



Marist Brothers East Asia Province

News Bits



Marists
of Champagnat

Volume 3, Issue No. 18

April 18, 2021

APRIL 18, 2021: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

REMEMBERING THE CANONIZATION OF OUR FOUNDER
ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT: 18TH APRIL 1999



UPDATES:

Malutok and Binikyat, Palawan Activities

CULMINATION: NON-Formal Education (Binikyat Extension). The pupils with their parents and teachers.



Graduating Pupils



Graduating Pupils with their parents



Graduating Pupils with their teachers and Br. Frank (The student lying on the table had malaria but did not want to miss the culminating activity)



Graduating Pupils with their teachers

Palawan Ministry Outreach Program

The Palawan Ministry extends help to the Binikyat and Malutok residents by distributing rice and other goods!



Brothers of Lagao Community together with the caregivers during an outing at Marian Beach Resort in Glan, April 12-13.



From left to right:

Standing- Br. Larry, Medi, Br. Jongjong, and Shanti.

Sitting at the back- Gerald, Br. Fred, and Jason. Sitting in front- Br. Romy, Br. Wency, and Br. Pius.

Brs. Joseph and Allen celebrate their birthdays in Kobe Community

Br. Joseph Yoshida celebrated his birthday on April 16, while Br. Allen celebrated his birthday on April 17. Br. Yohan, the community superior, cooked a special meal for the community during Br. Joseph's birthday while he prepared Filipino food during Br. Allen's birthday. The Brothers thoroughly enjoyed the meals concocted by Br. Yohan.



April 16: Marist Brothers Kobe Community during Br. Joseph Yoshida's birthday



April 17: Marist Brothers Kobe Community during Br. Allen Timola's birthday



BROTHERS RAYMUND AND CYRIL RENEW THEIR PROFESSION OF VOWS

Bros. Raymund Gallardo and Cyril Sumugat renewed their profession of vows at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Jolo, Sulu last April 17. Bishop Charlie Inzon, OMI, DD, the Bishop of the vicariate of Jolo, presided the mass. Br. Mark Roberth Laurea, accepted the renewal of vows in behalf of the Superior General of the Marist Brothers.

Photos during Br. Raymund and Cyril's renewal of profession of vows



The Immaculate Conception International Novitiate opens this year

The Immaculate Conception International Novitiate in Broce, Maguindanao welcomes the arrival of the 14 in-coming first year novices. 9 of them are from East Timor, 3 from Vietnam, and 2 from India. Their entrance to the novitiate and habit-taking will be live-streamed on April 19 at 10 in the morning, Philippine time. (FACEBOOK@Treb Bert , <https://www.messenger.com/t/100000293865962>)

The In-coming Novices doing general cleaning on the Novitiate grounds.



THE NOVICES OF THE
MARIST BROTHERS WITH
THE OBLATES OF MARY
IMMACULATE (OMI)
NOVICES, AN OBLATE OF
NOTRE DAME (OND)
SISTER AND THE
FORMATORS.



Marist Novitiate Formation in Asia

By Br. Lindley Sionosa, FMS



Asia, perhaps, has the most interesting picture to paint as far as novitiate is concerned. There are 2 novitiates, Marist International Novitiate in Tudella, Sri Lanka which receives novices from South Asia and the District of Asia, and Immaculate Conception Novitiate in Tamontaka, Philippines, the novitiate of East Asia.

In May 2020, the leaders of Asia and Oceania, in anticipation of the influx of candidates and the incapacity of either one of these houses to accommodate big numbers, decided to establish Tamontaka as another inter-regional novitiate. The idea is for Tudella and Tamontaka to receive first year novices in an alternating fashion, such that in 2021 for example, incoming Asia-Oceania novices will go to Tamontaka and will stay on until 2023. Meanwhile, the second-year novices in Tudella will continue until they profess in 2022. Only then will Tudella receive incoming novices. In other words, it will be that at any given time, Tamontaka will either only have second-year novices while Tudella will only have first-year novices, and vice-versa.

The pandemic, however, led to several complications.

On 4 April 2020, 6 Vietnamese brothers of the District of Asia pronounced their first vows. Under normal circumstances, they would have gone home after that for family visit and then proceed to the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) in the Philippines for their post-novitiate formation. But they were forced to stay in Sri Lanka. Some have enrolled in theology courses online, e.g., Mariology, Youth Ministry, Church History, and Scriptures.



