposable mop called Swiffer, he said, "Bakal man ako sini para sa Marist Convento."



July 3-7, 2016, was the last of many family visits. Before attending the Marist College Seminar in New York with two of his Deans – Joan Palma and Lynou Zacal - they stopped in Rhode Island. Professor Edith Plecis was their Uber driver. We celebrated the Filipino-American Friendship Day on July 4, partook on a good old American fare, kayak on the river, and watched fireworks from the boat dock. We toured the famous Vanderbilt Newport Mansion. Afterward, I made a stop to pick up some children's books at the Newport Salvation Army Thrift Store. Excited

he said, "Hala Prim may ukay ukay na dira!" "Yes, Brother, upscale pa kay mga millionaires ang donors." Bro. Willy treated himself to a Ralph Lauren shirt and a designer shoe pair, all for \$9.92! I know because I picked up the tab, as countless of his friends do, large bills, and small bills, airline tickets both international and domestic, hotel stays, etc. He elicited that kind of benevolence from people who just wanted to pay him back for good deeds received when they were down and out. We went home to my house and went clamming! I was working as Brown University Faculty Affairs Coordinator at that time, so of course, he got a mug from an Ivy League school.

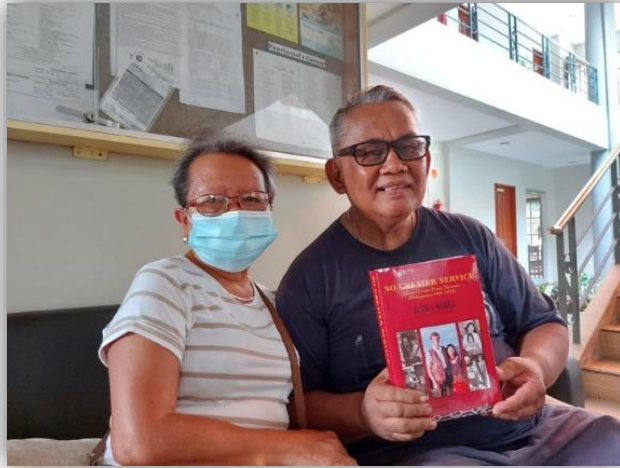
Every time I go home to Gen. Santos City, we meet without fail. "Oi Brother, nami inang imo nga façade. Gincopy mo yata ang Marist College sa New York." He just smiled. "Oi Brother, nami inang imo Gen Paulino Santos Museum, gin copy mo man sa travels mo?" Another smile. "Oi Brother, inang garden mo daw sa Palace of Versailles Gardens in the south of Paris, France." He loved to travel and soak in everything that he observed. His repeated refrains, "Ay kanami sina, himoon ko man ina sa Pinas." And he did. Look around you and appreciate the beauty of the gardens, the museums, the buildings, etc., ideas that he picked from his travels, carried in his head, nurtured, and spread with love in your midst to enjoy. It is sharing, a form of caring.

I came home to Gen. Santos City in 1996. He showed me this room he called Library at the Training Department of NDDC. Strewn all over the room were piles of unopened Balikbayan boxes donated by his friends from the United States. I said, "Ano man ning library mo brother daw bodega?". He replied, "Amo gani nga gindala ta ikaw diri." That was the beginning of our partnership to build Children's libraries. In 2004, with the NDGSCAA alumni, personal friends, colleagues, and my family, we created the Hower-Bates Library Network (HBLN). We established the first TD Library at NDDU IBED Lagao, dubbed by accreditors as one of the best children's libraries in the Philippines. In its 17th year, the network has established three more children libraries – ND-Sienna College Lagao, NDMarbel IBED while he was President there, and the Dilangalen Children's Library in Midsayap for the Maguindanao. A fifth library, The Tboli Library & Culture Hub (TLC), is currently being built in Lake Sebu, opening next month. Our Library Network has shipped more than 55,000 books to these five libraries plus thirty other libraries in public schools, barrios, and city libraries in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Thank you, Bro. Willy. Your love of books benefits the children and inspires us.

