



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS IN THE WORLD!



Province Updates :

FROM SOUTH KOREA

On June 6, we celebrated the feast of our Founder here in Seoul with a Eucharistic celebration followed by a nice lunch. In this celebration and meal most of the Brothers of the two communities of Seoul participated. But later, in the evening, in the community of the Sector House we had another little celebration to congratulate Br. Pio Yu for his birthday. In fact, his birthday fell this year on June 11th (the date of his birth in the lunar calendar is May 2), but we decided to make the celebration on Sunday, June 6th because on June 11th, being a working day, it is difficult for the Brothers of the community to get together for supper.



Greetings from the Eco-friendly Ansan Community

By Br. Iggie

The Ansan community is made up of 5 Brothers who live in a 3-story villa. It has now a small garden in a space whose original purpose was supposed to be a parking place. Every year we grow some vegetables there. At this moment there are three types: two lines of cherry tomato, a line of chili pepper, and a line of lettuce. They are the means that remind us of our solidarity with nature. Oftentimes, we get out and do some uprooting in the garden and in front of the house to keep them clean. It is definitely a joy for us to pick and eat our own lettuce and chili pepper. The cherry tomatoes are not yet ready for enjoying. Thanks be to God for these natural products.



FMS SINGAPORE COMMUNITY

Br. Elmer and Br. Paul attended the Catholic Education Conference held at Maris Stella High School Media Center Secondary Section last March 13.

Vaccination:

Br. Paul received his first jab of vaccine last 25 February and the second jab last 18 March. Br. Elmer received his first jab of vaccine last 9 April and the second jab last 30 April. Br. Thomas received his first jab of vaccination last 15 April and second jab last 5 May. Br. Joseph Dufresse choose not to be vaccinated even if his doctor recommended it.



Br. Joseph was hospitalized in Mount Alvernia Hospital on 17 April and discharged on 23 May. Br. Joseph had to go to the hospital 3 days after falling off his bed and could not stand up and walk. However, he was diagnosed with kidney infection, heart problem and other complications that made him very ill.

Br. Paul and Elmer attended the Marist Family Rosary Online every Friday of the Month of May organized by MSHS. Br. Paul enjoys his gardening around the vicinity of CK and brothers Residence. Watering the plants and grass even after the heavy rain. He cuts grass and removes weeds on the playground and replace them with carabao grass. He helps Br. Thomas in doing bank transactions. He enjoys buying things for the Community three times a week and makes sure that the food supply is enough for the Community and the brothers are not starving. He is very active in joining online talks, sharing, formation conducted in the province. Of course, during his pastime, he likes to watch Korean TV series. His presence in the community is highly appreciated and is a big help as well. Just don't mind his complaining attitude and comments on what other people is doing. That's Br. Paul. Despite that, he is good brother.

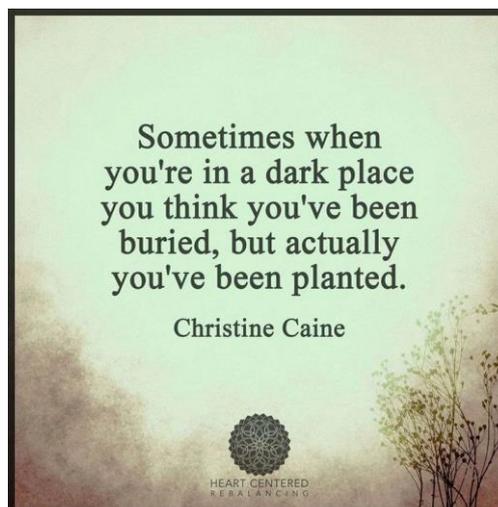


Br. Thomas stays in his room or in the front of his computer in the office most of the time. He helps Br. Elmer in moving Br. Joseph after 1-2 hours feeding and medication while in hospital.



