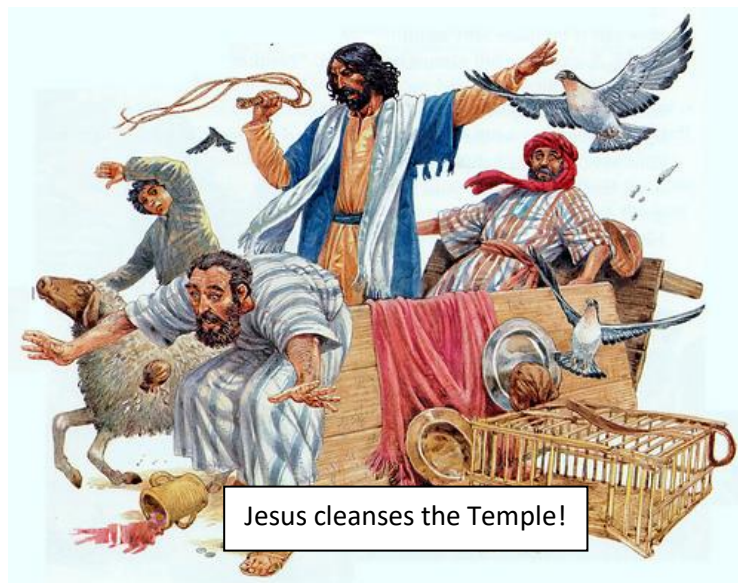




The Third Sunday of Lent: March 7, 2021

The Holy Wrath of God



He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." [John 2:15-16](#)

Jesus made quite a scene. He directly engaged those who were turning the Temple into a marketplace. Those selling animals for sacrifice were doing so as a way of trying to make a profit off of the sacred practices of the Jewish faith. They were not there to serve the will of God; rather, they were there to serve themselves. And this brought forth the holy wrath of our Lord.

In Jesus' case, it was hatred for sin and love for the sinner that drove Him to this holy wrath. By turning over the tables and driving people out of the Temple with a whip, Jesus made it clear that He loved His Father, whose house they were in, and He loved the people enough to passionately rebuke the sin that they were committing. The ultimate goal of His action was their conversion.

Jesus hates the sin in your life with the same perfect passion. At times we need a holy rebuke to set us on the correct path. Do not be afraid to let the Lord offer this form of rebuke to you this Lent.

Reflect, today, upon those parts of your life that Jesus wants to cleanse. Allow Him to speak directly and firmly to you so that you will be driven to repentance. The Lord loves you with a perfect love and desires that all sin in your life be cleansed. (<https://mycatholic.life/upcoming-reflections/lent-reflections-2021/third-week-of-lent-2021/>)

UPDATES:

KOBE COMMUNITY REPORT

By: Br. Allen Timola, FMS

Hello everyone.

Once a month, after the brothers attend the Sunday Mass in Kitasuma Church, starting December last year until Easter next month, Br. Joseph Yoshida is teaching catechism to someone who is planning to be baptized. Next month, Br. Joseph will be celebrating his 91st birthday. As for Br. Yohan, he again started welcoming Korean language students since October. If not busy with paper works, he prepares healthy food for the community and some of the ingredients are freshly picked from our community garden.

Springtime is here and that means not just the *sakura* cherry blossoms season but also the month of graduation in schools here. Last March 4, Br. Allen graduated from a 1 ½ year Japanese Language course he was taking since October 2019 in Kobe YMCA. The state of emergency here in Hyogo prefecture was lifted on March 1, but we are still cautious in going out, avoiding it if not necessary. Also, the weather is slowly getting warmer; so even Br. Joseph goes out, takes a stroll, and sunbathes in the school field on Sunday afternoon. Even if no one is around in the field, he still wears his face mask as spring in Japan is also known as the pollen allergy or hay fever season!