Sometime early in 2019, he was saddened and quite concerned that he might have to retire when his term ends. It was a challenging time for him. He turned to his trusted confidants near and far,

and without naming names, he poured out his struggles, doubts about his future, and even fears. But he was a man who never stays downhearted too long. In October Bro. Willy intimated that he reconciled with the idea of retirement in June 2021. He started to chart his future away from the academia that he so loves. I teased him about staying on as a gardener at NDMU; he will be set for life. His family will build him a room, he said, at his sister's house in Surallah. "Ma garden

ako, learn to paint, cook, live simply and peacefully. My niece in Ontario, Canada wants me to visit." I told him I live an hour flight away. We planned to organize an NDGSC Alumni Association reunion. "Good, that will be my last journey," he said.



On December 19, Bro. Willy received his signed copy of the book written by Alvin J. However, my husband, published by Reader's Digest. Al was a Peace Corps Volunteer who served for 5 1/2 years in South Cotabato. He taught Economics at Notre Dame of Dadiangas College in 1969-1972 to replace two faculty members pursuing their Masters in Economics Education. "Nice book Prim, I read it right away. I like the style, simple and well organized." "Sige Brother di ba nasa Bucket List mo man magsulat libro someday?" "Yes, but that's impossible; I am

not a good writer." "But expert ka man on delegating work to others?" I teased. "Ever heard of ghostwriters?" So I continued to kulit him and suggested that he should start a journal while he is recuperating after his surgery. "Sige, I promise Prim."

On January 13, he informed me that his doctors in Manila canceled his surgery and sent him for an MRI test on January 23 to check his liver. I happened to be going for the same procedure. He was concerned when I told him I was claustrophobic. "Ano himoon mo, one-hour procedure pa naman. You cannot move." So self-effacing, he was always ready with empathy even as he himself was hurting physically. January 20 he texted, "Prim, I need more prayers. I am not worried about my prostate anymore, I'm worried about my liver...I am afraid...haay kapoy!"

I could not fully understand then why Bro. Willy kept his illness, his suffering to himself. I could not understand why he won't let me post his name when he pleaded for prayers. "Brother, thousands upon thousands gid mag pray kung announce naton sa Facebook." He was adamant. "Not yet. Just ask for prayers for your BFF's intention," he suggested and added, "Bal-an man sing Diyos ako ang BFF gina mean mo." So I did as told, which generated concern and irate questions from mutual friends on my messenger. Came another ask for more prayers. "Brother, pwede reveal ko na it's you?" He won't relent, wanting to wait for his prognosis. I found out from his nephew Mackey's eulogy later that most if not all of the Lubrico family didn't know the severity of his condition. Bro. Willy was shielding them from pain. He carried it in his aching heart and tired shoulders!

On January 22, I texted him "I had my MRI yesterday in an Open Machine. I was ok and will get results Monday. Thinking of you. Hugs. What time is your MRI on the 23rd?" He replied, "9 PM," sent on January 22 at 10:33 PM. That was the last I heard from Bro. Willy. He died two and half days later. But this will not be the last you'll hear OF him.

I can go on and on about Bro. Willy. Instead, let me reserve the rest of his story for his book. It will be a simple narrative about the complicated man if that is at all possible. His life lived well

serves as a beacon for us all. Meanwhile, let the tears continue to fall. Someday. Soon. I hope and pray may our fond memories of him stem the flow.

14.K-viewed his “homecoming” from Marikina to General Santos City streamed Live on Facebook from NDMU. Alumni from Australia, Qatar, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Jordan, Europe, a dozen states of the U.S, three provinces of Canada, many provinces of the Philippines and countless undisclosed locations attended the Nightly Prayer Services. Can you hear the soft sobs, deep sighs, and the echoing whispers from across the continents “We love you, Brother Willy”? Vaya con Dios!

REMEMBERING BRO. WILLY

by Mr. Orman Manansala

Bro. Willy was our class adviser during our 3rd and 4th years in high school. He was ten years our senior. I vividly remember his disappointment when our section chose the name “Headache 301” as our class moniker. Despite being the first section, we were becoming every teacher’s headache. As our class adviser, that moniker was going to be an awkward embarrassment. Surprisingly, he respected the decision of the class and supported us every step of the way. It was during this year that I felt hurt when some of my barkada got a 100% rating in GMRC. All I got was a 91%. Never the complainer, I just took it all in and forgot all about it.



