



News Bits



**Happy 123rd
Celebration
of
Philippine
Independence Day**

Province Updates

Marist Brothers Hong Kong Community

(Picture taken in 2019) From left to right: Mr. Iu (Retiring principal of SFXS), Br. Libardo (Econome General-Rome), Br. John Chong, Br. Ador, Br. John Chin, and Br. Alberto Rojas (Director: Secretariat for Education and Evangelization – Rome)



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- Br. Anthony Tan is stuck in Singapore. He is keeping well. I encouraged him to do a little history research of the Marist Brothers of Singapore and may be also Malaysia.
- Our cook Ginalyn finished her second dose of vaccination.
- Mary Wei (The sister of Br. Bosco Wei) is getting weaker. I have suggested for her to stay with us but she refused. As her body situation, she is not fit to have vaccination.
- Br. Chin is keeping well. Besides being the Supervisor, he attends the meeting of major superiors of male congregations.
- Br. John Chong is doing well. Having full time teaching, catechumen for adults on Sundays at a nearby Church, attends Diocese vocation commission meet. Just recently, as one of the guests on YouTube for vocation activities.
- Joe, our helper, is helping in all the cleaning. Hopefully, when the pandemic is over, our guests will enjoy a clean and nice place to stay.
- School lesson as suggested by the Education department. All levels attending school only in the morning from 8 to 1pm. No activities after school.
- HK government is begging residents to be vaccinated but not many people heed the call. But as people are planning for summer, expected more will go for it. Br. Chin and Br. John have planned to do the vaccination soon.
- The Saint Francis Xavier school Kowloon will bid farewell to Mr. Lu the principal on his retirement. Mr. Mario Leung, our former vice principal will take over.
- We have prayers organized for students during the Champagnat Day celebration. Unfortunately, there was no Mass due to the restrictions and the precaution measures established by the government.



Marist Brothers Petaling Jaya Community

On 5 April, Monday, all Catholic High school students returned to the school. So, the school is full of life now. But after school they have to leave the school immediately and they are not allowed to return to the school.



Since the beginning of this month of April we have rain every evening, so now we have very pleasant weather. Before April it was very warm.



April 9 was the birthday of Anthony Cheng. So, on 11 April Sunday the community went to a restaurant in PJ New Town for dinner to celebrate Anthony's birthday.



We now go out only for lunch and we always wear oral masks. Three of us and Br. Andrew are fine here. We hope the MCO will be over so we can go to other states for visits. We plan to visit Fraser's Hills in June or July as a community activity.

Br. Paul Saw celebrated his 69th birthday on June 12.

Br. Andrew is presently here in Petaling Jaya community. He first went to Champagnat Youth Centre for a week to do some work there. Now he is here. He will be here for some time before he goes back to KK.

MARCELLIN HOMES' HYDROPHONIC PROJECT



Br. Cristino and the young boys at Marcellin Foundation harvesting lettuce and pechay for dinner at Marcellin Foundation Hydroponics Greenhouse.

OUR LADY OF FOURVIERE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY



The Fourviere community celebrated the Philippine Independence with a Barbecue!

LAGAO COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY!



The Brothers together with the Provincial House personnel celebrated the 123rd Philippine Independence Day with a Happy Hour!

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED IN SAMOA

Filipino Novice and Mulivai community hold a gathering with Filipinos in Apia to celebrate the Philippines National Day @ June 12.



Nowelle wearing a Samoa *i'te faitaga* leading the prayer for the occasion.

"Bayang magiliw, Perlas ng silanganan, Alab ng puso Sa dibdib moy buhay."

(Beginning of the National anthem Land of the morning, child of the sun returning, with fervor burning Thee do our souls adore. Well done Nowelle. Pinoy ako!



MAPAC UPDATE:

CHRIS POPPELWELL FINISHES FROM MAPAC

Thank you, Chris, for the 3 semesters you have served MAPAC. Originally, Chris was posted for 6 months which quickly became a year. He generously accepted the request for him to stay on for another semester. Thank you for your services to our young Brothers from Asia and the Pacific.