The incoming novices for formation year 2020-2021 never made it to Tudella. Instead, they had to follow a “post-postulancy pre-novitiate” program coordinated by the newly named novice master, Br. Francisco “Paco” Garcia who was also stuck in the Philippines. He was formerly the master of postulants in Davao, Philippines and is taking the place Br. Nicholas Fernando as novice master.

These 14 pre-novices were in Vietnam (2), Bangladesh (2), East Timor (7), Australia (1, an East Timorese), Solomon Islands (1) and Philippines (1, a Vietnamese). They began their canonical year of novitiate on March 25, 2021 and will undergo this stage of formation in the houses designated by the Provincials and approved by the Superior General and his Council, following

the provisions of Constitution 117/5 referred to earlier in this article. While Br. Paco remains to be the novice master, these novices will be under the care of Br. Anselmo Kim (Vietnam), Br. Vigilio Bwalya (Bangladesh), Br. Greg McDonald (East Timor), and Br. Mark Poro (Solomon Islands).



On 6 March after some months spent waiting in MAPAC, Br. Paco moved to Tamontaka where he will be temporarily based; with him is the novice from Vietnam. Once the international borders reopen, they will move to Tudella.

On 25 March 2021, 4 novices (3 East Timorese and 1 Vietnamese) professed their first vows. Afterwards, they will be joining the other 6 who professed last year in following a pre-scholasticate program in Sri Lanka. According to Br. Réal Sauvageau, who is acting novice master and partnering with Br. Rod Thompson in journeying with the post-novices, they are looking at the possibility of these young brothers continuing formation and at the same time doing some ministry in the different communities in Sri Lanka. Some will pursue professional studies. The East Timorese, on the other hand, expressed the need for reinforcement in the English and Portuguese languages.

What will it be like then in Tudella Novitiate after March 25? There is a first-year novice from South Asia, a Sri Lankan, and a second-year novice who is doing extension, plus the 10 post-novices. The Sri Lankan novice is supposed to join Tamontaka, but he could not travel to the Philippines. Thus, he will do his novitiate in Tudella. If the situation (of the pandemic) improves and would allow the novices to travel from the countries where they are now, they will finish their novitiate in Tudella.

Tamontaka Novitiate has been without novices since late 2018. There was a previous arrangement between the Province of East Asia and the District of the Pacific that in September of 2020, the novices and Br. Jone Seduadua, the novice master, of Lomeri Novitiate in Fiji, will move to Tamontaka. That clearly did not happen.

In mid-February 2021, Br. Pepito Mahong was named novice master of Tamontaka Novitiate. On 13 April 2021, the 14 postulants (9 East Timorese, 3 Vietnamese and 2 Indians) in Davao will move to Tamontaka to begin their novitiate formation. The habit-taking ceremony is scheduled on 19 April.



MARIST SCHOOL MARIKINA ORGANIZES A NOVENA FOR HEALING AND PROTECTION

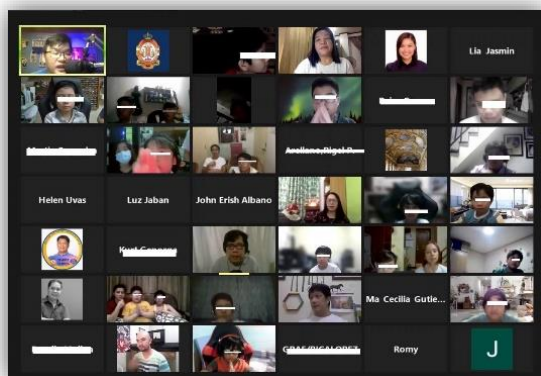
By Marjorie Raneses

Marist School gives priority to the health, safety, and welfare of our stakeholders in the light of the spike of Covid-19 cases particularly of our students, personnel, and their families. The academic break on April 12-15, was an opportunity for us to focus on our well-being and family concerns including expressing ourselves in prayer.

As an expression of family spirit, let us, therefor come together for “Prayer for Healing and Protection”, an online prayer gathering for nine (9) days on April 11-19 at 6:00 PM via zoom. (Meeting ID: 840 3776 0358 Passcode: 147302).



Like Mary, we recognize Jesus in the face of the broken and suffering, aching for them with a mother's heart. In situations where hope struggles with despair, we stand by those who are sick and grieving (In the Footsteps of Marcellin).



Around 149 Marist families gathered on April 11 at 6:00 PM, for prayer on the first day of the novena; "Prayer for Healing and Protection". The CMRE group of MARIST SCHOOL MARIKINA led the prayer. The participants felt the joy with the presence of Marist Brothers, students, MSPTA, relatives, MSMAA, personnel and friends. All came together, turned to GOD in prayer and believed that He is in control.

