



February 28, 2021: Second Sunday of Lent

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10 – THE TRANSFIGURATION

The apostles glimpse Christ's glory, to sustain them through his imminent passion!



In today's gospel reading, Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus, and there they have an experience of Jesus which took their breath away. It was an experience that was so precious that Peter could not let it go. He wanted to prolong it indefinitely and so he says to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here, so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He and the other two disciples had a fleeting glimpse of the heavenly beauty of Christ, and did not want to let go of it. Beauty always attracts; it calls out to us. Yet, Peter and the others had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. They would receive it back in the next life as a gift. For now, their task was to listen to Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son.

Listen to him'. That is our task too.

We spend our lives listening to the Lord as he speaks to us in his word and in and through the circumstances of our lives; we listen to him as a preparation for that wonderful moment when we see him face to face in eternity and we can finally say, 'it is wonderful to be here'.

<https://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/2021/02/february-28-2021-second-sunday-of-lent/>

UPDATES:

NEWS FROM THE KOREA/JAPAN SECTOR

By: *Br. Alfredo Herrera, FMS*



This year of 2021, the Brothers in Korea are celebrating the 50th year of Marist presence in the country. One of the activities organized for the commemoration is a pilgrimage of an image of our Good Mother around the houses of relatives, friends, and benefactors of the Brothers. The image dwells for a week in each family home and every Saturday it

moves through all those who have asked or accepted to receive the image in their homes and to pray with us in front of Mary for a whole week. Such pilgrimage started during the first week of January and this coming week will be the 9th of the homes that the image of Our Good Mother is visiting. Here I show you some of the places and families our Good Mother has been visiting.



On February 12, the second day of the Lunar Year Calendar, we remembered the birthday of Br. Abraham Kang. Since he was going to be with his family on that day, the community of the Education Center organized a simple “happy birthday” party for him on Feb. 9.

After the announcement of the new communities for the year 2021, Brother Coordinator of the Sector organized the first meeting of the year for the Leaders of the different local communities. The

meeting took place via Zoom on the evening of February 17th with 6 Brothers participating. The new communities start functioning next week, March 1st.

A funny event that we all declared “a historic day” was the one of Feb. 23rd. For many years we all had been asking Br. Dominique Ryu to get a cellular phone, but he has been resisting to acquire one claiming that he did not need any (although we all thought he needed one). Now that he is moving to the Chungju community in which we do not have a land-line telephone, he finally agreed to get a smart-phone. For your knowledge and the record, his cellular number is (+82) 10-6703-1946.



More photos:



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION WITH FRIENDS IN KUCHING!

Bros. Robert and Emil, eating Cha Goh Meh Dinner with friends from Bau, ending the Chinese New Year celebrations. Maraming Salamat, Then Family!



DEATH OF DR. ISABELITA BONA, PhD

Dr. Isabelita Bona, PhD, whom we fondly called Ma'am Bing, died last February 22, which happened to be her birthday. She was 77 years old. She was an affiliated member of the East Asia Province.

Below is the tribute written by Br. Teodulo Fernandez, FMS for her.

A TRIBUTE

By: Br. Teodulo Fernandez, FMS

Dr. Bing Bona is a Notre Damian through and through. Having finished her college studies at NDMC (please spell out), she had a close encounter with our American missionary brothers whom she admired for their dedication, hard work, professionalism and devotion to Mary.

These brothers regarded Ma'am Bing as a valuable asset to the school... she, having taught in the primary school and went on to be Principal; then to the college department as a teacher, administrator, as Department Chair and Dean; and later on as Dean of the Graduate School, a position she held till retirement. She devoted more than 50 years to Notre Dame. She has done so much to Notre Dame of Marbel College, now a known university, and she in turn claimed that Notre Dame molded her to what she was – a dedicated lay Marist disciple.



Although Ma'am Bing's contribution to the school is outstanding, I would like to emphasize her involvement in the Philippine Marist Province. In the 1993 General Chapter in Rome, the General Council and the Preparatory Commission decided to invite 5 outstanding lay Marists from all over the world. The Philippine Province where many dedicated lay personnel were active was among the nations given a high priority. After conducting a nation-wide search, the Provincial Council unanimously chose Ma'am Bing Bona to represent our lay Marists as an observer in the General Chapter ... the first time when lay Marists were invited to observe how a chapter operates. With her that time was the late Br. Renato Cruz, then Provincial. The brothers who were chapter delegates were impressed so much by the presence of the invited lay Marists that they decided to invite lay observers to the next General Chapter. Eventually, they became regular participants.