In one of our high school reunions, I finally got the guts to ask him why I only got 91% in GMRC. Bro. Willy just said: “Para ka kasing kiti-kiti! Ang ingay-ingay mo palagi!” My batchmates had a good laugh with that response! I rest my case! He was right.

I looked up to him as a learned adviser. Stern but calm. Aloof but caring. During our 4th year in high school, he became a better listener. Although he allowed us to be boys who were enjoying our last year as high school students he also pushed us to be active in different organizations. I was one of those he chose to become one of the first members of the Blessed Marcellin Champagnat Core Group. My leadership perspective began to widen with his guidance.



When we graduated from high school in 1979, our communications stopped.

Fortunately, our high school batch made a pact that every December, we will hold a reunion. Beginning in December 1979, Bro. Willy never missed a reunion with us. Every December, he looked forward to reconnecting with us – sharing stories, both past and present. Reliving bygone days and planning future reunions. The last reunion we had with Bro. Willy was in 2019. As always, he was not one who would ask for special treatment. He dined and drank

with us. He laughed and cried with us. Bro. Willy just became everyone’s Big Brother, our go-to guy when marriages are failing, when our children are astray or when we were just broken as individuals. He was our sponge, taking in all our cares, our pains and our joys. During that December 2019 reunion, I knew he was undergoing his personal concerns, but around us, he was one of us just having a good time.



Our friendship developed through the years. In 2005, he invited me to join the reunion of Dameans in USA as Alumni Federation President. I never thought about it very much but he was persistent. He kept reminding me to apply for a US visa. To get him off my back, I went through the process and luckily was granted one. From thereon, our relationship strengthened from student to teacher to good friends. Bro. Willy expanded my network of Damean friends. These are the people who have supported his many projects for the Marist community. During the 2019 Seattle Reunion, Bro. Willy began complaining about his health issues. He wasn’t as sprightly as before but he didn’t look physically sick either. We just laughed about our getting old and sharing the names of our maintenance medicines. Around friends, Bro. Willy was always happy – we were his happy pills.

As President of the NDDU, I saw how the university developed and prospered under his leadership. Spirits were high. The image of the school has greatly improved. But I never heard Bro. Willy brag about it. He just worked and worked and worked. It was enough to see him smile to know that he was satisfied with the goings-on around him. When he was transferred to NDMU, everyone

knows how it broke him. But like a good soldier, he abided. When we spoke that time, there was a reversal of roles. I became the listener. I became his sponge. I felt his pain that time but I just knew that this man is going to prove his worth more than ever. I just knew that Bro. Willy will rise to the challenge and take the higher ground. In the last 15 years, we saw how NDMU has evolved into a premier University under his Presidency. And with the opening of the College of Law, a project closed to his heart, Bro. Willy has come full circle.



Ten years ago, Bro. Willy and I started our Breakfast tradition every January 1 of each year. He would tag along other Marist Brothers to the house and I would serve them breakfast. His only request was that I should serve him a healthy meal only – so that’s basically vegetables and fish. It was always a fun time with Bro. Willy as he has become part of my family. My Kuya Avel and sister Mara look up to him as our surrogate Big Brother. He was “lolo” to the young ones in the house. We have not broken this breakfast tradition and the last one we had breakfast was in January 2019. That’s when I noticed something. He seemed burdened. I thought it was about his health issues. It was a different thing. I remember telling him to be ready for any eventuality – reminding him that he doesn’t have anything else to prove anymore. And that upon my retirement, I will adopt him to live with me in our retirement farm. He would just say:

“Sus sa pagka-arte mo mag-retire ka gid sa farm? Ambot lang ah!” We had a good laugh and all worries just seemed forgotten.

In December 26, 2020, Bro. Willy told me that he had stage 2 prostate cancer. I told him that he will surely overcome this. He never told me he was concerned. He told some of our close friends but not me. I respected that. In January 15, he told me about the findings about his liver. He asked for prayers. Despite his not wanting people to know about his health issues, prayer brigades were started. From January 18-20, I kept in constant touch with him – he was giving me updates of his condition – he was waiting for the results of the MRI. When I chatted back in January 23, it was his nephew who answered.