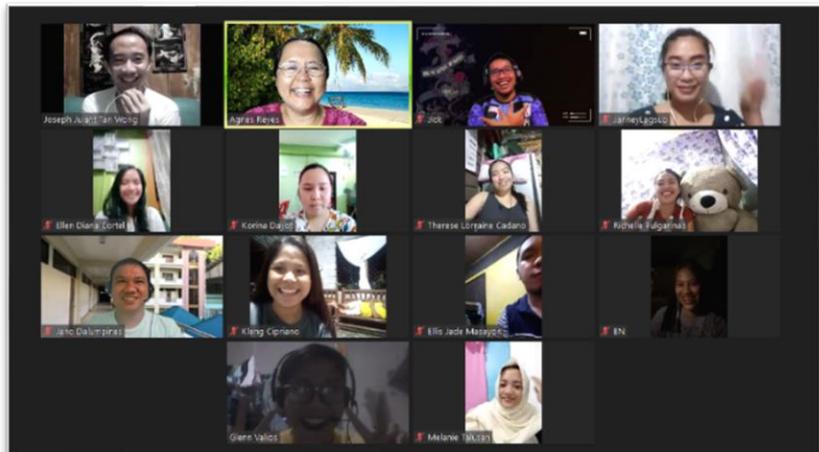
Chris is being farewelled by the Mapac Brothers last night as he begins his trip back home through Singapore.



FORMATION OF THE NEW GENERATION OF MARIST LAY LEADERS

(Notre Dame of Cotabato, Philippines)

On June 10, fifteen (15) personnel of NDC participated in the Formation of the New Generation Marist Lay Leaders. This is the beginning of the seven (7) sessions prepared for the program. A session for the general orientation, 5 sessions for the content and process, and one session for the concluding activity are scheduled to ensure that participants meet the target of fully comprehending what it takes to be a leader imbued with the identity, spirituality, and mission in the tradition of St. Marcellin.



NDC Participants

This formation initiative adapted the leadership program designed by Br. Maximiliano Meier, FMS. Its implementation in the East Asia Province will take some innovations in the methods of delivering the module to ensure aptness to the needs of participants. In giving the orientation, Br. Max stressed that it is important not to be stuck in the narratives of the past. Rather, it is important for leaders to transfer the authentic Marist values and traditions to our time. Hence, the importance of first knowing the historical roots.



Br. Max Meier, FMS

With the modules grounded in the richness of Marist tradition, Br. Max, encouraged the participants to appropriate the themes in Marcellin’s time to our own realities. Through this, one can fully embrace and live out the spirituality of Marist leadership, making it more relevant for our time.

Having the said program implemented is in the agenda of the strategic direction of the East Asia Province, particularly in the plan of the Laity Committee, that is, to ensure the preparation and the formative development of the new generation of laity leaders. #MaristLaityVocation



AN ON-GOING SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR LAY LEADERS (East Asia Province)

The 4th Session for the Spirituality Formation for Lay Leaders held on June 11 was attended by seventeen (17) participants. Br. Graham Neist, FMS, provided the group with meaningful insights drawn from his reflections on the immensity of God’s love, making us all holy. In our experience of God’s holiness, and as we progress, we become “holey” of imperfections and yet, we are being drawn to celebrate life in its wholeness:

“Do not ask what the world needs and what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive!” (Howard Thurman)

Fully Alive! Convenes every Second Friday of the Month for reflection and faith-sharing.

#MaristLaityVocation



From the Brothers Today Secretariat, Rome

We are happy to announce that we have had several first profession ceremonies this month:

- a. June 6 at the Jérémie Novitiate, Haiti – 5 brothers (*Haiti is part of the Province of Mexico Occidental.*
The Jérémie Novitiate only receives novices from Haiti; whereas the novices from Mexico are sent to the La Valla Inter-Provincial Novitiate in Medellin, Colombia.)
- b. June 6 at the Save Novitiate, Rwanda – 9 brothers. (*The Save Novitiate is the Inter-Provincial Novitiate of the Provinces of East Central Africa or PACE and Madagascar.*)
- c. June 12 at the Kumasi Novitiate, Ghana – 20 brothers. (*The Novitiate in Kumasi, Ghana is the Inter-Provincial Novitiate of the Provinces of Nigeria and West Africa.*)

Let us thank the Lord for these young men and let us pray that they will have a meaningful experience of living their vows as they proceed to the next stage of their initial formation.



