



Marist Brothers East Asia Province



News Bits

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May 09, 2021

MAY 9: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE MOTHERS
IN THE WORLD!



*THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY,
OUR
MOTHER
OF
GOOD
COUNSEL*

UPDATES

A New Beginning (Marist Marbel)

By: Br. Ralph Jude P. Daylusan, FMS

Life gives us challenges that would test our faith and that would mold us into stronger and better versions of ourselves. The loss of our community leader (Br. Willy) paralyzed us for a while; but we must move on, embrace the pain, and burn it as fuel for our journey.

Br. Rene Reyes is gradually going back to his hobbies such as gardening, beautifying the surrounding of the house, and mingling with our mission partners. In the meantime, Br Roy Deita took over as community leader and he is doing well in guiding us in the path going to God. Moreover, Br Mark Iwu is already halfway in his master's degree and he is looking forward to finish his study soon. Lastly, the two young Brothers (Br. Adrian Mana-ay and Br. Ralph Jude Daylusan) continue their apostolate on the school as they prepare for the conclusion of the academic year.



In line with academic year-end, the Notre Dame of Marbel University Integrated Basic Education held its 72nd Junior High School Completion Ceremonies, 58th Elementary Commencement Exercises and 42nd Kindergarten Moving-up Ceremonies on May 7, with the theme “Gifted to Give: Celebrating the 500 years of Christianity through Marist Education”.

Though the celebration was done virtually, the program ran smoothly and successfully. Aside from this, five teachers were awarded plaques of appreciation for their inspiring and the phenomenal years of teaching in our school. They are: Mr. Ernesto Pajes (30



years of service), Ms. Jovelyn Narte (20 years of service), Ms. Ma. Cinderella Asong (20 years of service), Ms. Cherry L. Castelo (20 years of service), and Ms. Jocelyn Ureta (20 years of service). Finally, we have also one retiree teacher, Mr. Hernane Villanueva, who has been our mission partner for 36 fruitful years. He shared his talents, skills, time and love not just to the institution but most especially to our students.

Laity committee reviews strategic plan

May 7, 2021. Ms. Elma Rafil, Chair of the Laity Committee, Philippine Sector, convened the leaders to review the key result areas of the laity strategic plan. They discussed and made proposals on how the objectives will be carried out. The Committee's objectives include the following:

1. to have an inclusive understanding and supportive attitude in recognizing and promoting the Marist Lay Vocation;
2. to provide a systematic and developmental formation program for the Lay Marists respectful of the diversity and level of engagement among them;
3. to identify and create teams of trainers/formators to ensure the proper implementation of the Formation of Marist Brothers and Laity; and,
4. to facilitate the conduct of Joint Formation.

The Committee will re-convene on May 12, 2021, Wednesday, to finalize the details of the strategic plan.





EARLY EXPERIENCES OF THE FIRST GROUP OF MISSIONARIES TO CHINA¹



**The Six Founders of the Marist China Province
8 March 1891, Marseille, France**

Six Brothers boarded the SS Yang-tse for Peking (from left): Marie-Candide [Jean Dubost], Superior (35), Aristonique [Jean Maillat] (28), Antonin [J. P. Brouchoud] (20), Joseph-Félicité [Joseph Planche] (19), Marie-Basilus [Claude Mazard] (20), Louis-Michel [François Giroud] (20). With Bro. Adon and Bro. Paulin, Assistant and Provincial of the Province of Saint-Genis-Laval, respectively.

The following are excerpts from the letters of Br. Marie-Candide² to the Superior General about their experiences during their first two years in China as missionaries:

In one of Br. Marie-Candide's earliest letters from Peking, he writes, "... all that I had heard about Peking, and all I had read is far below the truth. It's quite frightful, and hard to believe one walks in stinking mud up to the knees... typhoid fever takes a lot of victims; this is the sickness that carries off the majority of missionaries and few are able to avoid it."

In another letter he wrote: *I have just read an account by a missionary, who is in the Southern part of the Kiang-si province, where looting is taking place. It is heartbreaking. The leaders at the head of the movement, in order to cause an uprising among the people, cut the throats of children, take out their eyes and heart, and then accuse the missionaries of these horrors....*

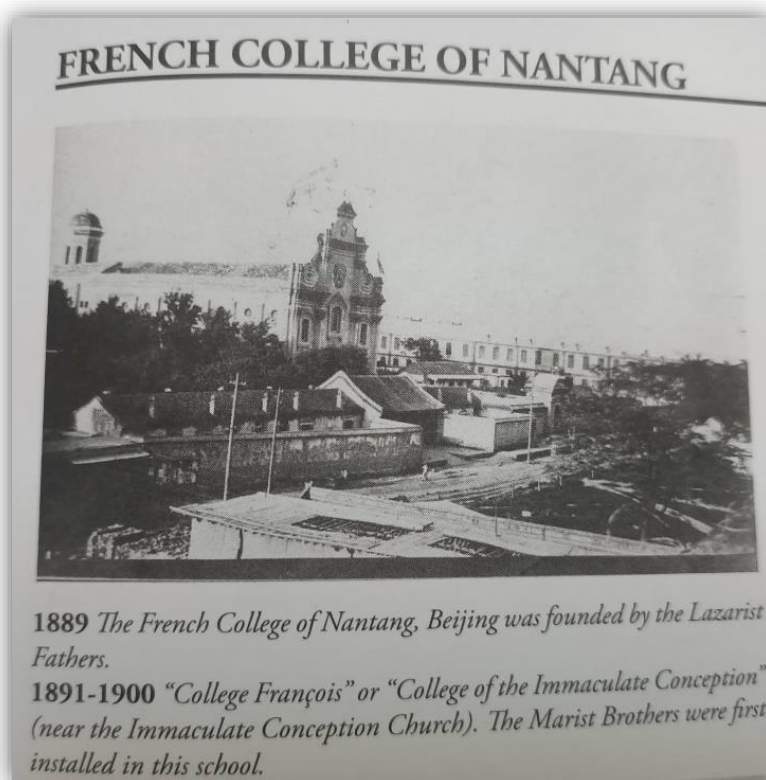
Poor China, what a secret destiny (there must be awaiting her)! It is incredible what has been done for its salvation over the centuries; what is still more incredible is the sterility of all the efforts made to deliver the country from the power of [Satan]. It (always seems) to have to be started again... What is disconcerting is to see one's zeal, one's ardor, one's elan fail [almost completely]; one's generous illusions fall nearly at the first step. The virtue that one needs above all, the completely indispensable one, is patience.