From thereon, Ma'am Bing became active in the administrative operation of the Marist Philippine Province as member of various commissions and committees in Formation, Finances, Mission (both school and non-school ministries), community life, vocation and spirituality. Her presence in these groups was highly appreciated as she gave a realistic and humane outlook in the operation of a religious institution. For many years, Ma'am Bing served as one of us – Marist by heart and attitude.

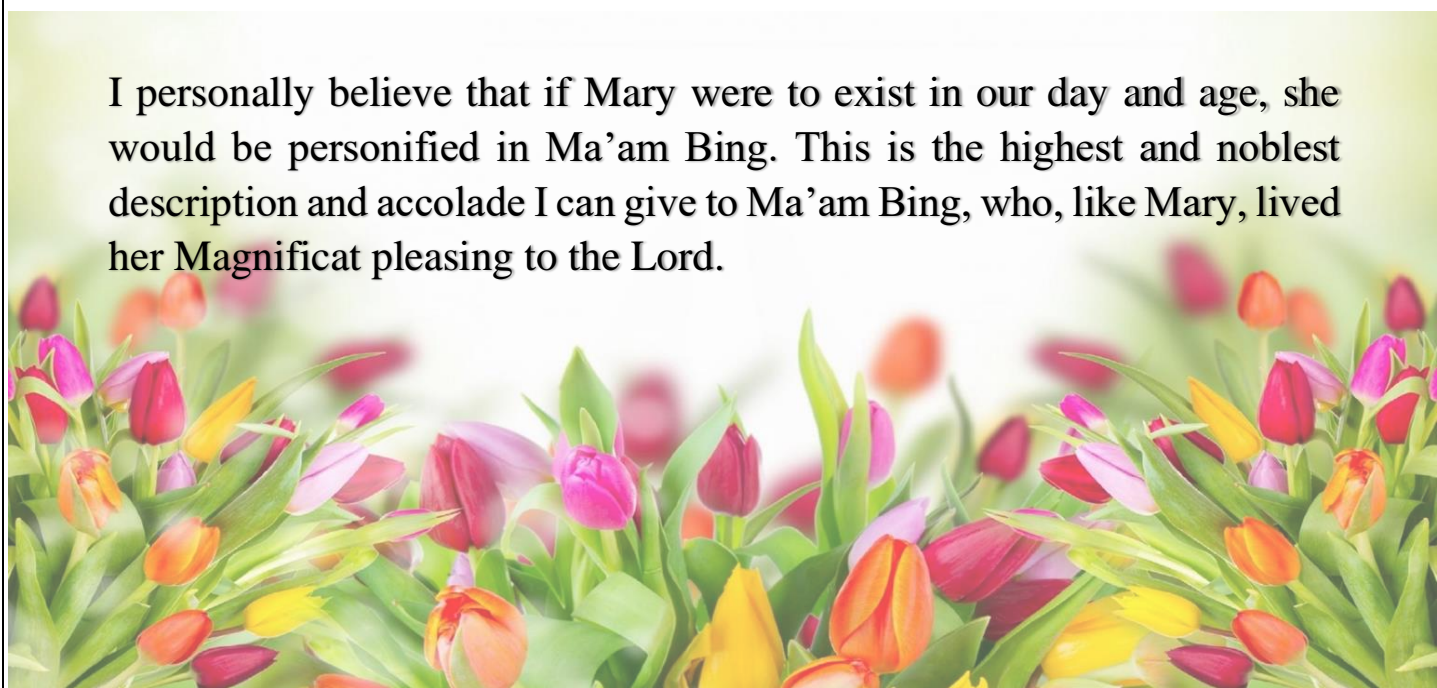
When the CMMF (Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family) was organized, she was one of those who initiated and formulated the philosophy, objectives and activities of the movement. She initiated the formation of lay Marists in Marbel by orienting them not merely in school-based activities but also in the parish movements. It was she who saw the vision for CMMF clearly as family-based, school-involved and parish-oriented. She reiterated that the lay should not wait for the Brothers to dictate what they should do but to formulate the action in the reality of their environment. The Brothers can come in only as observers and advisers to the group. Her vision is still carried until now.

When the Philippine Marist Province celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1998, Ma'am Bing was honored along with 4 other Marist lay as a Marist Affiliated member – a privilege that acknowledges a person as having a part in the life and apostolate of the Brothers. They are invited to join the Province's various celebrations, and more important is their participation in the spiritual activities of the Province. The criteria fit the 5 members in the area of dedication to the school for a long period of time, local parish involvement, a positive force and example in the Marist community and one who possesses clearly the virtues exemplified by our Blessed Mother through their humility, simplicity, modesty, love of work and family-centeredness. Ma'am Bing met the criteria, definitely.

