

Provincial's Message:

Dear Marists of Champagnat:

Last Sunday, 17th of October 2021, the Diocese of Marbel joined all other local Churches in opening the Synod 2021-2023. This path to the Synod entitled **"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission"** was officially opened on the 9th – 10th of October 2021 in Rome. Pope Francis invited the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission:

"It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our "journeying together" is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.

I enjoin all to be attuned to this global ecclesial process. As Marists, let us be one with our Church in this journey of reflection on our becoming a Church of "communion, participation, and mission." To keep us in tune with this global event, please connect to www.synod.va and be well informed with the programs in our respective parishes.

Blessing!


BR. ADOR A. SANTIAGO, FMS



MARIST BROTHERS SINGAPORE COMMUNITY

By: Br. Elmer Jandic, FMS

Forty-nine days after the death of Br. Joseph Dufresse, four of his old boys helped Br. Elmer in cleaning and arranging his room. They spent two days for this operation. Some of his personal write-ups, reflections and messages were turned over to the Catholic High School Alumni Association for them to keep. The CHSAA is planning to write about his life as he requested during their gatherings in Catholic High School campus every Saturday. According to the Catholic High School principal, the old violin of Br. Joseph will be displayed at Catholic High School Museum. Some of his violin, keyboards and other wind instruments are kept in the cabinet of his room. The room can now be used as a guest room.

Each brother in the community is doing his daily activities. Br. Paul does his gardening around the Kindergarten and Champagnat House. He attends zoom meetings and other online activities in Maris Stella High School. Br. Thomas also attends different meetings either via Zoom or face-to-face meetings with fewer number of attendees like meetings with the architect on the upgrading of Catholic Kindergarten Old building last 13 September. On 23 September, Br. Thomas, and Br. Paul together with Mr. Yap signed the Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). In the LPA, Br. Thomas appointed Br. Paul and Mr. Yap as Legal Authority to act on his behalf should the need arise. Likewise, Br. Paul appointed Br. Thomas and Mr.



Br. Elmer in Br. Dufresse' former room.

Yap as Legal Authority on his behalf. In other words, should something happen to any of the brothers, Mr. Yap can act legally on their place. Thank you, Mr. Yap, for the concern and help extended to the Marist Brothers in Singapore.

There are two different occasions that Brothers were invited by Francis, the nephew of Br. Thomas, for lunch. It was a good opportunity for the brothers to have meals outside the community, occasionally. Thank you, Francis, for the sumptuous lunch and the sharing and bonding opportunity.

Due to the surge of Covid19 cases in Singapore, the Ministry of Health encouraged the

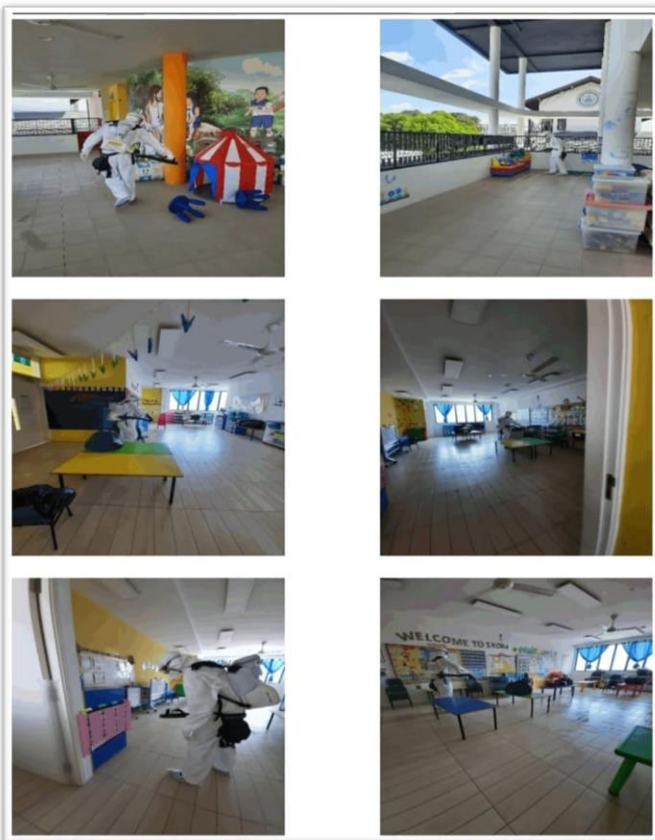
Seniors citizens to stay home as possible and to have a booster jab for their protection. The