Birthday Greetings to:



June 14

Br. Anthony Tay Woon Dwu



June 16

Br. Andrew Chan Chou San



June 18

Br. Rosendo J. Yee



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#34

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



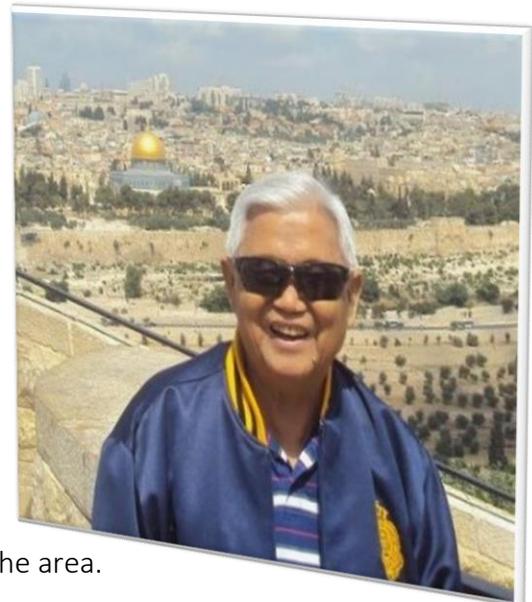
(The following articles are a reprint from Br. Gilbert Bogacia's unpublished autobiography, Searching: A Travelogue of Life, (2007), pages 17-66. This is series of 10 articles starting from Chapter 4 to Chapter 10. I wrote an introduction below which is actually a summary of the first three chapters.)

First of the ten series.

Introduction:

Br. Gilbert Bogacia was born on April 12, 1935 in Patag, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo. His parents were Ciriaco Bogacia and Alejandra Boclaras. There were 9 of them siblings in the family of 5 boys and 4 girls, he being the 6th, the youngest among the boys.

From the Visayas in Iloilo, the whole family moved to Mindanao. First, they settled in Manapa, Butuan City. The intention was to stay for a couple of years and then move to Southern Mindanao. The World War II, however, upset this schedule and lengthened the family sojourn in the area.



After the war, the government opened schools for 1944-45 schoolyear and the young Gilbert was enrolled in Grade 1 at the Matabo Elem. School, around 5 kilometers away from their farm in Manapa. At his age of 11 he was one of the over-age pupils due to the war, and was placed in special class, not only because of their age but also because they have shown some sort of academic progress. They were groomed to be given a mid-year promotion to Grade 2 so they would be promoted to Grade 3 during the following school year.

After eight years of being a tenant farmer, his father moved the family to the original direction, the reason why they left Barotac Nuevo, to "Mindanao, the land of promise where land can be had through homesteading." It took the family almost a week and a half trip, for an overland trek to the land of promise, the National Land Settlement areas in Southern Mindanao. Since his mother had relatives in Marbel, one of the towns of the settlement, she convinced his father to go head for that place.

The family stayed temporarily in the house of the Boclaras' family in Marbel, his mother's first cousin, before they proceeded to Boclaras farm, a 12-hectare farm in Sitio Rotunda, about 15 kilometer north of the town proper (Marbel).

Chapter 4

Continuing my Formal Education

When the school year 1947 – 1948 opened, my mother enrolled me as Grade 4 pupil at the Marbel Elementary School. At age 13, I was a bit older than most of my classmates. However, I cannot recall any problem of discipline during my elementary years. Incidentally, Orlando Quevedo, now an archbishop, was my classmate in these three remaining years of my elementary education. His mother was our music teacher, while his father, Mr. Zosimo Quevedo was the principal under the supervision of Mr. Martin Dideles. Mr. Dulangan Abid, Br. Eugene Pius's brother-in-law was our teacher in physical education and gardening. We grew radish, pechay, cowpeas, and okra as the common plants in the garden. We were allowed either to sell our produce in the local market or bring them home for the family table.