In my opinion, the Father³ is right to ask for Brothers who are happy persons. In this country, much of what is around us makes one [melancholic], for there is a lot of sadness and plenty of ugliness. Anybody who is naturally inclined to grieve would have much to suffer...

In Tientsin, the Europeans banded together and got organized for a common defense; however, with their small number of 200 in a city of 200,000, there was much left to be desired in terms of safety and security. In Peking, the Brothers were told to take refuge in the British Legation in the event of an emergency, in spite of the fact that the British Legation's ability for a strong resistance was doubtful. In the midst of these uncertainties, Br. Marie-Candide writes:

The best thing, I believe, is to put oneself entirely in the hands of God, and this is the approach we have taken for a long time; as a result, we are without fear, without any apprehension. What misfortune could happen to us who are here for the God Lord, to whom we have given everything, sacrificed everything, our persons and our being? Apart from sin, everything else can only be gain for us. This is the thought that is our joy, our happiness, and which makes us thank God for the call we received. What a glory for your children, Reverend Brother Superior, if they were called upon to suffer for our Lord... Whatever happens, whatever be the portion reserved for us by Divine Providence, we try to be more and more pious... more and more united to Jesus Christ in order to obtain all the graces we need.

But one year after they left France to come to China, Br. Marie-Candide's letter offers its readers some consolation and relief, also in this regard: *And may we not consider also as a grace, the rumors and menaces of persecution that have been ringing almost constantly in our ears since our arrival? There can be no doubt that these have contributed to nourishing our piety, our fervor, our spirits of faith and our confidence in God. And on the other hand, we know that they have caused our Brothers in France to offer prayers and petitions for our success; these pleas and prayers have been answered, for not only have we not been troubled, but the work we started has never ceased to make progress, and to strengthen.*



1889 The French College of Nantang, Beijing was founded by the Lazarist Fathers.

1891-1900 "College François" or "College of the Immaculate Conception" (near the Immaculate Conception Church). The Marist Brothers were first installed in this school.

¹Excerpts from Chapter 2 of the book *Dawn of the Word in Silence, The Adventure of the Marist Brothers in China*, pp.17-23 as published by New City Press, Manila, Philippines, 2017.

²Br. Marie-Candide, only 35 years old, was the Director of the first batch of 6 Brothers from France who arrived in China in November 1890. They were assigned to take over a French College in Peking and St. Louis College at Tientsin (now Tianjin), in which in the latter, the language of instruction was entirely in English.

³Fr. Pierre-Marie-Alphonse Favier, C.M., *Vicar General of Northern Chi-li (Pe-kin)*.

INFORMATION:

- The perpetual profession of Br. Raymund Gallardo is scheduled on June 5, 2021. The other information about the celebration will be posted later.
- Attached with the Newsbits is the Marist Laity bulletin.
- May 10: NDKC special Board meeting
- May 12: Laity Committee meeting
- May 13: Philippine sector Finance committee meeting

Birthday Greetings to:



May 11
Br. John Heng (Hee Soon)



May 17
Br. Jo-An C. Legaste

Death Anniversaries:

- May 09, 1997 – Br. Renato Cruz died in the Philippines.
- May 09, 1915 – Br. Louis Kostka (killed in WW 1) died in France.
- May 09, 1916 – Br. Jean Victor died in Shanghai.
- May 10, 1987 – Br. Marie Raphael died in Japan.
- May 14, 2007 – Br. Hilaire Zhou Xian Hui died in Shanghai.
- May 15, 1980 – Br. Emile Marie Pontier died in Le Rossey.
- May 16, 1901 – Br. Joseph Malachie died in Beijing.

Prayers please...

- ✚ Prayers for all mothers in the world and for their children and family members.
- ✚ For all the Formators and Formands at the Marian Hills in Broce, Dinaig, Maguindanao. They are all in quarantine because one of their companions was diagnosed positive of Covid-19.
- ✚ 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 those dealing with loss and broken hearts. That God will give them strength and lift their sadness.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Prayers for our leaders, that they be guided by loving wisdom, kindness and caring.
- ✚ For our community, that we would proclaim the love of Christ in word and deed.
- ✚ for the members of all Christian churches.
- ✚ For God's continues blessings and guidance.
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for the month of May.
- ✚ For our own needs and personal intentions.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS FOR WELFARE
AND NOT FOR EVIL,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE
AND A HOPE.

Jeremiah 29:11