Br. Elmer is the all-around in community. He cooks for the brothers, cleans the house since the cleaner of the CK comes only once a week particularly on Saturday. He is the full-time caregiver of Br. Joseph. Luckily when Br. Joseph was discharged from hospital, CK was closed for three days because of the Parents and Teacher Conference Online on 21-23 May. The following week because of Phase 3 restriction imposed by the government to Stay Home. The number of children going to CK dropped to 75 percent. Br. Elmer presence in CK is on and off because teachers can manage the children therefore Br. Elmer's presence and help are not necessary. Br. Elmer is busy attending to Br. Joseph from the time of his admission in the hospital up to the present. There are many sleepless nights not only because of Br. Joseph but also because of stress. Dropping of weight and blood pressure is unusual for me now. Br. Elmer also attends some of the online activities conducted by the province.

School Holiday will be from 28 May to 27 June. Hopefully, before the opening of the Term 3 we will be able to hire a helper for Br. Joseph so that it can help to ease the burden of Br. Elmer considering Br. Elmer is a full-time staff in Kindergarten. Pray for Br. Joseph and for us brothers here in the community.



BR. SEN'S 69TH BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday Brother Sen...
A simple celebration of the gift of life of Br. Rosendo.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR 160 OFWs IN DOHA, QATAR

Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF) member Rhonna de la Cruz, now based in Doha, Qatar, had active involvement in the preparation and conduct of the Spiritual Formation of One Hundred Sixty (160) Overseas Filipino Workers based in Doha. The event was conducted last June 18, Friday, from 10:00 P.M. to June 19, 1:00 A.M., Philippine Time. The OFWs who attended the event were all members of the Music Ministry of the San Pedro Calungsod Filipino Community of the Holy Rosary Parish.

With the formation theme: *“Relishing God’s blessings, becoming a Sacrament of Presence for others”*, participants were led to the deepening of one’s conviction on God’s unconditional love as one’s foundation in becoming a sacrament of presence today. Ms. De la Cruz, in carrying out the formation program, expressed her desire of sharing the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist dream of bringing about a “global charismatic community” in Doha and beyond.

Br. Ador Santiago, FMS, Provincial, spent time to meet and greet the participants and he assured them of possible support for their on-going spiritual formation. This formation program overseas is in coordination with the East Asia Laity Desk Office. #maristlayvocation



LAY LEADERS IN DIALOGUE WITH THE PROVINCIAL

Miss Elma Rafil, Chairperson of the Laity Committee, convened the laity leaders to meet with Br. Ador, FMS, Provincial last June 17, at 9:00 A.M. The meeting agenda included updating the Provincial on the life, animation initiatives, and plans for the future of further developing the laity vocation. It was an opportunity for the laity leaders to be in dialogue with the Provincial, clarifying areas of difficulties and the lines of coordination with other ministries. Br. Ador for his part, shared his dreams for the direction of the laity in the province, further encouraging the laity leaders to expand the extent of laity involvement to all of the province's ministries. The meeting ended with a note of inspiration for the laity to continue on with the work and with the assurance from the Provincial for a continuing support to the laity initiatives and for his accompaniment in the growth of Marist life in the Province. #maristlayvocation



MARIST FORMATION FOR NDMU SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Last June 18, Friday, forty-two (42) personnel from NDMU Senior High School attended a webinar on Marist Pedagogy. Having it as the first formation session for the new academic year, the participants were introduced to the Marist pedagogical approach to educating children and the young. For Mrs. Leanne Rosali, Principal, it is important for teachers, especially the newly hired to be imbued with the Marist values and gain familiarity with the Marist way of educating the student in the school. The elements and the characteristics of being Marist were the key themes the participants reflected on in the webinar.



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#35

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 which is actually a summary of the first three chapters.)

This is the second of the ten series.