Clockwise: Br. Tom, Francis (Tom's nephew) and Br.



government also distributed the Antigen Rapid Test (ART) Kits to every household to monitor their health condition. The members of the community opted not to book their Masses at nearby Parish; rather, they opted to attend Masses online for safety reasons.

Br. Paul received his booster jab last 7 September. Br. Thomas and Br. Elmer are still waiting for their schedule to be given by the Ministry of Health. However, Br. Elmer took his Antigen Rapid Test (ART) every 7 days as mandated by Early Childhood Development Authority (ECDA) through Ministry of Health as he is working closely with children at the Catholic Kindergarten



The Primary school as well as the secondary have their Home-Based Learning (HBL) while the kindergarten levels have their face-to-face classes. The school attendance at the Catholic Kindergarten was affected by the HBL, especially with children who have siblings in Primary. Parents opted not to send their children to school for precautionary measures and also for the older children to take care of their siblings. There are some children in our Kindergarten who were given a Leave of Absence (LOA) because their parents or grandparents have received Isolation Order (IO) from MOH because of the close contact with positive cases. There were some children who received their Quarantine Order (QO) because their parents or grandparents were positive with Covid 19. There was one case in Catholic Kindergarten where the whole family was infected and eventually the child was also infected. Since one of the children was infected, the Catholic Kindergarten

temporarily closed for three days to disinfect the whole place even the child was already away for 10 days before he was exposed to Covid19. The teachers and staff underwent their Antigen Rapid Test right away after receiving the news and luckily all the results were negative. The Catholic Kindergarten will resume its operation and classes on 11 October. Please include us in your prayers for the protection, safety and wellbeing of children, teachers, staff and parents, as well as the brothers in the community. Thank you and God bless us all!

MARIST SIBU, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA COMMUNITY

Mr. Joseph Wong, an ex-Marist Junior, brings Br. John for hospital appointment every month, and helps Br. John to buy all his medicines. Every Wednesday, The CMFC priests come to the community to celebrate Mass and have lunch in the community. Ms. Monica and sometimes Joseph Wong joins too. The priest consecrates extra communion for Br. John to have his communion service in our own chapel. In the month of August, the school was used as a vaccine center for Sibu town. Everyday around 1000 people were vaccinated. Our staff and senior three students above 18 years old were vaccinated at the same time. The Senior 1 and 2 students were given the first dose of vaccine on September 11, and the second dose on 2nd of October. The Junior Students will have

their first vaccine on 23rd of October in the school and the second dose will be on 14th of November. We are grateful to the government and the support of the parents; we reached 95% vaccination for our students. On the 4th of October, Senior 3 students came back to school. Only 80% of the students reported for classes. Hopefully, in the coming week, their final exam will attract them to report fully to the school. We have 100% vaccinated staff and personnel. Following the regulation of school reopening, Senior 2 students reported to school on 18th of October. They followed the rotation of half of class population present in the school per week and the other half on online study.