January 23 - 8:25 PM

“Hi this is his nephew. He is in bad condition and more prayers are needed.”

January 25 - 3:47 AM

“No pulse and heart rate na po 20mins ago. We are waiting for the doctor to confirm it officially. He died peacefully. Bro. Willy has joined his creator at exactly 3:52AM Today, January 25, 2021.”





I lost a friend, a mentor and a confidante. I could have been more expressive about how much I loved and cared for him but that's just Bro. Willy for you. He was never expressive and will always leave you second-guessing his real feelings. I knew he cared for me for those many years of our friendship. He was there when I lost both my parents. He was there when my love life was either blossoming or in turmoil. But we never really hugged. I remember hugging him once and I just felt he was uneasy with the show of affection. So a warm handshake was our only means of passing the love between us as friends.

In one of our pep talks, I asked him if he was ever proud of me. He looked at me and said:

“Ano naman ng drama mo? Siempre eh! Proud ko sa una pa!”

That to me was enough.

I will miss you, my friend. Look and pray over me. Always.

Bro. Wilfredo E. Lubrico, FMS: In Memoriam

by Joan P. Palma



Just like any other young boy, he wanted to try something new, something different. He was studying then at Notre Dame of Surallah, an innocent, unassuming young boy who didn't know much about the world. His friends took the exam and joined the workshop for the Marist Congregation and he, not wanting to be left out, also joined in. Looking back, it was more of fate that led Bro. Willy to become a Marist Brother, and then the rest is history, so to say.

But he did not have it easy. He had it rough and hard. The path that Bro. Willy traversed had been covered with difficulties and beset with sweat and tears. He recalled that in some ways, he had a sort of love-hate relationship with his fellow Brothers, and even with his superiors, during his younger days. However, personal differences are not uncommon in any structured organization where occasional disagreements because of differing opinions and perspectives happen. But perhaps, those experiences are what made him a formidable force in the Marist Congregation.

Bro. Willy shared that one of the best decisions he did in his life was to go out of the congregation for a while. He applied for a one-year leave plus a two-year exclaustation from the congregation

and tried to see more of what was happening outside the highly structured religious world. He then worked at a non-government organization in Davao City where he experienced more struggles as he was basically on his own. He had to scrimp for food every day because of his meager salary. But he felt freer. He felt more at peace with himself. Perhaps it was this introspection that made him understand himself better, that made him find strength in the seemingly hardest point in his life. After three years of self-discernment and introspection, he went back in to the Marist Congregation with much renewed fervor and passion.

Bro. Willy was not keen to talk about his accomplishments in life. He did not really want public acknowledgments for his successes. He was a silent worker, one who did not flaunt what he had achieved for all the world to see. But undeniably, he was a man of many accomplishments. His presidency was marked by a clear vision and creativity which opened doors for the inception of numerous programs that impacted not only the



institutions under his leadership, but all the other Marist institutions and the community in general. Among those initiatives included the following: the Marist Edcom which primarily aims to provide a forum for the different Marist schools in enhancing the Marist education ministry; the Marist Formation Program which caters to the development of neophyte school administrators; the Green University Program which advocates environmental care; the Women Advocacy Program which caters to issues and concerns of women; the "Abante Lumad Scholarship Program" which raises funds to financially support the college education of the poor but deserving indigenous college students in South Cotabato; and the school museums which allow us to revisit the Marist history and revel on its beautiful memories. The latest project that he had established is the Marist Hope Center for Justice and Good Governance, which is now an arm of the NDMU College of Law. The Center aims to increase access to justice to the marginalized sectors of our society, and deeply advocate good governance. Indeed, when he was still alive, some young brothers would call him a living legend, one with a Midas touch in that wherever he was assigned, the place was beautifully transformed by the touch of his magic hands.



