



Marist Brothers East Asia Province



Marists
of Champagnat

News Bits

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Our Lady of Grace: February 7



Among the many miraculous images of the Mother of God through which she deigns to grant her favors, there is one in the monastery church of the Carmelites in Vienna, entitled the Mother of Grace, or Our Lady of Grace, also known also as Our Lady of the Bowed Head.

In 1610 a Carmelite, Dominic of Jesus-Mary, found among the votaries of an old altar in the monastery church of Maria della Scala in Rome, and oil painting of the Mother of God, dust-covered and somewhat torn, which grieved him. Taking it into his hands, he shook the dust off it, and kneeling down venerated it with great devotion.

He had the picture renovated and placed it on the shelf in his cell, where he made it the object of his love and supplications in favor of those who came to him in their necessities and afflictions.

One night while he was praying fervently before the picture, he noticed that some dust had settled on it. Having nothing but his course woolen handkerchief he dusted it with that and apologized,

“O pure and holiest Virgin, nothing in the whole world is worthy of touching your holy face, but since I have nothing but this coarse handkerchief, deign to accept my good will.”

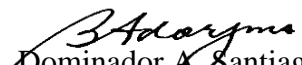
To his great surprise, the face of the Mother of God appeared to take on life, and smiling sweetly at him, she bowed her head, which thereafter remained inclined. (roman-catholic-saints.com)

From the Provincial:

Dear Brothers and Lay Marists,

I will be taking a break from February 5 to February 19. During my absence, Br. Allan will assume responsibility as Acting Provincial. If there are issues, problems, or things that you want to confer, please contact him. If it is an emergency and needs my attention, Br. Allan will get in touch with me.

God bless and let us continue to pray for one another.


Br. Dominador A. Santiago, FMS



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#17)

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

The following is the second part of a two-part unpublished article intended for AMIHAN PLUS for 2019.

by Br. Dionesio Acosta, Jr.¹

Life in Holguin, Cuba (Part 2)

There are two types of shops in Cuba, the one called *divisa or shopping* and the other *tienda nacional*. *Divisa or shopping* is where there are more products including imported ones but are much more expensive especially for the local people. *Tienda nacional*, on the other hand, is run by the government with fewer choices, longer lines but with cheaper prices. We buy from both shops. Like having two types of shops, Cuba also has two types of currency – *pesos convertibles (known as CUC)* and *moneda nacional (known as CUP)*. To give you an idea, 1 US dollar is equivalent to 1 CUC and 1 CUC is equivalent to either 24 or 25 *moneda nacional*. Originally, CUC is only used by foreigners and tourists and were only accepted in *divisa or shopping*. But *shopping* now accept both currencies. However, *tiendas nacionales* only accept the *moneda nacional*. I'm sorry if I have confused you with that. I experienced the same thing. At least, I can use both my pockets here in Cuba.

Since it is always expensive to buy in *shopping*, we usually go to a market where there is a fair every Sunday morning. Food products there are much cheaper, almost 200% cheaper. But we must go early in the morning to catch the fresher ones. Also, every time we go out from the house, we always bring with us a shopping or plastic bag because it is always possible to meet someone on the streets selling something we need. I say that things are very expensive not because things are really very expensive. Actually, some products are cheaper here compared to our country. But the cost of living is high, and the average salary is very low. For example, a medical doctor without specialization earns between 80-100 US Dollars. Imagine how much other professionals earn as medical professionals earn the highest in the country.

Perhaps, another thing that we take for granted is the access to internet. Here, access to internet is quite different. In fact, internet access was introduced only three years ago. Likewise, use of mobile phones were only allowed like four years back. Other than the difficulty of accessing internet, it is also expensive. Internet can be accessed in public parks where there is a public wi-fi using a wi-fi card. At present, one-hour costs one dollar. Mobile data became available last December but is more expensive, seven dollars for 600 MB! I usually buy a card with five-hour credit for five dollars and some moments of reflections while lining up to buy it.

Regarding my Spanish, I continue to struggle and wrestle with it, but I believe it is better now than few months ago. It is one of my primary

preoccupations before and when I arrived here. I continue to attend 2-hour classes two times a week and learn with the children whom we are working with at the moment. Just like the variation of English in many different countries, Spanish in Cuba is also quite distinct. It helps that everyone, including in my community, speaks Spanish as it contributes to my language learning.



I

With a group of children during one of our activities during Holy Week.

I am in the state of being able to understand almost everything but still struggling in the area of speaking especially spontaneously.

As to our Marist presence here in the Diocese of Holguin, we continue in our discernment as to where we can engage ourselves and put our energies in the way the Spirit moves us. The Bishop of Holguin, who is an alumnus of the former 'Colegio Marista' before it was turned into a public high school after the Revolution, has been very supportive in many aspects to the project. We participate in whatever way we can and help in activities that the Church has when it is possible.

There are two other Marist communities in Cuba, one in *La Habana* and one in *Cienfuegos*. There are also a few Filipino/missionaries who have been here for a number of years. I am in contact with two Filipino priests, one SVD and one Augustinian Recollect. While it is good to know and establish relationships with new and foreign people; I believe it is also important to build friendship with someone whom I can share common things.