NOTRE DAME OF JOLO KASULUTAN

By: Br. Mark Roberth Laurea, FMS

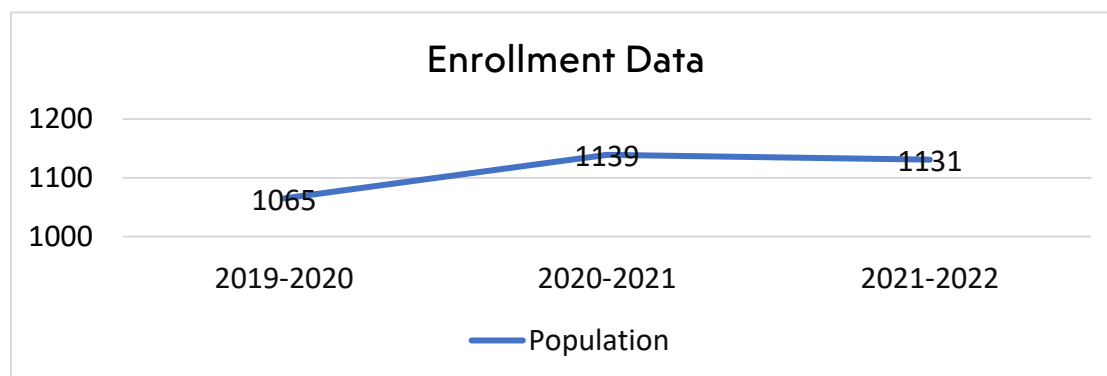
In this VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) world we live in, may it be man-made or natural calamities or the pandemic crises – COVID19, nothing can stop us in providing education to our learners. With creativity, perseverance and faith, the learning continues. Our mission remains the same - to provide an education focused on the mind and heart of our learners anytime, anywhere. Moreover, the crisis we are currently facing serves as an eye-opener for us, for self-reflection and paradigm shift particularly in the manner of how the curriculum is implemented.

Conscious of this development and the compelling condition that the ‘New Normal’ will bring about in the coming years in the field of education, the Notre Dame of Jolo High School – Kasulutan has implemented **Flexible eLearning** for this school year 2021-2022. We are managing learning continuity for all types of situations (responsive to the learners’ context), synergizing technology, pedagogy and content in partnership with **TekTeach LMS (Learning Management System)**.

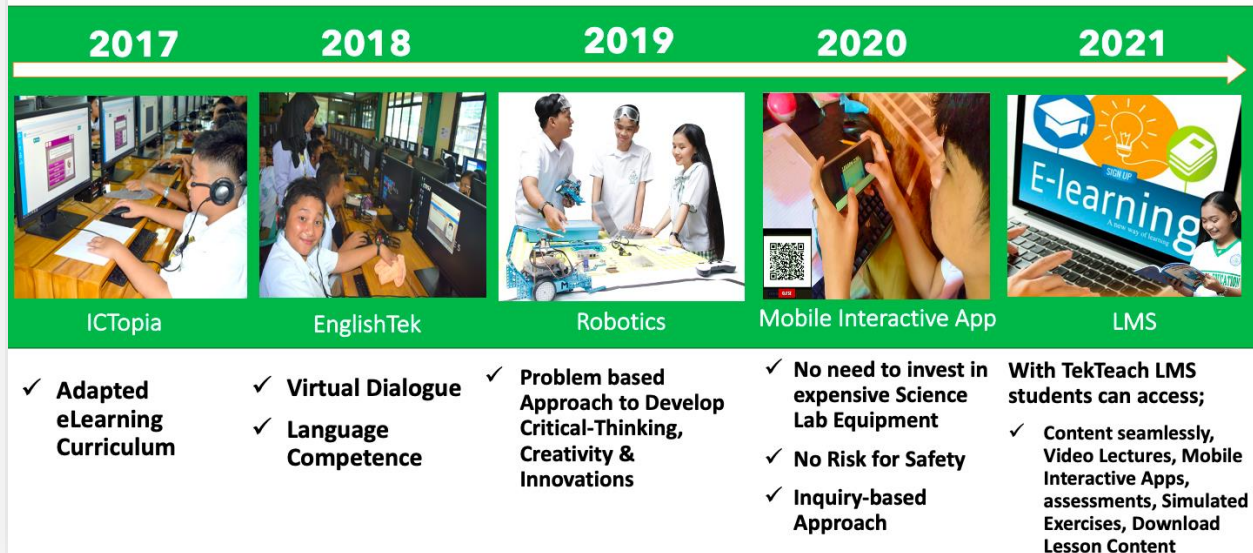
Our teaching faculty has been undergoing continuous, systematic and intensive training to effectively and efficiently implement Flexible eLearning. We have established and continue to develop our IT (Technical) support (headed by Br. Raymund Gallardo, FMS - LMS Project Manager) and improved access to internet and gadgets for faculty and students.