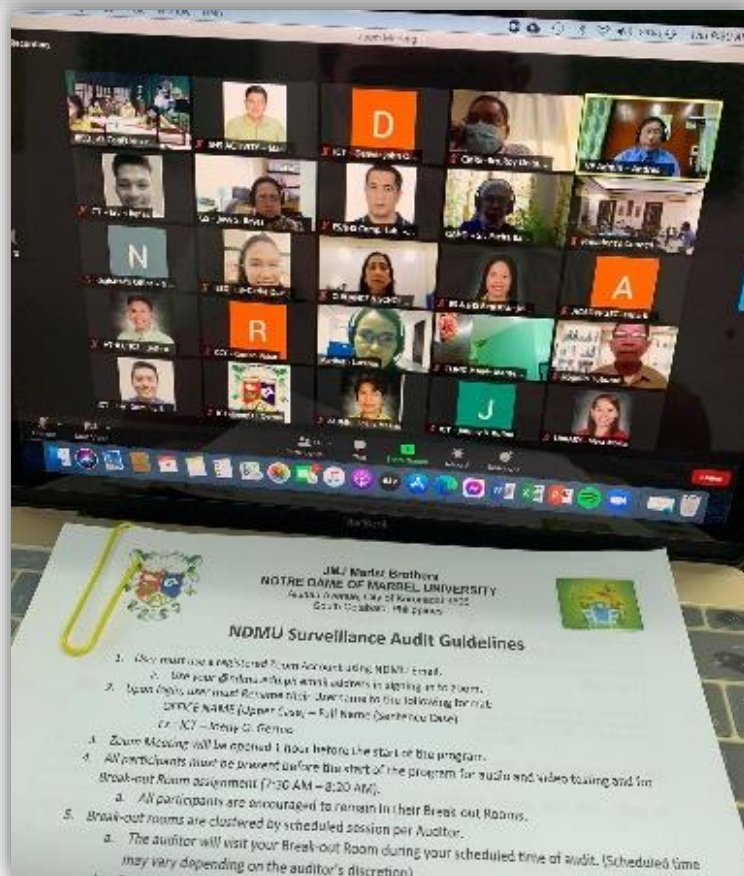
*Br. Joseph, Br. Allen, Br. Yohan.
Members of the Marist Brothers Kobe Community, Japan*

NDMU MAINTAINS ISO CERTIFICATION

By: Dr. Joan Palma, PhD

The Notre Dame of Marbel University has successfully hurdled the ISO Surveillance Audit by TUV Rheinland Philippines, Inc. on March 4. The auditors reviewed the different process flows of the institution from IBED to the tertiary and evaluated their conformity to ISO standards.

After the evaluation, the auditors commended NDMU for having considered and addressed all previous audit results. The TUV Rheinland audit team concluded that NDMU has established and has maintained an effective system in compliance with its policy and objectives. Further, the team confirmed that the institution maintains and implements the required ISO standards, without any nonconformity. With these results, TUV Rheinland recommended the maintenance of the existing ISO certification of the University.



REMEMBERING BR. WILLY

By: Dr. Joan Palma, PhD

Br. Willy may be gone, but he is certainly remembered. The Notre Dame of Marbel University celebrated two separate Masses on the 40th day since Br. Willy joined our creator. The Integrated Basic Education Department celebrated Mass at the SHS Activity Area, with Fr. Ariel Destora as the presider. At the same time, the college department celebrated Mass at the SMC Chapel presided over by Fr. Salvador Leyso. After the mass, the IBED and the college departments gathered in their respective campuses to share in a simple celebration in remembrance of Br. Willy.



CELEBRATING BR. ADOR'S BIRTHDAY

By: Br. Romulo Porras, FMS

“God of all creation, we offer you grateful praise for the gift of life. Hear the prayers of BR. ADOR, your servant, who recalls today the day of his birth and rejoices in your gifts of life and love, family and friends. Bless him with your presence and surround him with your love that he may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to you.”

The above prayer was prayed over Br. Ador by all of those present during his 54th birthday celebration on March 4 at the Lagao community dining room. The guests were the Brothers from the three communities here in General Santos City, namely, the Dadiangas, Marcellin Homes and Fourviere communities. The three Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) next door, Srs. Sela, Pele and Luday were also present together with the two caregivers of Sr. Luday. The caregivers of Br. Pius and Br. Larry were also present plus Ms. Agnes Reyes. Also present were Melanie and Liza, office staff and cook respectively. Milo, the driver, was also around.

The evening meal was made special by a roasted turkey delivered through the Husky Bus from Cotabato City and a roasted piglet donated by Br. Ador's mother. Everyone had a great time that evening in celebrating the birthday of a special person, our energetic Brother Provincial and the acting president of Notre Dame of Marbel University.

Photos during Br. Ador's birthday celebration.



2nd FORMATION SESSION FOR FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN

By: Ms. Agnes Reyes

On March 6, twenty-seven men and women participated in the online Formation for the Friends of Marcellin. Br. Ted Fernandez, FMS was the resource person on the theme “Marcellin’s Charism for the Youth”. The formation series held once a month is an opportunity for those who are beginning their Marist life to know more and reflect deeply on the life of St. Marcellin and the cherished values of the Marist tradition.