In 1999, Ma'am Bing was one of those who attended the canonization of Marcellin Champagnat in Rome. This, she considered, is a major event in her life. Not only did she participate in celebrating Champagnat's canonization, she also visited the Hermitage in France, the mother house of the Marist Brothers. She claimed that she could not fully express the joy of being a Marist at that time. She also joined the pilgrimage to Lourdes and had a fleeting experience of Paris, the capital of France.

Life was different for Ma'am Bing after that memorable experience. She became a major force in the CMMF and her involvement in the non-school ministries was intensified. She did her work quietly yet she was forceful in bringing out the truth ... a quality that we describe as humility. She is willing to recognize the needs of others above her own, a virtue expressed in modesty and she does not aspire to be recognized but is willing to do good quietly. Her simplicity and longing to live simply shone through until after retirement.

I personally believe that if Mary were to exist in our day and age, she would be personified in Ma'am Bing. This is the highest and noblest description and accolade I can give to Ma'am Bing, who, like Mary, lived her Magnificat pleasing to the Lord.



SMC MARIST YOUTH ARISE! “KABATAANG MARISTA TUMITINDIG PARA KAY KRISTO”

By: Ms. Ivy Yecyec



More than one hundred fifty (150) youth from different Marist Schools in the Philippines joined the Marist Youth Arise, “Kabatang Marista: Tumitindig Para Kay Kristo,” last February 20. It started with a Eucharistic celebration facilitated by Marist School Marikina. Then followed a program hosted by Notre Dame of Dadiangas University through the Zoom meeting account of Notre Dame of Marbel University. The whole event was facilitated by the Saint Marcellin Champagnat National Council of Moderators and SMCians in coordination with the MEC-CMRE.

This on-line formation activity aimed to form the Marist youth in their significant role in the Church and in the society, reach out in the service of young people through virtual formation, strengthen family spirit, promote faith, life, and mission, awaken in young people their important roles as partakers and missionary disciples, and to challenge and inspire young people to lead and radiate social transformation.

The said virtual session provided awareness about the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines and Mission Ad Gentes, integrating the roles of the youth in the Church. The resource person was Fr. Jonel P. Peroy, DCK, a Marist alumnus and the present Pre-seminary in charge of Our Lady of Guadalupe seminary. In fact, the SMC Marist youth were actively involved in the various parts of the program; they reflected and shared during the break-out sessions, big group sharing and synthesis.

Below is the synthesis of Fr. Jonel’s talk on 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines and Mission Ad Gentes, Integrating the Role of the Youth in the Church, prepared by Mariela Anya A. Sorino (SMC MARIST Youth):

Good afternoon, my fellow Marists of Champagnat.

We had such an insightful afternoon. Thanks to the talk given by Father Jonel Peroy. We were reminded to empower ourselves and others. We learned to foster our faith. In fact, everything can be summarized into one word, FAITH. A word. An acronym. F-A-I-T-H.

F- Forefathers. Our history as Catholic Filipinos started with our forefathers. It started the moment our forefathers set foot on Philippine soil, celebrated the first Mass in Limasawa Island, and gave the Sto. Niño as a gift to us.

Hence, we should A- A- Avoid being apathetic about our history. We should not be apathetic nor ignorant about our rich history. As expressed by Fr. Jonel, youth that ignores the celebration of the 5th centenary of Catholicism in the Philippines is ignorant of the state or country's history and the role of the Church and Christianity. Let us not remember only the dark side—the suffering and atrocities experienced by our ancestors. Instead, we should have a balanced assessment and perspective. There might have been shadows but let us not forget to look at the light and blessings that Catholicism has given us. Let us give thanks for the blessings without forgetting the dark side of the past that continues to haunt the present.

I- Inspired. Let us be inspired by the actions of Mother Mary, our inspiration, to say yes to God, despite the sorrows that we may experience. She invites us to love Jesus as much as she loves Him. As Marist youth, let us say, YES to the Lord's mission.

T- Talents. Today is the best day not just to empower others but also to empower ourselves. We, the youth, are given talents, skills, intellect, and other means to have a sound mission. We should hone our talents and abilities. In doing so, we are disproving the notion that the youth of today are lazy. In Tagalog, *pabulaanan natin ang mga katagang, "Tulog ang kabataan ngayon."* Let us be awake and take part in society. Let our voices be heard. Let us be agents of the new evangelization. Remember to use our talents to serve and not to be served.