Since Sulu is considered as one of the COVID-19 low-risk areas, we applied for “pilot face-to-face instruction” and we were visited already by DepEd Monitoring Team last October 16, for an inspection to determine the readiness of our Academic Instruction, Operational Guidelines and Health and Safety Protocols. We are now waiting for their recommendations and approval.

Finally, we continue to do our best so that our Flexible eLearning is still marked with the characteristics of Marist education.



Our Digital Transformation Footprints



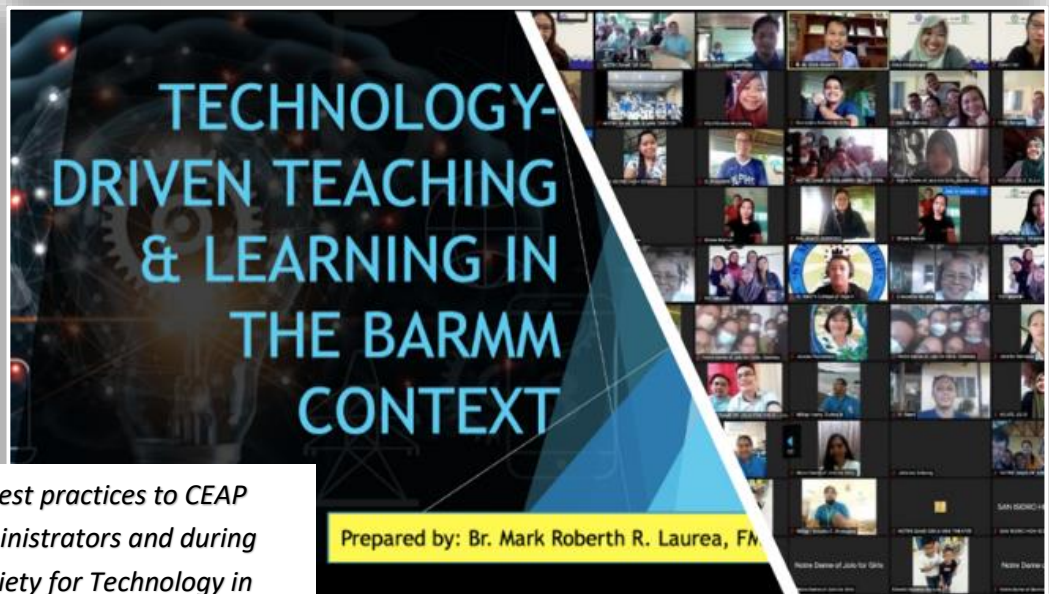
Formulation of Laudato Si Strategic Plan and sharing of Catholic and Islamic Teachings on Caring for the Environment.



Our Guidance, Prefect of Discipline and Class Advisers are conducting regular Home visitation to address behavioral or academic concerns of the learners.