FRIENDS OF MARCELLIN
Formation Session 2
March 6, 2021, Saturday
07:45 PM (Philippines Times)

Marcellin and his
Charism for the Youth.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 897 2829 1527
Passcode: 860008

Resource Person: BR. TEODULO FERNANDEZ, FMS





THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#21)

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

REMEMBERING BROTHER RENATO B. CRUZ, FMS¹

The following article is a homily delivered by Br. James F. Adams, fms during the funeral Mass for Bro. Renato Br. Cruz, fms on May 19, 1997 at the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Cotabato City.

Part One of Two Parts



The responsorial psalm we just sang, “Yahweh the Faithful One”.... Brother Ray has been singing that in his life all these years. The story of Renato B. Cruz is a story of God’s continual love and man’s response in faith. It has many chapters, each with its human moments of sorrow and pain as well as joy and jokes. I will present here only eight of those chapters.

Chapter One: Birth. Luzon to Mindanao

Renato first saw the light of day in Munoz, Nueva Ecija, the second son of Felipe Cruz and Jacinta Bautista. That was in 1941. Or was it 1940? The confusion about his year of birth stems from the fact that his father wanted him to enter grade one earlier than the customary age. Thus it was necessary to have Renato born in 1940 supported by a baptismal certificate from a local protestant pastor. And so Rene, as he was called, entered grade one at the age of 6 years and 7 months, but he was really only 5 years and 7 months. And everyone was happy.

The family moved to Mindanao in 1951, and so Rene completed his elementary education right here at the Cotabato Central Pilot Elem. School in March 1953. He then enrolled in Notre Dame of Cotabato where he spent four adventurous years with the Marist Brothers. Besides excelling

in academics, he was an outstanding member of the Sodality of our Lady, and became also the team manager of varsity basketball. He therefore traveled all over Mindanao, as the team made their annual trek for games from Davao to Cagayan and in between. Rene graduated from NDC as valedictorian, class of 1957. I have his school record; he rarely got any grade less than 90%. Many of his old girl friends and barkada are here at the Cathedral today, the NDC Alumni Batch '57!!

Chapter Two: Vocation

When Rene was called by God to enter the religious life after graduation from NDC he was baptized one more time, conditionally, in the Catholic Church, and went off to the United States for his two-year novitiate in Massachusetts. He was nervous coming from Cotabato going to America and he made sure he spoke English perfectly. For weeks he spent hours listening to Radio Australia so that his English would be perfect. His classmates in the novitiate told me Rene was the first Filipino they met who spoke with an Australian accent. As was the custom he took a religious name when he became a Marist on July 28, 1958. Henceforth he was known as Bro. Felipe Renato, taking the name of his father.

But his classmates called him “Phil” or “Nats”, and he was known this way when he returned to Cotabato. After his novitiate formation he went to New York and finished college in three years and two summers graduating in June 1962, B.A. Chemistry, cum laude.

Chapter Three: High School Teacher

His first teaching assignment was in Lagao but after only a few months, when he had a hard time controlling those Lagao boys, he transferred here to his Alma Mater where he taught religion and chemistry while coaching basketball. And he was a great teacher in the classroom and in the church. Many of his former students are here in the Cathedral this morning, classes '63, '64, '65, '66, '67. By June 1967, at the age of 25, he was assigned as professor at the Marist Scholasticate, our post-novitiate formation house in Metro Manila. He had, by that time, given up the name Felipe Renato and became known as simply Renato, his baptismal name, which he shortened to Ray. He was teaching Filipino to our scholastics but he spelled his name R-A-Y and not R-E-Y. We were together in the scholasticate faculty 1967-68. When I asked why R-A-Y and not R-E-Y he replied with a shy smile that “RAY also mean a ray of light”, and he hoped he could be a “RAY” of sunshine in the peoples’ lives.” That was 30 years ago. We were never really separated after that.

Chapter Four: Higher Studies

Meanwhile, side by side with teaching in the formation house, he also did graduate studies, finishing in 14 months an M.S. degree in Chemistry at Ateneo de Manila University. By late 1968 he had won a scholarship for post-graduate studies in Chemistry at Wayne State University, Detroit, USA, and spent the next four years there. I happened by coincidence to be on a sabbatical at the same university. We lived together that first year. It was during his

four years in Detroit, Michigan, that he formed deep personal friendships and ministered to so many, a ministry that continues until now.