Chapter 5

Recruited into the Marist Brothers – Part 1

I graduated from Notre Dame of Marbel Boys' Department in April 3, 1955 at the age of 20. I was among the 170 graduates of both the Boys' and the Girls' High School departments. It was very memorable event for me for I received two gold medals for excellence in English and Natural Sciences. I was also cited as the First Honorable Mention of the boys graduating class. Our valedictorian was Romeo Villanueva, now an OMI priest, while in the girls' group was Flor Franco who became an OP sister, but had left the congregation. Sotero Amoloria was my classmate and co-graduate who also entered the Marist Brothers but later left the congregation. Every year since 1952, the Marist Brothers were recruiting candidates for Brotherhood especially from the newly graduates of the year. Based on what I witnessed of the life of the Brothers during my four years of schooling, I was not really very impressed by it the fact that I only saw them from a distance, so to speak. I considered them only as good teachers and disciplinarians who came to help educate the Filipinos. Religious life to me then was very nebulous in my mind. Although I heard stories about the groups of Filipinos who were already sent to the United States, my knowledge of what a religious life really means, much less becoming one was not very clear to me. However, after weighing my future life in view of my family's financial shortcomings, I reckoned that this might be a sure way of furthering my education and at the same time, can visit places which I would not be able to do so on my own. From hindsight now, I believed that the strong urge to expanding my horizon through education and travel was really the main reason for my entering the brotherhood – a very selfish reason nonetheless.

The 1955 recruits, together with me were Sotero Amoloria, Eugene Tajo, Antonio Cabangon of ND Marbel and Augusto Obed of ND Lagao. We were billeted for two weeks in a bunkhouse by the Bulok creek from May 1st to the 14th. Br. Louis Omer directed the training with Br. Damian who taught us Math and Br. Herbert for English speech. This short period of "Postulancy" gave us a glimpse of the fundamentals of religious life: vocal and mental prayers, short lectures on the life of the Founder and the early brothers, and of course, the reasons why we were going to the USA.



Br. Augustine Obed, Br. Eugene Pius Tajo, Br. Timoteo Cabangon, Br. Gilbert Bogacia, Br. Sotero Amoloria

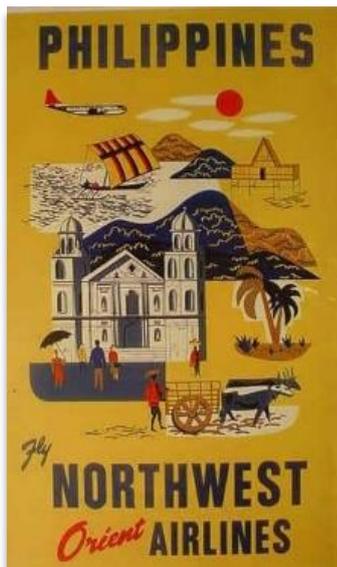
Compania Maritima Ship



On May 15th 1955, the five of us left for Cotabato City. Few days later we boarded the Compania Maritima ship bound for Manila to process our travel papers. I was surprised to see that on the same boat were the OP sisters and their candidates also on their way to Manila. So, we had a grand time on the boat for most of them were our co-graduates and close friends, especially Linda Abad,

Rodila Farrofo and Flor Franco. On the way, the ship stopped in Lamitan, Basilan Island, Zamboanga City, Del Monte Cannery in Bogu, Misamis Oriental, Cebu City and Iloilo City. Upon reaching Manila, we parted ways, they to the OP house of formation in Quezon City and we to De La Salle Brothers' novitiate in Greenhills. This place would be our base of operation in preparing our travel papers with the American Express Travel Agency along Taft Avenue. Apparently, the Brothers were well known to the Agency personnel because we didn't have problems in the processing of these papers. We had some respite during these hectic days just to break the monotony. We went on a sightseeing trip to Tagaytay to view the famous Taal Lake. We also had a tour of the glittering Manila by night, all by window-shopping method of course, for we didn't have money to shop.

We were supposed to take a cargo ship, the same mode of transport as the previous three groups of Filipino aspirants took ahead of us. But somehow, there was a delay in the ship's coming to Manila. Hence, we shifted to take the plane in order to be on time for the July 26th vow and habit-taking ceremony in Tyngsboro. Had we taken the cargo ship, we would have to spend at least a month of traveling, touching ports along the California-Mexico coasts in the Pacific side and down to Central American countries crossing Panama Canal, up the Atlantic coast of USA to New York Harbor, our destination. This would have given us plenty of opportunities to meet peoples of different cultures and languages.