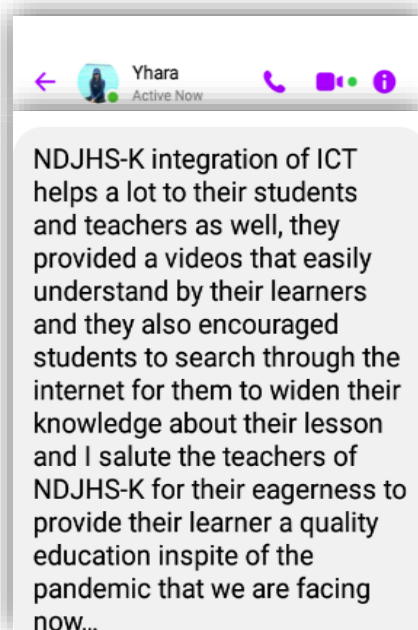
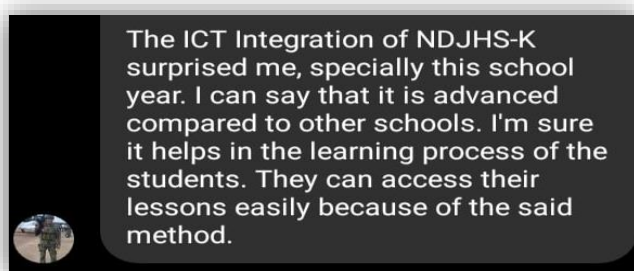
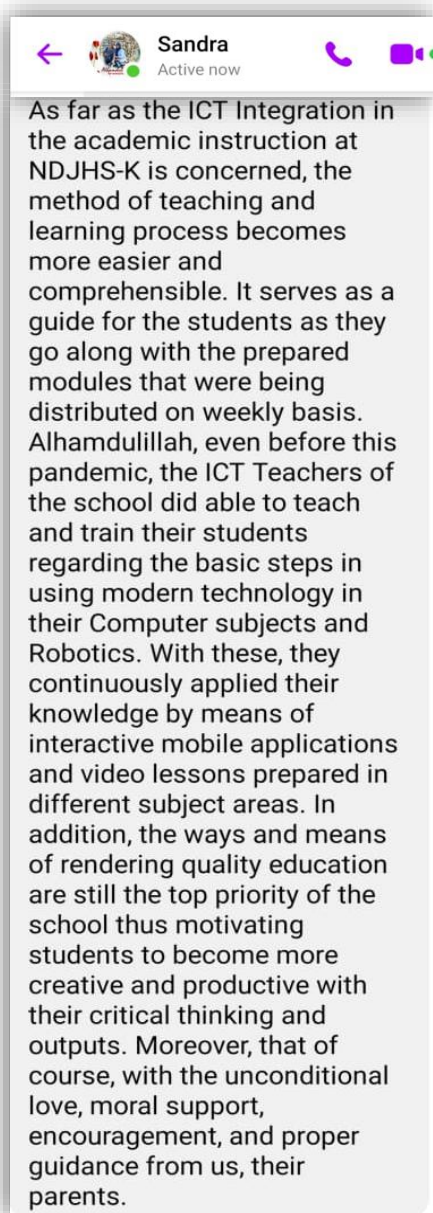
The Notre Dame of Jolo College, Notre Dame Girls and Notre Dame of Siasi benchmarked on our ICT integration.



Sharing our best practices to CEAP BARMM Administrators and during the STEP (Society for Technology in Education Philippines) National Conference.



Some of the inspiring Social Media post of our parents



LAITY LEADERS MEET TO REVIEW PROCESS OF REFLECTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM



On October 14, the laity leaders of Philippine Sector met to provide feedback on the process of the International Forum. Now on its third reflection point, the team is encouraged to now begin to prepare a similar process with other laity groups in their respective schools or areas.

During the meeting, the strategic plan was also reviewed by the laity leaders. Ideas were shared on

how to refine and better articulate the key result areas in order to deliver with clarity the tasks expected to be accomplished this year and onwards.

ND COTABATO HOLDS SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE CYBERWORLD OF STUDENTS

On October 16, the ND Cotabato Guidance Center in coordination with the Child Protection Desk of the East Asia Province and CyberguardiansPH held a Seminar on the Role of Parents in the Cyberworld of Students. There were 445 participants who registered in MSTEams and 246 views in the Facebook live streaming.

Police Colonel Shiela Portento, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division Chief, PNP Women and Protection Center and Ms. Maria Concepcion Sangil of the CyberguardiansPH were the resource persons. Mrs. Remedios Ivy Bernardo presented the result of the pre-seminar survey. Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS, encouraged the full participation of all sectors in the effort of protecting children and youth from all forms of cyber threats.