The MSPTA led the 2nd day of novena on Monday, April 12. Let us be one in expressing the Marist Family Spirit and stand by those who are sick and grieving.



A Brief History of the Marist Presence in the Philippines

The following is a four-series article written by Br. Ted Fernandez, fms and continued by Br. Lindley Sionosa in the later part to commemorate the Marist presence in the Philippines for the last 60 years.

Second of the Four Series

In 1955, the Brothers opened the College Department of Notre Dame of Marbel with Br. Herbert Daniel Dumont as its first College Dean. A year later, he was replaced by Br. Bernard J. Curtin, a newcomer from New York City. Also, the 4th group of Filipino aspirants left for the United States at this time. They were Sotero Amoloria, Jr., Gabriel Bogacia, Antonio Cabangon, Augusto Obed, and Eugenio Tajo, Jr. These five aspirants had a week of preparation with Louis Omer in Marbel.

In 1957, Marbel became the first site of the Juniorate program of the Brothers where the young men interested in becoming Brothers were housed in an old stage building of the school before they left for the United States. Brothers Robert Frederick Lafleur and Louis Omer Duprez became the first two Masters of Juniors. During this year the 5th group of Filipino aspirants left for the USA. They were Renato Cruz and Bernardo Ortuoste. It was also this year that the 1st group of three Filipino Brothers finished their five-year training in the States and returned to be assigned to the different communities for their initial apostolates.

In 1958, the Brothers decided to separate the boys of Notre Dame of Kidapawan from the main campus to form the Boys' Department to a new site along Ingkal Street. Br. Norman Roy was appointed Director/Principal. The RVM Sisters took over the administration of the Girls' Department. The 2nd group of Filipino Brothers trained in the USA came home and were assigned to different schools.

In 1959, the Brothers decided that the formation of Filipino young men to become Marist Brothers be done in the Philippines. The first Filipino Marist candidates to be trained in the Philippines lived in Lagao with Br. Louis Omer Duprez as Director and Master. On the same year, the Brothers took over the administration of Notre Dame of Jolo from the Oblate Fathers. Br. Bernard J. Curtin was appointed Director. With him were brothers trained in the United States. The Dominican Sisters of Siena who managed the girls were on the faculty. Also on the same year, the Brothers opened the College Department of Notre Dame of Dadiangas with Br. Patrick Nicholas Grogan as its First College Dean.

In 1960, the Novitiate in Tamontaka, Cotabato City, was opened just on time for the first habit-taking ceremony of the first novices trained in Lagao. Br. Louis Omer Duprez was the first Master

of Novices. This year, the Philippine Mission became an autonomous District and Br. Joseph Damian Teston was appointed as the District Visitor.

In 1961, the Juniorate program, which catered to the formation of 3rd and 4th year high school students who were interested in becoming Marist Brothers, was started in Lagao but was gradually phased out until 1972. It was also in this year when the Elementary Department of Notre Dame of Marbel College was opened as training ground for the BSEEd students of the College. Br. Regis Xavier Creegan was its first Principal.

In 1962 the Elementary Department of Notre Dame of Kidapawan College was opened with Br. Herbert Daniel Dumont as its first Principal.

In 1964 the Brothers opened Marist School in Marikina, Metro Manila, for Elementary Boys with Br. Bernard J. Curtin as its first Director/Principal. Also this time, the first group of Marist Scholastics was transferred to Marikina from Lagao, General Santos City. Br. Bernard Curtin became the Master of Scholastics. This year, Br. Norman Roy succeeded Br. Joseph Damian as the District Visitor.

In 1968 the Brothers accepted the invitation of Bishop Quentin Olwell, CP, DD, to administer Notre Dame of San Jose in Barrio 5, which is about six kilometers away from the town of Marbel. Br. Joseph Damian Teston became its first Director. It was at this time that the Scholasticate program was transferred from Marikina to Marbel with Br. Robert McGovern as the Master of Scholastics and Br. Bernardo Ortuoste as Assistant Master. At this time too, the High School Department of Marist School in Marikina was opened with Br. Bernard Curtin as its first Principal.

In 1971, the Brothers took over the administration of San Isidro College in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, from the Sisters of St. Joseph (Newark) with Br. Augustin Obed as Director. With him were Br. Reginald Theodore Laflamme as College Dean and Br. Wenceslao Calimpon as High School Principal.