I completed my elementary education in 1950, elated on the one hand that I can now enroll in the high school, but on the other quite apprehensive of my family's ability to send me to school. I clearly felt in my gut that the family income, despite the seasonal good harvest in the farm, was not sufficient enough for my high school expenses. Also, that at this time, our family had transferred to our farm in Norala. So, when my mother told me the sad news that I have to stop for a year, I knew exactly the reason why.

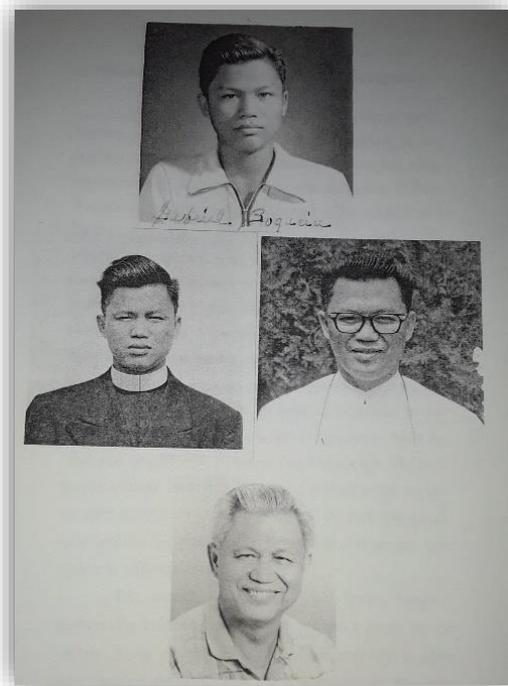
The school year 1950 – 1951 was spent between my family in Barrio San Miguel in Norala and with our relatives in Barrio Rotunda. When my help was needed in planting rice or corn, I would be with my family. Otherwise, I would be looking for a job somewhere else, most often in Marbel to be hired by farmers in planting rice for a fee with free lunch. When these crops were ready for harvest, the remuneration was in kind: in bundles of rice or cans of corn. I managed to save most of what I earned in view of my future schooling. My father promised to do the same for me.

I was happy when the school year 1951 – 1952 opened. I convinced my father and mother that I wanted to enrol in Notre Dame even though they knew that tuition fees were going to be high compared to the ones of Marbel Regional High School, a public school. So, with just enough matriculation money, I registered as freshman in July 1951. Incidentally, the tuition at that time was just ten pesos a month.

The Marist Brothers had just taken over the school from the Oblates a year ago but at this time, not much was done to the school buildings. They were yet the same structure as of 1947 when we arrived from Manapa. The row of classrooms had cogon roof, woven bamboo walls and dirt floors. The cleaners for the day had to sprinkle the floor with water to get rid of the dust. The classroom chairs were actually benches with back support divided into five sections, each section with its own writing board. The blackboards were regular plywood painted green.

Towards the end of the year, and the whole summer, there were signs of big building boom on the making. Lumber of all sizes was piled high in the backyard. GI sheets and bundles of reinforcing rods as well as cement bags were also brought in from Manila or Davao. It was about this time when Brother Herbert Daniel, the Director of the school, had received from the States a manually operated machine for making cement hollow blocks. Towards the end of my first year, especially in the summer of 1952, I managed to become one of the working students of the school. I was assigned to the group making hollow blocks. There were five of us in this group: one to handle the machine,

three to mix the aggregate of sand, gravel and cement, and one to bring the freshly-formed blocks to the drying shed. Of course, we rotated on these assignments. We were given a daily quota of 300 blocks. The remaining working hours of the day were used for watering these blocks while they were being cured inside a partially shaded area in the yard. We found out that drying hollow blocks directly under the blazing heat of the sun without being watered periodically made them brittle. Curing time for these cement blocks was about two weeks before they can be used in the construction. Engr. Diosdado Non, Sr., the head supervisor of all the workers, periodically checked the quality and quantity of our production output. Almost all the cement blocks used in the building of the boys' and girls' classrooms including the ones in the Brothers' convent were made by our five-man crew.