TMs. Romela Sobrepeña, NDC Guidance Counselor and Mr. Michael Montsendo, the ND Child Protection Officer, acknowledged the full participation of parents and the NDC team who worked behind the organization of the said seminar.



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#52

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



The following article is a reprint from <https://eastasiamarist.org> published on September 4, 2017.

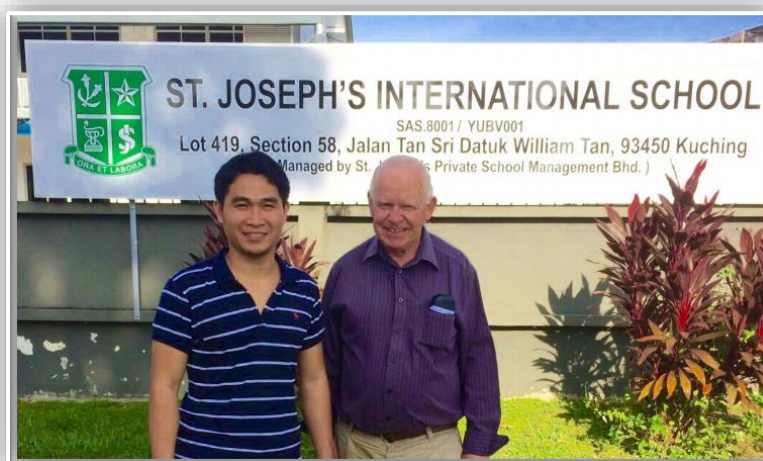
Selamat Datang to the City of Kuching!

Have you ever wondered what Kuching means? There have been many stories and legends about where this place got its name. One tells that it comes from an animal; one says it is an adaptation of the name of a foreign place; another claims it is from a river; still another relates that it is from a fruit and the last suggests it is from an old wishing well. So, which one would you like to hear about?

The story that intrigues me the most is the one which tells of two lights that one can see from the harbor of the city. One was said to be coming from a light house on top of a mountain and the other from a nearby tower. These two were horizontally aligned and when viewed from the harbor at night, they appeared to be like a cat's eyes. Thus, the place came to be called "Kuching", which literally means "cat" in the local dialect. This city became famous then for its cat statues spread all over which became landmarks and also for its Cat Museum.

It is in this city of Kuching, state of Sarawak, Malaysia that a new mission of the Marist Brothers of East Asia Province was recently established.¹ The project came to be when Br. Robert Teoh, the current Provincial was invited by Archbishop John Ha. As the overheard story goes, it was a Franciscan nun who was requested to administer and inaugurate a school which would be named St. Joseph's International School. This school would become one of the branches of the St. Joseph Family of Schools in Kuching. The said Franciscan nun accepted the offer but she was eventually elected as a Major Superior of their congregation; hence, the project was left open for the taking.

Br. Robert learned about this and took the opportunity to meet with the Archbishop and told him that the Marist Brothers were willing to take over the task of opening a school. Br. Robert then called Br. Paul Hough from the Province of Australia who was so courageous in taking up the challenge of starting this school. Br. Niño Mark John Suarez from the Philippines was also asked to be assigned to this new area.



Br. Niño Mark John Suarez and Br. Paul Hough pioneered the Marist Mission at St. Joseph International School in Kuching , Sarawak, East Malaysia.

Beginning January 2016, Br. Paul together with Br. Robert paid a series of visits to the city to meet up with some important personalities. In June 2016, Br. Mark made his official ocular visit to experience and acquire a feel of the place. The site where the school would be established was also visited by the Brothers together with Mr. Gerald Lee, the out-going Director, and Mr. Chris Chua, the newly-appointed Director. Upon seeing the place, the Brothers concluded that the area was quite small but promising nonetheless. It was an old abandoned school that needed a lot of renovation and construction.



The Brothers residence at Stapok Utara, Kuching.