H- Hope. We are the beacons of hope of the Church and society. We are the bridge-builders of our fellow young people. We need to inspire others to follow the three-fold mission of Christ: prophetic, priestly, and kingly.



How can we do this? As mentioned, we have different means. During this digital age, we can integrate evangelization into technology such as social media. Moreover, we can be beacons of hope through our own little ways, by becoming prayerful and not forgetting our Christian values.

To reiterate, let us remember FAITH = F- forebears' history, A- Avoid apathy,

I- be Inspired by Mary to say Yes. T- hone our Talents and H- become beacons of Hope.

The Catholic faith and traditions have been embedded in the Filipino culture for 500 years. Let us not let the Catholic faith die down with us, the youth today. Let us preserve our faith. May this be our gracious gift to give to the next generations.



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#20)

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

INSTALLATION ADDRESS OF BRO. TED FERNANDEZ, FMS¹ March 30, 1997

The following article is a reprint from AMIHAN NEWSLETTER, March-April 1997 issue, pages 12-14. This article is only a portion and NOT the whole address of Br. Ted.

Dear Brothers,

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your confidence in having voted me for the provincial leadership. The support I have received from the Brothers have been encouraging. I hope that my best of effort is good enough to meet your, and God's expectations.

I thank Br. Renato (Cruz) and his council – Brothers Manny de Leon, Jim Adams, Ed Mallorca and Roy Deita for allowing me to undergo the Sabbath Program for 10 weeks, for preparing this year's retreat and chapter. I thank them also for providing the smooth transition from Ray's (Renato) leadership. I have not been in the council for the past three years; so my assuming the office really entails a radical adaptation, especially that my predecessor has not had the strength to carry on the installation and preparation of the office for my takeover.

1. Bro. Renato's Leadership

Let me first take a look at my predecessor's person and accomplishment. It is interesting to note that Bro. Renato's leukemia was first diagnosed in the first week of November in 1994. That was only 6 months after he started his second term as provincial.

From then on, a transformation was seen in Renato. His body deteriorated considerably; yet his spirituality and leadership took on a radical plunge towards transparency in his lifestyle, refined vision of his spirituality, extreme self-sacrifice for the Brothers, pastoral outlook in our ministries and resignation to God's will.

Bro. Ray should have had his bone marrow transplant years before. We might say he is stubborn. But with his transformed self, he could not help but prioritize the Province's needs over his own. He saw the needs of the Province to be attended to, various apostolates to be weighted and decide on. He knew very the implications of his sickness and the transplant. He read everything there is to know about leukemia and bone marrow transplants that he could level up with any specialist about the standing of his sickness. Why did he deliberately delay it? Stubborn? Call it that way... for the stubbornness of the saints are hard to understand in human terms. I call it a clear SELF-GIVING... A KENOSIS of Renato. He has given everything to us and the Province...down to his last drop of blood. Today, we recognize and honor Br. Renato's extreme self-sacrifice for the Brothers of the Philippine Province.

Let me now identify the extent of Ray's self-sacrifice in the last three years...

1. The Pastoral Plan

This master plan is the backbone of his administration. He worked hard in organizing various commissions, monitored the planning and evaluations, encouraged more lay participation and invested highly for the smooth running of the operation. He even headed a commission which he thought was very essential to our life in the province – the community life commission. However, the pastoral plan's success, in its on-going process, cannot be recognized as such without the singular effort, zeal, devotion and self-giving of Bro. Ed Mallorca. Bro. Ray accepted the fact that without Bro. Ed, the plan could not be steered that effectively. Even Bro. Benito admired and appreciated the effort of Bro. Ed. So, thank you very much, Ed. In spite of the slow responses of many Brothers, you did not waver in your effort to give us a first class update on the pastoral plan. Again, thank you.

2. Formation

He has invested so much in putting good people to be in charge of our formation houses, prepared them for higher studies here and abroad to stress the qualitative and spiritual formation of our candidates. He pushed us to experiment and come up with a judicious plan that would fit our clientele and the formative process demanded by the formation guide. There was practically a drought for three years, but thanks to the effort of Bros. Rosendo, George, Larry and Pepito, we were able to mobilize our communities, Brothers, and lay people to work for our recruitment. There are signs of good harvests. The effort we put in are getting some good responses from young people. However, Bro. Ray does not want us to be fixated in numbers.

The ongoing formation takes on the form of higher studies for Brothers taking masters and doctoral studies. Almost every year, men are sent for renewal courses in Rome both for midlife and third age.