In 1973 the Marist Brothers in the Philippines celebrated their Silver Jubilee for the twenty-five years of service to the youth. Br. Leonard Sonza was the Provincial of the Philippine Vice-Province and during the Generalship of Br. Basilio Rueda. Notre Dame of Cotabato Boys was the main venue of the celebrations.

Year 1977 was a banner year for the Philippine Vice-Province because it became a full-fledged autonomous province of the Institute. This memorable transition happened towards the end of the term of Br. Basilio Rueda as Superior General.

In 1978 the Brothers in the Philippines officially accepted the invitation of Bishop Felixberto Flores of Guam, USA, to administer Father Dueñas Memorial School in Agana. The formal contract between Br. Leonard Sonza and the Bishop was signed agreeing to a term of three years.

Bro. Robert B. McGovern, FMS started the Small Business Management Advisory Center at the Notre Dame of Dadiangas College in 1978. It was aimed at assisting fledgling enterprises through training and consultancy. In 1984, with funding from USAID, the SBMAC was transformed into a Business Resource Center (BRC) and started to offer training, research, consultancy and financial assistance to micro and small businesses in the 4 urban barangays of General Santos City. The following year, the Primary Health Care Delivery Program was established alongside the opening of the college of Nursing.

In 1984 the Brothers agreed to the request of the Board of Trustees of Valencia Academy, now known as San Lorenzo Ruiz Academy in Polomolok, South Cotabato, to supervise the school. Br. Crispin Betita, then President of Notre Dame of Dadiangas College, became its first Marist Supervisor. Also, this year, Br. James F. McKnight was elected Provincial to succeed Br. Eugene Pius Tajo.

In 1987, Br. Renato B. Cruz, then Assistant General, was recalled to the Philippines to finish the term of Br. James McKnight who reverted himself back to the Esopus Province, USA.

In 1991 the Brothers undertook an alternative apostolate in Sinayawan, Valencia, Bukidnon. The various activities were parish work and teaching in schools around the area. The pioneering Brothers were Rene Reyes, Wenceslao Paterno, and George Valle. It was also this year when Br. Crispin started his apostolate with the street children.

In 1992, Marcellin House for street children was formally opened. It was also this year when the Scholasticate Program in Marbel was terminated. This was replaced by the new program (in Marikina) started as Marist Asian Center (MAC), which later on became Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) in order to accommodate Brothers coming from the Pacific regions. This Center is in consortium with Notre Dame of Marbel University.

1993 was a memorable year in the history of Notre Dame of Marbel University. Dr. Leonor P. Arzagon became the first lay and lady President of the University. She assumed office in May 28, 1993. She succeeded Br. Eugene Pius Tajo.

(To be continued.)

INFORMATION:

- Today, we are celebrating the canonization of our founder St. Marcellin Champagnat. Here is the link of the celebration from the website of the General House.

<https://champagnat.org/en/a-heart-that-knows-no-bounds/>



“A heart that knows no bounds”

Death Anniversaries:

- April 18, 1907 – Br. Theophane, 4th S.G. 1883-1907 died in Spain.
- April 20, 1964 – Br. Marie Victorin died in St. Genis-Laval.
- April 21, 1898 – Br. Joseph Valentin died in Sri Lanka.
- April 21, 1951 – Br. Joche Albert died in Xichang, China.
- April 22, 1990 – Br. John Peter Flood died in Ireland.
- April 25, 1964 – Br. Abel died in St. Genis-Laval.
- April 25, 2020 – Mr. Marcelino Bang Shi Young (Affiliated member)
died in Seoul, Korea.
- April 26, 1926 – Br. Louis Theophane died in Tianjin, China

Prayers please...

- ✚ For Br. Joseph Dufresse Chang who is currently confined in the ICU of Mount Alvernia Hospital due to kidney and liver infection, and with heart problem.
- ✚ For Br. Bob McGovern who is bedridden due to illness complications.
- ✚ For all the Marist Brothers of the world, all the Lay Marists who worked with them and to all the young people.
- ✚ For God's continues blessings and guidance.
- ✚ For all the departed and dearly missed Brothers, Affiliated Members, Family Members, Benefactors and friends.
- ✚ For those who are sick, suffering, or struggling with any hardship, that they would find healing and comfort.
- ✚ For the vocation of young Brothers in the Formation.
- ✚ For the continues blessings of those affected by the pandemic and calamities that may God continue to provide their needs.
- ✚ For all those in authority, that they would govern wisely and fairly.
- ✚ For our community, that we would proclaim the love of Christ in word and deed.
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for the month of April.
- ✚ For our own needs and personal intentions.