Chapter Five: School Administration

When he returned to the Philippines in 1972, Ray was assigned again for formation work, this time at our pre-novitiate, aspirancy house, at Notre Dame of Marbel for a year.¹ Then he went on to higher administration first as Academic Vice President and then President of what is now Notre Dame of Marbel University. It was during these eight years that he became known nationally for his work in science education and in accreditation of schools, colleges and universities. Although he was a college president, he managed to remain a classroom teacher both for graduate and undergraduate students. The personal influence he exerted, for these eight years, on hundreds of individuals can still be felt today. Throughout his years as president, I served at his side as his vice president.

Chapter Six: Marist Leadership Here and Abroad

It was during these years as a member of the Marist leadership team in the Philippines, as a provincial councilor, that he became known internationally. And so, I was not surprised when he received a letter, in French, inviting him to membership in the Marist General Council in Rome. He had not yet reached 40 years of age and he became a Councilor General. He was the first Filipino, the first Asian, in that position, a post he held for almost eight years from January 1980. He served as councilor under two generals, Rev. Bro. Basilio Rueda and, later, Rev. Bro. Charles Howard. He approached his new position in Rome in fear and trembling saying the appointment has been “the biggest surprise and shock in life.” In fact, it was another call from God... calling Ray to holiness while demanding from him, as he once said, I “must practice what I preach if I’m to be an effective leader.” And so, Ray continued to be prepared under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the final chapter of his life. Although carrying the work load of a general councilor, Ray still found time to minister to the poor... the OFW’s, lonely and sometimes suffering Filipinas and Filipinos working in Italy. As Brother Charles said last week at the wake in Manila,” Ray was a friend who enlarged our hearts as we witnessed his concern for the poor and the neglected; as we saw his love and compassion for all... including ourselves.”

Ray had the unique talent and gift to make friends, to be a friend, to give love and compassion, to make each person feel special as an individual. He had the amazing charism to maintain his friendships across thousands of miles and through the years... 10... 20 and 30 years. There was a depth to him which few could fathom, and jovial, good humor, full of simple fun and gaiety which all could enjoy. An acquaintance said, the other day, Ray was “so simple and full of banter and humor and humility that once you met him you could never forget him.”

Chapter Seven: Marist Provincial, Philippines

In January 1988 the General and his council requested Ray to return to the Philippine Province after seven and a half years of absence, because he was needed here. In his letter of Feb. 25, 1988, Ray says two quotes have guided him as he began his ministry as Provincial going around to visit the Marist communities in the Philippines.

1. From Pope John XXIII: “See everything, overlook much, correct a little.”
2. From the book of Isaiah...”a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench...”

He proved to be a wise leader and, after a time, was elected provincial for two regular terms which ended at Holy Week 1997. His was the longest terms ever for a Marist Provincial... over nine years. Throughout that time I was fortunate to serve as one of his provincial councilors. Much could be said of his ministry as Provincial, and how he labored effectively both for the Marists, for other congregations, and for the Church of the Poor.

To Be Continued

¹Br. Renato B. Cruz was the Marist Provincial Superior of the Philippine Province from 1987 to 1997.

INFORMATION:

- March 8: Notre Dame of Kidapawan College Corporation and Board Meeting
- March 9: Notre Dame of Cotabato Corporation and Board Meeting
- March 9: Marian Hills Memorial Park, Inc. Board Meeting
- March 10: Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Corporation and Board Meeting
- March 11: Notre Dame of Marbel University Corporation and Board Meeting
- March 12: MEC Meeting
- The Philippine Sector’s Online Retreat will be on March 29 to April 3. Br. Ernesto Sanchez, FMS, our Superior General, will be the retreat Master. The theme of the retreat is “Homes of Light. Caring for Life. Generating New Life.” The retreat will be open to the Brothers of all the sectors, the Brothers away from the Province and to all our Lay Marists. We will send more information later.

Birthday Greetings to:



March 10

Timothy Dave Gallego (*Aspirant*)



March 11

Br. Cian Marco M. Tabuada

Death Anniversaries:

- March 7, 1926 – Br. Stratonique, 5th S.G. 1907-1920, died in Torino, Italy.
- March 7, 1952 – Br. Maternus died in St. Genis-Laval.
- March 9, 1957 – Br. Onesime died in Vaugneray.
- March 11, 1958 – Br. Calepode died in St. Genis-Laval
- March 14, 1976 – Br. Louis Nicholas died in St. Genis-Laval.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For all the departed and dearly missed Brothers, 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 the vocation of young Brothers.
- ✚ 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 all the birthday celebrants for the month of March.
- ✚ For our own personal intentions.

