



MARCH 28, 2021: PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Dear Brothers and Lay Marists,

Let me greet you this Holy Week with Bob Kondrath's reflection. He said;

“During this most Holy Week, may the time you spend reflecting on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus bring you a greater awareness of GOD’s love for you!”

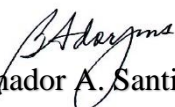


Today we begin Holy Week, the most solemn week in the church calendar. We reflect upon the events that brought about our salvation. Jesus triumphantly enters into Jerusalem, the City of Peace, in order to announce the Good News, not just with His words but by His act of loving sacrifice for all people. We journey along with Him as He celebrates the great feast of Passover and becomes the New Paschal Lamb Whose blood is poured out so that we, the New Israel, might experience the liberation from sin and the new life of grace. We look on as Jesus suffers His passion and crucifixion. And ultimately, we will experience His glorification from the cross and at the tomb.” (Bob Kondrath)

Starting March 29, we will have our online Holy Week retreat. This will be facilitated by our Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, FMS. The meeting ID is: 852 0913 7347 and the Passcode is: 955536. The Provincial council and I would like to wish everyone a blessed Holy Week. We pray that this holy week celebration be a spiritual and restful experience for all of us. Since Good Friday is a celebration of love, forgiveness, and mercy, let us also take this opportunity, to celebrate love, by letting go of bitterness, resentments, and anger that we may be able to forgive ourselves and others and begin the experience of deeply living the joy of the upcoming Easter Season. Let our observance of the Holy Week herald for us the promise of a new beginning.

Have a prayerful and restful retreat everyone!

God bless,


Br. Dominador A. Santiago, FMS

UPDATES:

FROM KOBE, JAPAN COMMUNITY



Bernard and I were able to make a safe trip back to the Kobe community. Thanks to your prayer. Everything went very smoothly. I felt so sorry to see Bernard very thin and weak. I think it was very appropriate that I went to Hakodate to accompany him back to Kobe. Bernard was welcomed by Brothers Joe and Allen, and he enjoyed the supper I cooked for the community. I am going to take Bernard tomorrow to 2 different hospitals to see a cardiologist and a urologist.

Many blessings,
Yohan

Br. Larry Sevilla Visits Bacusanon

More than a year ago, Br. Larry left Bacusanon for an emergency. He suffered a mild stroke and had to be hospitalized. On March 24-26, he went to Bacusanon with the intention of making a surprise visit to the parishioners and his friends. He was the one surprised, instead, by the warm welcome prepared for him.



This is his message:

“Salamat sa Lagao Community for granting my request to visit Bacusanon Mission on March 24-26. Some pictures reflect my encounters with our lay mission partners. Efforts were done to visit two schools where we conducted catechism. I appreciate their cooperation for allowing us to share our charism to the children and youth. The general mission team

and some chapel leaders were visited, too. Salamuch!”

More photos during his visits:



Companions during General Mission activities in the parish...revisited in their residence.

Manong Dodong was the driver of Bacusanon rescue vehicle. He was assigned to rush me to a hospital in Maramag last April 6, 2020.



Ma'am Eton is one of the midwives of the Barangay. While I was there for almost two years, she monitored my BP. In some emergency cases she visited patients in the house especially during the general mission. I do appreciate all health workers' assistance.

FROM THE LAITY DESK:

by: Ms. Agnes Reyes

03.23.21 One global team - the Extended Secretariat of Laity with Br. Graham and Vanderlei, facilitators of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation.



MARIST FORMATION FOR NDC PERSONNEL



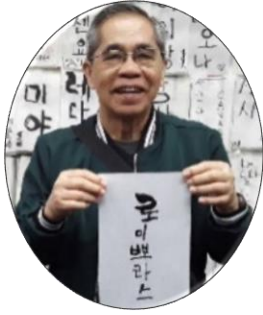
Thirty (30) newly hired personnel of Notre Dame of Cotabato underwent Marist Formation on March 26-27. The program was intended as an orientation on the Marist tradition, Marist charism, and the story of St. Marcellin. Participants were

introduced to the Marist life of both the brothers and the Marist lay. It was a privileged opportunity to have Br. Lindley Sionosa and Br. Angel Medina, live from Rome via Zoom, interacting with the participants. They shared



stories of Marcellin, spoke words of encouragement that inspired participants to continue in their Marist journey. The overnight sessions ended with expressions of affirmation and commitment to take opportunities for growing and living out Marist life. Twelve (12) participants signed up to join the program for developing new Marist Lay Leaders, a series of sessions open to beginning Marists who feel the desire to take an active role in the animation of the Marist laity. The school administration with their Director Br. Rommel Ocasiones, FMS, fully supported the program and had committed to continue supporting the initiatives for the animation of the Marist laity. Mr. Jano Dalumpines coordinates the laity program at NDC.





THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER (#24)

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS

The pride of the tribe off to St. Marcellin School¹ Giasnogor, Sylhet, Bangladesh

By: Br. George Valle, fms

In order to know more about the Brothers' life in real situations, two of the four incoming aspirants went for a two-week voluntary work from July 7-21 at St. Marcellin School in Giasnogor before the week-end "come and see" with Mymensingh community. Biplop Biswas (*right*) and Mohon Biswas come from the same tribe, diocese and village. Biplop had just finished his Diploma in Agriculture while Mohon is waiting for the result of the Higher Secondary Certificate Test (HSC equivalent to Grade/class 12) result which will be released in August 2019. Giasnogor community is six hours away by bus from Mymensingh community.



According to the Parish priest of Bonpara mission under Rajshahi diocese, these two young men come from the Paharia tribe of Kommollo village under the above-mentioned parish. Historically speaking, this tribe originated from Bihar, India and migrated to the borders of India and Bangladesh during the British colonial period. Due to the natural richness of the forest there, they discovered that life was far better than the one they had in their home land. For this reason, many decided to stay and tried to integrate with the other tribes like the Santal & Urao. However, other tribes found them impossible to live with because of their notorious wine business which eventually led to many other untoward incidences like robbery and prostitution among rich Muslims.

One Sunday Mass, the parish priest, in his homily, reminded them of the future consequences of this industry to their children. As a result, one of the three villages of Paharias, from children to old ones, marched to the parish with sticks and wanted to attack the parish priest. Good enough Fr. Bikash, who was then the assistant parish priest, was able to pacify them. He apologized and promised not to interfere with their way of life again.

These were the issues of the Paharia parishioners when Fr. Bikash took over as parish priest seven years ago. So, in collaboration with the Bishop & parish council, he constructively challenges the three villages to make some reforms in their way of life for the future of their children. Out of the three villages, only Kommollo daringly and audaciously responded to these challenges. The whole village totally stopped the wine business and prohibited Muslims to come to their village except for those with good and right intentions.



English class with Fr. George.



Orientation with Br. Eugene Sanz, fms

With this, the diocese provided them with a place to live which they can call their own as well as financial assistance for their livelihood. The lack of space did not bother them at all in implementing their Incoming generating projects. They mainly domesticate eel/long fish, goats, chickens and cows inside their houses like the way they used to with wine making and prostitution. Moreover, both husbands and wives go out on the field together as daily laborers which was not the case before.

Lastly, in the latest visit of Bro. George, the parish priest humbly requested him to look after the two young men with great love and care. Their interest of joining a Religious congregation like the Marist is not only a great pride for the tribe but above all, a clear and concrete sign of their radical change of heart. # # #

¹*This article written by Br. George Valle was intended for the unpublished AMIHAN PLUS 2019 issue.*

Birthday Greetings to:



March 28
Br. Augustine Lee (Hae-dong)



March 31
Br. Gregorie Su Ping Qing



April 04
Br. Albert A. Muñoz

Death Anniversaries:

March 28, 1960 – Br. Felix Prosper died in Malaysia.

March 31, 1916 – Br. Louis Benoit died in France.

March 31, 1928 – Br. Evaristo Leon died in Beijing.

April 2, 1989 – Br. George Durr died in Hong Kong.

April 3, 1971 – Br. Jean Marie died in Singapore.

April 4, 1947 – Br. Marie Anthelme died in Negombo, Sri Lanka.

April 4, 2007 – Br. Denis Condado died in Hong Kong.

April 5, 2008 – Br. Lece Dominique died in Beijing.

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 more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ For the vocation of young Brothers in the Formation.
- ✚ 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 the repose of the soul of Mrs. Gina Sevilla Panes. The elder sister of Br. Danny Sevilla.
- ✚ For our own personal intentions.