Bro. Willy had also been recognized by outside agencies and institutions by being entrusted with key positions. Among those key offices include the following: President, Notre Dame Educational Association (NDEA) from 2014 to 2020; Board Member, Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) from 2013 to 2020; and, President, Marist International Network of Institutions of Higher Education in 2012-2014. The Marist International Network is an association of Marist Higher Education Institutions all around the globe whose members meet once every two years. The Notre Dame of Marbel University

successfully hosted the 5-day international conference back in November 2014 through the presidency of Bro. Willy. But perhaps, one of the greatest acknowledgments of Bro. Willy's

selfless dedication and service was when he was awarded the Pontifical Distinction Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice in July 2015. This award, otherwise known as the “Cross of Honor,” is the highest award given by the Roman Catholic Church with the approval of the Pope to a layman or clergy for his outstanding and selfless service to the Church and humanity.

When asked about his formula for effective leadership, Bro. Willy had this to say: *“Effective leadership for me is one which is characterized by a lot of common sense, hard work, dedication, and good relationship.”* According to him, an effective leader should have a strong determination to achieve the goals that he set out to do, a leader with a strong political will. He further noted that he thought his relationship with people was where he succeeded the most because he put premium on his relationship with others. Some might have seen him as quite stern or stoic, but truly, he was a compassionate, tenderhearted individual.

Bro. Willy had been in the Marist Congregation for several decades. At the age of 68, he had experienced a lot of ups and downs, moments of joy and times of sorrow, and small defeats and big triumphs, and these experiences had put him in a position to better understand the world and see it in a much wider perspective. Indeed, Bro. Willy was one leader, one Marist Brother who had given much in the service of humanity.

Br. Wilfredo E. Lubrico, FMS: A Man of Vision and Action

By: Marilou P. Palisoc

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer.”



This is a guiding philosophy inspired by Br. Wilfredo E. Lubrico, FMS, former President of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University. Br. Willy is fondly remembered by people who know him as a dreamer who exuded intellectual strength, creativity, and great passion in everything to change the world by making a big difference in the lives of the people around him. As I know about Br. Willy, he dreamt big for the academic institutions he served and executed humble steps as he realized his gigantic aspirations to get where he wanted to be.

As John Lennon inspires us in his song, *“You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us. And the world will live as one. A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.”* True to these famous lines of a song, Br. Willy’s courage to fulfill his dream comes from his great

passion to communicate his vision to the Marist community, he served for so many years and

inspired the Maristas to dream big with him. He highly encouraged greater participation from the people under his helm to work with him in the realization of future goals. He believed that empowering people will lead to greater success. To him, empowered employees are loyal, committed, innovative and potentially more productive in performing their assigned tasks more efficiently and effectively. Br. Willy's leadership skills highly inspire confidence and loyalty on his employees to give more than is expected and serve more than seems necessary.



As Gandhi wrote, *"I want to identify myself with everything that lives."* Br. Willy had an incredible experience with the people around him. In service to humanity, Br. Willy succeeded in forging remarkably good, strong and gracious relationships not only with the academe but with the alumni (both local and international) and the community in line with the Marist Charism of Spirituality, Family Spirit and Mission.

Yes, we all die. The goal is not to live forever. And as we live, our goal is to create a lasting impression in the lives of others. There are many people that we meet in our life journey, but only a few of them will make a lasting impression on our hearts and minds.

I feel so grateful to have an opportunity to work with you, Br. Willy. My gratitude goes to you for developing, guiding, motivating, supporting, inspiring and most of all, believing in me. You have come to the end of your life journey. You will always be loved and remembered as a person who brings so much inspiration to others. People around you have good memories of you. Your memory is



our keepsake with which we will never part. God has you in his keeping, but we have you in our hearts and minds. So long and goodbye, our beloved Br. Willy. May your soul rest in eternal peace with the loving hands of the LORD. Until we meet again in God's time.

Thank you for developing, guiding, motivating, supporting, and inspiring us to achieve greater heights.

This is Br. Willy's trademark as a leader. Yes, a dream has the power to change the world.

A CONTEMPLATIVE VISIONARY BROTHER WHO CARES AND DARES

By: Ivy B. Yecyec



What a meaningful life journey it has been
Encountering Brother Wilfredo who is keen
Reminiscing the past would certainly remind
The unforgettable memories were defined.

In the initial meeting with a Marist friend
He seems serious and strong to befriend
Time passed and one's impression change
For he is welcoming and benevolent range.

More than what he is known being a good educator
Pastoral Worker and Campus Ministry Administrator
Relevant services as a Community Extension Director
Esteemed by students as their Student Affairs Director.