School activities during these years were very flexible. There were times when the students were allowed to go home for a considerable length of time to help their parents harvest the ripened crops threatened by floods or by infestation. This is significant to note because about ninety percent of the student body were sons of farmers. So, the students were allowed to pay their tuition fees in cash or in kind. It was not uncommon to see parents bringing in sacks of palay, a cage of chickens or ducks and baskets of fruits. On other occasions, all students of a year level would go out for trip of killing rodents and/or destroying locusts infesting the rice and cornfields. One effective way of killing rats was by dredging a canal on one end of the field and from the opposite end a line of students wielding sticks and walking slowly towards the canal while beating the grounds with these sticks. The rats that were trapped in the canal were beaten to death and later covered with dirt. Similar method was used effectively in exterminating locusts at their hopper's stage.

Saturdays of my third and fourth years were spent with the catechism group supervised by Brothers Regis Xavier Creegan and Felix Gilligan teaching the school children in Barrio Carpenter Hill and Sitio Sta. Cruz near the foothills of Bolul. Some of our schoolmates from the Girls' department were also members of this group. Incidentally, they were our classmates in some selected subjects, an especial arrangement for the senior A sections only from both departments. This arrangement gave way to a fierce competition among the top ten of the classes.

Incentives in a form of colored bars were given after every periodical examination. The actual medals were given only at the end of the academic year, usually together with the graduating students at their commencement exercises. Later on, due to numerous citations, the undergraduates had their own recognition night when these citations were given. We usually wore these colored academic bar pins during our PMT formal ceremonies, such as in parades and pass-in-reviews. Although these pins were only half-inch wide by one-inch long covered by green and gold cloth, they looked impressive when several were lined up on top of the pocket of uniforms. Since I was a member of the PMT Special Platoon and a cadet lieutenant of the corps, these pins and medals greatly boosted my self-image as a teenager. # # #

(To be continued)

Death Anniversaries:

- June 12, 1950 – Br. Marie Floribert died in St. Genis-Laval.
- June 13, 2001 – Anselmo Kim Soo Hyun died in Suwan, Korea.
- June 13, 1970 – Br. Joseph Ting died in Hong Kong.
- June 14, 1962 – Br. Marie Philogone died in St. Genis-Laval.
- June 15, 1929 – Br. Marie Damase died in St. Genis-Laval.
- June 16, 1900 – Br. Emiliani died in St. Genis-Laval.
- June 16, 1929 – Br. Lece Felicite died in Beijing.
- June 17, 1900 – Br. Joseph M. Adon died in Beijing.
- June 17, 1969 – Br. Louis Charles Fojouzyk died in Japan.
- June 19, 1928 – Br. Paulin Regis died in Beijing.
- June 22, 1975 – Br. Paul Benilde in P.J. Malaysia.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For the eternal repose of the soul of Sotera “Sol” Sarda who died at the age of 84.
- ✚ For all the departed Brothers, Affiliated Members, Family Members, Benefactors, and friends.
- ✚ For the safety and good health of the students, teachers, personnel, office staff and community workers.
- ✚ For those who are sick in the hospitals or at home especially those who are infected with covid-19, that they would find healing and comfort.
- ✚ For the Brothers in mission especially those who are with the La Valla200 program.
- ✚ For the vocation of our young Brothers in Formation.
- ✚ For our frontlines (Doctors, Nurses, Caregivers, Hospital Personnel, etc)
- ✚ For the continued blessings and protection of those affected by the pandemic and calamities that may God provide them with their needs.
- ✚ Prayers for our leaders, that they may be guided by loving wisdom, kindness and understanding.
- ✚ For all the religious communities that they will live their call to prayer and holiness.
- ✚ For world peace and unity.
- ✚ For the end of the pandemic
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for the month of June.
- ✚ For our own needs and personal intentions.