The plane we took was a four-engine turboprop of the Northwest Orient Airlines. We left Manila early morning before the end of May 1955. Since the plane was a short-haul type, it had to refuel along the way. So, the first stop was at Naha airport in Okinawa, the American air base near Japan. We were told to close our windows upon landing and take-off as part of the security requirements. Although we stayed inside the plane during refueling, I had a good glimpse of the different types of fighter jets and other aircraft I had not seen before parked on the tarmac.

The next stop was at the Haneda airport in Tokyo. Again, because it was too risky to fly at night, we had to stay overnight at the

Marunouchi Hotel, the one where General Douglas MacArthur had stayed while facilitating the reconstruction of the devastated Japan. I was surprised that this hotel withstood the saturation and firebombing of the city. One unique feature of this hotel was its toilet. It was



like the one in the plane where when you flush it, the sound was like a whirlwind that you have to hold on to a metal reeling for your dear life. It was also in this hotel where I, being a *provinciano* with a unique cultural background caused a big embarrassment. It was during breakfast when I ordered puffed rice. I thought it was like the puffed rice back home. This was not caked, but the grains were separated. So, I started eating it like peanuts. Noticed that the waitresses were softly talking among themselves and grinning. After a minute or so when they can no longer prevent themselves from bursting into laughter that one came to me and poured the puffed rice into the bowl, and added milk into it. She then signaled me to eat it with the spoon. I was so humiliated but with my mind set of making every occasion an experience, I was relieved very fast. Of course, my companions started laughing like crazy. Right then, I promised myself not to order anything I am not familiar with.

From Tokyo we took off for Alaska, flying over the International Date Line, thereby gaining a 24-hour time. While we were over the line, we were asked to fill up a membership card of the International Dateline Club as a souvenir. We landed in Alaska airport almost the same time and day when we left Tokyo despite after flying so many hours over the northern Pacific Ocean. This was summer time, but the airport was shrouded with thick fog but no snow on the ground. Since we were wearing just polo shirt of the tropics, the stewardess suggested that we wrap ourselves with blankets before going out of the plane. It was so cold that our breath came out like white smoke from a chimney. Here I had a delightful experience of eating my first apple, a bright red Washington Delicious, given by a Filipino waiter at the terminal café.

After few minutes of refueling and cleaning, we took off for the city of Spokane, Washington. Flying over the Canadian-United States border and the northern portion of the Rocky Mountain range in the early morning sunlight was very spellbinding. Most often I was glued to the plane's window as we soared over the craggy peaks of the mountains and the deep ravines of the valleys below. Shades of colors on this panorama changed according to the vegetation or lack of it and slant of the sunrays hitting them as we flew over them. After many hours of flying, we landed at Spokane airport about 9 o'clock in the morning. Here we stayed about an hour at the terminal because of the change of planes. We were told that from here on, meals are not served in the plane. Passengers are to take their meals at the terminal café. Unfortunately for us, we didn't have any cash! It seemed that this was not foreseen by the Brothers when we left Manila. Hence, from then on until we landed in New York, it was a total fast day.

Leaving Spokane, the plane took off for the twin cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul in Minnesota flying over the northern portion of the Great Plains in the mid-west. The view over these wide endless plains was very awe-inspiring. Again, we stayed in the terminal while the plane was being cleaned and refueled. It was already about mid-day! Fortunately, this time in the mid-west was quite warm. So, the sunlight brought warmth into the terminal, which reminded me of the Manila we left three days before. The excitement of being in the foreign land, seeing people and landscape of different cultures, dispelled the nostalgia very quickly.

From the twin cities, the plane followed a straight-line course passing over Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. The view was spectacular with the sun behind us. Patches of dark green meadows and forested areas punctuated clearly the glitter of the city's skyscrapers. Sometimes I could distinguish the cultivated areas such as wheat fields and cornfields from meadows for cattle ranches. After four hours of flying, we landed at La Guardia airport in New York City.