By November 2016, the school had a fresh look - newly renovated, painted, and partially furnished. Classrooms were filled with chairs and tables for the students and looked ready for action, so to speak. Two laboratories were in place; the canteen was prepared for some serving; and the office and faculty room were set up well for working. Moreover, Brothers Paul and Mark started the work of administering and preparing the school together with Ms. Sheryl Lee, the office administrator, and two maintenance personnel. Br. Paul arrived in early November 2016 and

assumed his post as the headmaster. Br. Mark, on the other hand, reported to his work in the faculty office upon his arrival in late November.

On December 28, 2016, St. Joseph's International School held the first meeting with all the members of the school community led by Br. Paul. The school community then is composed of twelve individuals, just like the Twelve Apostles. Twelve means complete; and this a good sign that the Spirit is working within.

The eight teachers are Ms. Ann, Ms. Lina, Ms. Ina, Ms. Molly, Mr. Kenneth, Mr. Chang, Mr. David and Br. Mark. The two maintenance personnel are Japni and Samsu. The office administrator is Ms. Sheryl and the headmaster is Br. Paul. With that, the school was confidently ready for the opening of classes which took place on January 03, 2017. We have a total of one hundred students at the moment since that the only number we can accommodate with the facilities that we have. It is a secondary school where seventy-five students are in grade 7 and twenty-five are in year 8.

There were different activities that took place during the first day of classes. These included the welcoming, assembly, tour of the school campus and the Parish Church, singing practice, distribution of books and orientation of each class. It was also an honor that the Archbishop presided the first Eucharistic Celebration on January 06, 2017, followed by the blessing of the school. The St. Joseph's International School is so far running smoothly under its staff and administrators. The coming months are expected to be busy and noisy because two four-level buildings will be constructed. On the other hand, students are becoming more confident and are increasing their participation in the different classes and activities of the school. We are now about to finish the first month of classes and things are going very well.

Initially, the Brothers did not have a community house. They were then accommodated at the St. Peter's Seminary. The priests were very hospitable in providing for the Brothers and we are so grateful for that. After the long process of house shopping and paper processing, the Brothers finally got a house in late December 2016. The Province bought a two level house in a residential area called Stapok Utara in Kuching.

As the house needed some repairs, it was first occupied by Br. Mark on January 7, 2017 and he did some preparations. Br. Paul moved in on January 18

and it was celebrated with a dinner of Australian steak and vegetables prepared by the brothers themselves. From the community house to the school, it would take 20 to 30 minutes travel by car. During the day, the Brothers are all working in school and they would come home late in the afternoon. The community house has a homey atmosphere and Brothers from around the world are most welcome to pay us a visit. Just make sure you book ahead of time as we only have one very large guest room that can accommodate three to four people. Our living room is spacious as well; you may sleep on the sofa. Rest assured that we will tour you around the different beautiful spots of the city.

I hope to see you here in the City of Cats! Terimah kasih!

- By Br. Niño Mark John S. Suarez, FMS



One of the two four-storey buildings of St. Joseph's International School in the campus at Jalan Tan Sri Datuk William Tan.

¹This fact is negated by the following quote from the internet:

"In 1967, Bishop John Vos invited the Marist Brothers to run St Lucas' School, which then had a student population of over 500. This school was built on a 2.7 acre site at 10th Mile (now Kota Padawan). The school catered for those who had to re-sit the entrance exam to secondary school and those others who could not study at the government secondary schools.

"After four years, the Marist Brothers returned the school to the diocese due to the lack of available religious brothers. It closed down by 1980. Today, its building serves as a facility for pastoral formation and is designated as St Lukas' Centre."

<https://stjosephkuching.edu.my/international/the-religious/>

Information:

- Two files are attached with the Newsbits:
 - Announcement of the Year of Marist Vocations
 - FMSI Newsletter.
- October 23: Virtual community visit - Marist Brothers Hong Kong community.
- Marist Global Network of Schools Summit letter from the organizer and the schedule.