We thank Bro. Roy and the members of his formation team for helping Bro. Ray in prioritizing the need for formation.

3. Education Ministry

The effort exerted by a lot of Brothers, in and out of school work is admirable. Let me just single out the admirable effort of Bro. Manny de Leon who headed the extensive ministry commission and education committee. Educators met in various capacities and places to come up with common concerns and possible linkages. This was quite hard to do; but was done in most instances, successfully. Thank you, Bro. Manny.

4. Alternative Apostolate

Our presence in Bukidnon has brought in tremendous grace to the Province. We have been afforded venues for pastoral exposures in GKK and ministries for the poor. Vocations have clearly emanated from there after a growing knowledge of the Brothers' presence in the local Church. I recognize and bow down to the efforts of Brothers Rene, Ed and Rosendo. Ditto with Bro. George.

Another area which I am clearly convinced is the charism of Champagnat concretized in the apostolate of Marcellin Homes.

There is no doubt that Bro. Crispin's effort is highly recognized not just locally but also nationally and to a certain extent, in the international network. Listening to his report last night, I was completely swept by his enthusiasm to reach out unconditionally with genuine Champagnat concern to the very least.... And most admirably, even setting an example to all of us... to be self-sufficient in running a project which we think should always be dependent on donations.

Because of your effort and example, Bro. Cris, I highly endorse your project to the Chapter as a Marist Province project with you as the director. Your center has been a source of evangelizing catalyst to our students and Marist candidates. You have been constantly directing it as a Champagnat project – a Marist Project. You have been prophetic to us – shaming the haughtiness in us and filling up our emptiness. God bless you in your work, dear Crispin. Champagnat is very real in your world with the least favored.

5. Community Life Plan

This was something which Br. Ray direly wanted done for our communities through the local superiors. Although he was quite remiss in following this up in communities because of his sickness, he was actually challenging the local superiors to act seriously in this. The personal life plan is another area he wanted done assiduously with individual Brothers.

I must admit that Ray has accomplished so much in this area where other provinces have not heard or initiated the personal plan. In my meeting with other provincials, this is the area along with the pastoral plan which I though our Province can be proud of. There is a lot more to be done... but at least we have taken off and see the value of the plan as essential to the province.

There are many more areas which I consider Bro. Ray's accomplishments. These have been started and needs to be continued and followed up. To mention...

1. The need for a provincial office
2. A streamlining of our provincial committees and the various school boards' operations.
3. Empowerment of the laity and the need to share our spirituality with the lay. Encouragement of lay affiliation and CMMF membership.
4. Support of MAPAC.
5. Maximizing resources from our assets and buildings for our formative and solidarity expenses.
6. Advocacy and solidarity causes. A good understanding of the term and a move towards it in an apostolic dimension.

¹Bro. Ted Fernandez was the Provincial of the Philippine Province from 1997-2003. At present he is the Community Leader of Kidapawan Community in North Cotabato. Not included here in his address are the topics "My Vision as Provincial" and "My Mission as Provincial."

Birthday Greetings to:



February 21

Br. Michael Park (Sung-won)



March 03

Br. Dominador A. Santiago, FMS (Provincial)

Death Anniversaries:

- March 1, 1930 – Br. Jose Sabiniano died in Shanghai.
- March 1, 1937 – Br. Petrus Stanislaus died in Beijing.
- March 4, 1986 – Br. Maurus James Doherty died in the Philippines.
- March 4, 1914 – Br. Cleophas died in Beijing.
- March 4, 2005 – Br. Gilbert Jooss died in St. Paul-Trois-Chateaux, France.
- March 7, 1926 – Br. Stratonique, 5th S.G. 1907-1920, died in Torino, Italy.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For the eternal repose of the soul of Dr. Isabelita “Bing” Bona, Province affiliated member, who died due to complications of disease last Monday, February 22, 2021 on her 77th birthday.
- ✚ For all the departed and dearly missed Brothers, Marist affiliated members, Family Members, Benefactors, and friends.
- ✚ For our sick Brothers, relatives, friends, benefactors, students, alumni, members of the Marist Family
- ✚ For our Brothers working in other countries.
- ✚ For deepening our faith and devotion with God.
- ✚ For more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For peace and unity.
- ✚ For those who are in need and in trouble.
- ✚ For our schools / universities, students, teachers, administrators and alumni.
- ✚ For the blessings of those affected by the pandemic, that may God continue to provide their needs.
- ✚ For our own personal intentions.