The processing of our entry papers with the customs was quite fast. A Brother was already waiting for us at the luggage claim area. There was no hustle unlike the ones at our Philippine airports. So, we were all in the car in matter of minutes. Brother drove us directly to St. Ann's Academy

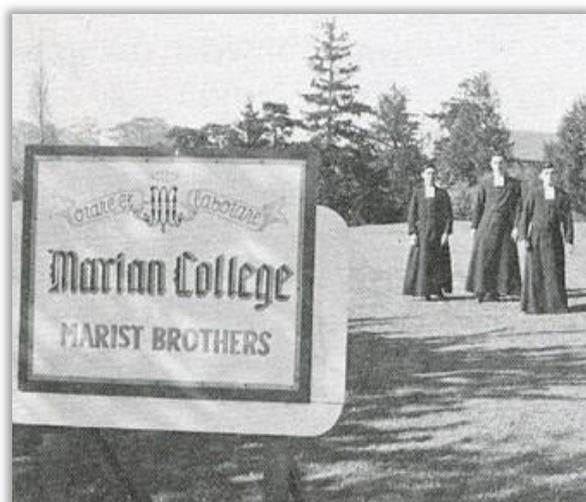
that was at Lexington Avenue near the elevated train tracks. Sensing our lethargic condition, for most of us doze off during the ride, the good Brother brought us straight to the school cafeteria where we were fed with plenty of mashed potatoes, noodles and liters of fresh milk. I cannot even remember whether we were shown any part of the city besides during the ride. I think we just had a tour of the school premises and immediately given a place for the night.



Early the following morning, we were roused for Holy Mass, had a continental breakfast of ham and eggs with bacon plus cold cereal and plenty of fresh milk. My bad experience with puff rice in Tokyo was helpful in this menu. With our luggage, we boarded the car for a 75-mile ride to the city of Poughkeepsie, where Marian College, the Marist Brothers Scholasticate was located. The smooth ride and the beautiful scenery along the way kept us from dozing off. I was particularly amazed at the order and the cleanliness of the country houses with their well-trimmed lawns and painted picket fences. They were a

stark contrast to the cement jungle of the megalopolis we just left behind.

We were able to see the first group of Filipino Brothers: Domingo Bendero, Agustin Cabrera, and Santiago Cabrera. They were in their third year of Scholasticate training. The other two groups were still in St. Joseph Novitiate in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. After a few minutes of hellos and a short look-see around the college, we continued our trip to Esopus across the Hudson River. We rode over the Mid-Hudson Bridge, passed the city of Highland and on to West Park where Marist Juniorate in Esopus was. We turned right into the Juniorate property and the warm welcoming hospitality of the Brothers and juniors. ###



(To be continued)

Birthday Greetings to:



June 24

Br. Jonnel M. Sisneros



June 25

Br. Alexander Shin (Hee-young)



June 27

Mr. Ladislao Aballe
(Affiliated Member)

Death Anniversaries:

June 22, 1975 – Br. Paul Benilde in P.J. Malaysia.

June 26, 1935 – Joachim Tchang, junior died in Beijing.

June 27, 1977 – Br. Louis Omer Duprez died in USA.

June 27, 1903 – Br. Joseph Chanel died in Hankow, China.

Prayers please...

- ✚ For the safety and good health of the students, teachers, personnel, office staff and community workers.
- ✚ For peace in our country.
- ✚ For our Missionaries
- ✚ For the vocation of our young Brothers in Formation.
- ✚ For individuals who have been affected with the Coronavirus quickly recover their health and have confidence in God's kindness.
- ✚ For all those who have lost loved ones find solace in Christ's promises of everlasting life and encouragement in others' care.
- ✚ Prayers for our leaders, that they may be guided by loving wisdom, kindness and understanding.
- ✚ For safety while at work.
- ✚ For the end of the pandemic.
- ✚ For all the birthday celebrants for the month of June.
- ✚ For our own concerns and personal intentions.