From: FMS Roma: Secretariado de Educación (edupromanager@fms.it)

Dear Marists of Champagnat:

In this journey that we are making together towards the launching of the Marist Global School Network, we have completed the pre-summits and accumulated a great number of dreams and desires that, with the commitment and dedication of all of us, we are now going to turn into actions. In the previous communication, we invited you to participate in the summit and to reserve a time slot for the week of 25-29 October. This time, we will explain how we will work during that week: Based on the previous work we have developed together, we selected 24 topics of common interest in our educational communities. We invite you to choose at least one topic that you would like to share with other participants. Please note that each topic will be further developed during that week in a time slot of eight hours distributed in two sessions. Depending on your choice, you will work on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. Please note that the working hours in the morning and in the afternoon refer to the time in Rome, Italy. Furthermore, depending on your possibilities, you are free to enroll at different times and in different subjects.

The themes to choose from are:

SUMMIT					
OCTOBER	MONDAY 25	TUESDAY 26	WEDNESDAY 27	THURSDAY 28	FRIDAY 29
MORNING	Connection 1. School twinning 2. Marist educational management and leadership Exchange 3. Internationalization of Marist students 4. Network of networks Quality education 5. Implementation of active learning methodologies 6. Strategies for sharing knowledge and pedagogical best practices	Innovation 7. Research and development 8. Educational innovation Evangelization 9. Evangelizing education, inside and outside the school 10. Interiority and transcendence Social transformation 11. International volunteering 12. Education for solidarity	Connection 1. School twinning 2. Marist educational management and leadership Exchange 3. Internationalization of Marist students 4. Network of networks Quality education 5. Implementation of active learning methodologies 6. Strategies for sharing knowledge and pedagogical best practices	Innovation 7. Research and development 8. Educational innovation Evangelization 9. Evangelizing education, inside and outside the school 10. Interiority and transcendence Social transformation 11. International volunteering 12. Education for solidarity	
07:00 AM 11:00 AM (Rome-Time)					
1:00- 2:00 PM	OPENING SUMMIT				CLOSURE SUMMIT
EVENING	Innovation 13. Education and digital security 14. Entrepreneurship Evangelization 15. Global Compact Education 16. "Stand Up, Speak Up & Act" Social transformation 17. Children's rights 18. Global Citizenship	Connection 19. Inclusive Connection 20. Language learning Exchange 21. Teacher exchange 22. Partnerships with educational organizations and entities Quality educational 23. Teacher professional development strategies 24. Living an inclusive education	Innovation 13. Education and digital security 14. Entrepreneurship Evangelization 15. Global Compact Education 16. "Stand Up, Speak Up & Act" Social transformation 17. Children's rights 18. Global Citizenship	Connection 19. Inclusive Connection 20. Language learning Exchange 21. Teacher exchange 22. Partnerships with educational organizations and entities Quality educational 23. Teacher professional development strategies 24. Living an inclusive education	
03:30 PM 07:30 PM (Rome-Time)					

Birthday Greetings to:



October 20
Ms. Irene Paterno
(Affiliated Member)



October 24
Br. Niño M. Pizarro



Death Anniversaries:

October 18, 1918 – Br. Marie Leonore died in Tianjin.

October 18, 1965 – Br. Conran O'Reilly died in Ireland.

October 19, 1999 – Br. Lece Damian died in Beijing.

October 20, 1966 – Br. Paolu Martin died in Beijing.

October 22, 2000 – Br. Henry Joseph Ruiz died in USA.

October 23, 1991 – Br. Jean Joseph died in P.J. Malaysia.

Our Prayer:

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for an ecclesial assembly of governance or discernment

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.



www.synod.va



Let us pray for...

- ✚ our elderly and sick brothers and sisters.
- ✚ the safety and good health of the students, teachers, personnel, office staff and community workers.
- ✚ the individuals who have been affected with the Coronavirus quickly recover their health and have confidence in God's kindness.
- ✚ all those who have lost loved ones find solace in Christ's promises of everlasting life and encouragement in others' care.
- ✚ our leaders, that they may be guided by loving wisdom, kindness and understanding.
- ✚ the vocation of our young brothers in formation.