What a humble servant leader who spearheads work
As prior President of NDEA and International Network
Chairman of Board of Trustees and PEAC Program Direction
Founding the history of MAREX and SMC Club organization.

Who could imagine a Community Brother Superior
With his witty thoughts and unusual jokes to endure
Sparkling a noble light and examples to his brothers
Radiating love and treasured relationships to others.

The president of green university with competencies
Accomplishments and milestones linger his legacies
His transformational leadership brings more honors
Realizing university's brand and ISO as school soars.

Famous behind the landmarks and dome structures
Remembered in symbols, memorabilia and ventures
Seeing his collections of symbols and cups in travels
Valuing culture, arts and significant historical marvels.

More than on what we thought on his countless roles
He is an epitome of academic excellence as his goals
Instituting associations and support that's worthwhile
Encouraging his fellow constituents for an extra mile.

Such a dreamer of unified system for improvement
His passion and determination hoped for betterment
Kindling a transforming action to unlock potentials
A vision for schools' solidarity scheme is essential.

As former Marist Brother's Provincial councilor
Who could forget his vision and management valor?
A man of action and passion of what he envisions
He spearheads and guides us in laity and missions.

Creative in communal ways of bridging relationships
Reaching the needy in programs and partnerships
Knight shining armor of his family with his essence
Supportive to his fellows with his gentle presence.

Behind a story of achievement is a simple comrade
Fulfilled in doing extraordinary ways as a faithful lad
Doing regular campus rounds while in contemplation
Prayerfully invoke God's presence in natural creation.

In constant in his personal and communal prayer
Appreciating Holy Eucharist as living witness ever
A real man of faith revealed in benevolent action
Confirmed in Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice recognition.

Kindhearted to the least favored and those around
His love in response to others that knows no bound
Shepherding his brothers' vocation as inspiration
Cordial to those finding a home and in communion.

His meekness and sweetness are naturally displayed
Respected with his wisdom and principles arrayed
Thoughtful to his family and those he encountered
Living his life well extraordinarily is unnumbered.

Exemplary thoughts and actions that would inspire
One's belief and kindness brings eternal life desire
Heartfelt gratitude for everything you've done and shared
A contemplative visionary brother who cared and dared.



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#16)

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

The following article is a reprint from our AMIHAN, THE MARIST BROTHERS NEWSLETTER of the Philippine Province, November-December 1997 issue, Vol. 18, No. 6, pages 19-20. This was written by Br. Briccio Baynosa, FMS!

A TRIBUTE TO BR. WILLIE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SILVER JUBILEE²

One of the greatest contributions that Br. Willie shared with the Marist Brothers in the Philippines, a gift which up to this very day few of the Brothers have known and appreciated, was his social and political awareness at the time when most religious men and women were still seriously discussing what clothes to wear and what kind of prayers to recite. He was, to my mind, one of the very few who understood the real significance of the mystery of the incarnation as it relates to the life of the Church and its implications to religious life and formation.

It is with fond memories – fraught with bittersweet and nostalgic moments – that I remember the days some ten to fifteen years back. A small group of Brothers would gather late in the evening up to the wee hours of the morning and discuss the “events” of the day (during assemblies and retreats) and the “sigh of the time” (during holidays when it was possible for the Brothers to meet each other in a more relaxing way). There were endless sharing and discussion prompting some Brothers to christen the group a bunch of “gabblers” not knowing that the term was used, wittingly or unwittingly but nevertheless good naturedly, by the “members” themselves as its unofficial title. Unknown to most of the Brothers, serious matters were discussed and, generally, issues and concerns were tackled. During those times, words and terms such as re-founding, solidarity, mass based consultations, concern for the least favored, and ecology were already being discussed by the group and it was at their consternation that the Province was quite “slow” in its consideration and implementation of such matters. One staunch member of this “group” was Br. Willie. He was not the most vocal but he was certainly one of the most inspiring and influential members of the group. As if piece by piece he was able to introduce some fascinating tenets into the jigsaw puzzle of the life of the Brothers. Gradually, some articulate members were able to verbalize his thoughts and feelings as if patently fitting the pieces together and later were able to create a picture, albeit hazy at first but nonetheless true to form, a beginning of an unfinished vision when, sometime in the future, would evolve into a clear and distinguishable image not of an impossible dream but a dream come true.