Living in a new reality is not easy at all. Not only that I am in a different country with distinct and complex history and culture. We are also learning how to live this call and initiative of the Institute of building communities among Brothers and Lay Marists. Until now, we are not sure of what and where tomorrow will bring us. But we make it a point to live our lives to the best we can day by day. As John the Evangelist reminds us in this time of Easter, we have to be born again.

#MuchasGracias#Adios#DiosLesBendiga#HastaPronto

¹Br. Dionesio (Jong) Acosta was a member of La Valla 200 Project deployed in Holguin, Cuba living in a mixed community of Brothers and Lay Marists. He returned to the Philippines in November 2020 after months of waiting due to travel restrictions. He assumed his position as the bursar of Lagao community upon his arrival starting December 2020.

INFORMATION:

- **Council Decisions**

1. Br. Roy Deita will take over as Community Superior of Marbel Community from February to May 2021.
2. Ms. Mary June Gonzales is hereby appointed as a member of the Philippine Sector Formation Committee.
3. The Provincial Council has created a Search Committee for the next NDMU president. Appointed as members are the following:
 - A. Fr. Rey Mission, DCM
 - B. Br. Romulo Porras, FMS
 - C. Dr. Joan Palma, PhD
 - D. Mr. Joseph Salvatierra
 - E. Dr. Mario Dideles, MD-Chairman
 - F. Br. Crispin Betita, FMS
 - G. Mrs. Leann Jester Daus Rosali

4. The following Brothers' application for renewal of vows have been approved:

| NAME | COMMUNITY |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Br. John Emil Alada, FMS | Kuching Community, Sarawak, Malaysia |
| 2. Br. Rechie Dean Bagsican, FMS | Marcellin Homes Community |
| 3. Br. Jick de Leon, FMS | Cotabato Community |
| 4. Br. Lloyd Gamboa, FMS | Dadiangas Community |
| 5. Br. Joseph Pedalizo, FMS | Kidapawan Community |
| 6. Br Cyril Sumugat, FMS | Jolo Community |
| 7. Br. John Allen Timola, FMS | Kobe, Japan Community |
| 8. Br. Aljon Yonder, FMS | Kuching Community, Sarawak, Malaysia |
| 9. Br. Dave Becislao, FMS | Fourviere Community |
| 10. Br. Jayjay Escudro, FMS | Fourviere Community |
| 11. Br. Karl Angelo Labio, FMS | Fourviere Community |

5. MARIST FORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN begins this February 6, 2021, Saturday, at 7:45 P.M. (Philippines). This 7-month (every first Saturday of the month session) is intended for those who feel wanting to know more the life of St. Marcellin Champagnat, desire to live his spirituality, and share in his mission. It will be an opportunity to grow more in the MARIST WAY OF LIFE, centered in JESUS, lovingly accompanied by MARY, exemplified by St. Marcellin.

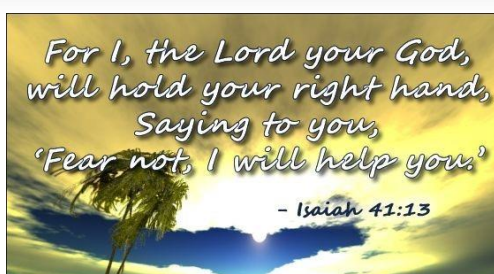
MARIST FORMATION
for
FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN

February 06, SATURDAY,
7:45 PM (Philippines)

Session 1:
*Marist Spirituality: Passion for God, Compassion for
Humanity ...in the Way of Mary.*

Resource Person:
Br. Lindley H. Sionosa, FMS

ZOOM Meeting ID: 818 2006 3709
Passcode: 798067



Birthday Greetings to:



February 06
Br. Mark Roberth R. Laurea



February 12
Br. Robert McGovern



February 15
Br. Timothy Song (Hyo-seob)

Death Anniversaries:

- February 08, 1982 – Fr. Emile Bolduc, OMI (Affiliated Member) died in Philippines.
- February 08, 1965 – Br. Louis Alexis died in St. Genis-Laval.
- February 09, 1932 – Br. Marie Archangelus died in Beijing.
- February 10, 1987 – Br. Joche Timothe died in Chungqing, China.
- February 11, 2005 – Jesus Rodriguez Alaniz died in Mexico City.
- February 12, 1959 – Br. Joseph Leonore died in St. Genis-Laval.
- February 12, 1971 – Br. Francois de Sales died in France.
- February 13, 2004 – Br. Thomas Edward Hennessy died in USA.
- February 14, 1978 – Br. Jonas Cruz died in Sri Lanka.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For all the departed and dearly missed Brothers, Family and friends.
- ✚ For all our sick Brothers, relatives, friends, alumni, members of the Marist Family, especially for Sr. Io, SMSM.
- ✚ For healing and comfort of those who were tested positive for COVID-19.
- ✚ For our Brothers working in other countries.
- ✚ For giving abundant measures of grace to missionaries around the world.
- ✚ For more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For peace and unity.
- ✚ 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 second week of February.
- ✚ For the intentions of our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.