One may ask what brought about the enlightened thoughts which Br. Willie was able to share with group. If I have to offer one answer to this question, I have to say that it was because of the gradual unfolding of his gift of awareness brought about by the unique experiences which up to this very day only he can fully explain. Who can actually realize and understand what he went through during the times when he was grappling with the concepts of institutionalized church while at the same time struggling to organize the basic ecclesial communities? What were the thoughts in his mind as he worked to organize the youth sector of Bula most of whom were the poorest of the poor? What untold struggles did he have to undergo as he worked with the leaders

and members of the Church? What depths of challenges did he have to cope with as he worked for three years with the Socio-Pastoral institute (SPI)? The litany of questions can be endless.

The transition that Br. Willie went through in his life was filled with tumultuous personal search. The burden was such that a weaker breed could have just chosen to give up. But not Br. Willie. He stuck to his guns and ended up the victor and a better person. It was a struggle spanning almost ten years of questionings and looking for answers that were in most cases as elusive as daydreams. But the search goes on – the horizon becoming wider and the miles ahead stretching to far distant destination. The beat of the drums signals the rhythm one must follow. But Br. Willie is listening to something else – to the beat of some distant drums that he hears within himself – and that he must follow.

It is very difficult to fathom the depths of a person’s inner thoughts and feelings as well as his struggles and difficulties. But one thing is sure – that somehow, somewhere throughout his life’s journey Br. Willie has become stronger in the end. We see in him a man tried by fire. He has used his hardships and challenges as stepping stones in making himself more mature, more firm, and more stable. They have become of him the very wellspring of his patience, understanding, and concern for others. In them he has learned to value hard work and dedication. Through them he will be able to reach the heights of success.

Now, as Br. Willie commences a new chapter in his religious life more challenges are coming his way. New inspirations will present themselves as he finds new strength in facing them with renewed vigor and hope. He will have to face them in his own uniqueness and in his own special way. He cannot fit himself in a master mold which others expect him to conform with. He must try to see himself as his own person; he must endeavor to understand his own personality and be willing to discover how he can harness it for the fulfillment of his dreams. As everyone else must do, he will have to find his strength in his trust, faith, and hope in God who will help him in his continuing journey through life.

On this special occasion, it is our wish that Br. Willie continue to grow in wisdom and in love. May he achieve peace and serenity as he continues to face and to carry the heavy burden of responsibility given to him as an administrator. May our Mother Mary keep him in her loving embrace. # # #

¹Br. Briccio Baynosa officially left the congregation on Dec. 10, 2015.

²Br. Willie celebrated his silver jubilee together with Bros. Paterno Corpus and Jose Torrecampo+ in 1997 at NDDC Auditorium.



Birthday Greetings to:



January 31
Br. Arnel Alfanta



February 01
Br. Engel Freed S. Java



February 03
Br. Ernie G. Sentina



February 06
Br. Mark Roberth R. Laurea

Death Anniversaries:

January 31, 1995 – Br. Nicetus Ku died in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

February 01, 1964 – Br. Egbertus (George) died in St. Genis-Laval.

February 04, 2018 – Mrs. Consuelo Meza de Herrera (*Affiliated Member*)
died in Mexico City.

February 05, 1950 – Br. Stephanus Felix died in Beijing.

February 05, 1990 – Br. Louis Kostka II died in St. Genis-Laval.

February 05, 1994 – Br. Philippe died in Taiwan.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For eternal repose of the soul of Br. Wilfredo E. Lubrico, FMS and for the comfort of his family, friends and loved ones.
- ✚ For the repose of the soul of Mrs. Bernardita T. Malinao, wife of Mr. Carlos Malinao and mother of Victor Malinao who works for Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation, who died yesterday.
- ✚ For healing and comfort of those who were tested positive for COVID-19.
- ✚ For giving abundant measures of grace to missionaries around the world.
- ✚ For more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For inner joy and spiritual growth.
- ✚ 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 first week of February.
- ✚ For the intentions of our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.