



## Updates

### THE MARIST CARE HOME PROJECT

*By: Br. Romulo Porras, FMS*

The present Sacred Heart Formation Center in Lagao will be transformed into the Marist Care Home for our elderly and sick Brothers. The dormitory and the classroom buildings will be demolished to give way to a 12-room, one-story residence. Meanwhile, the dining room, the recreation room connected to the receiving room and the present staff bedrooms and offices, and the two-story library/guesthouse will undergo renovation.



Five groups participated in the bidding for the construction project. One backed out and of the four remaining, Marbel Construction Development based in Koronadal City, won the bid. Coincidentally, this family-owned construction company is the same company that built the original buildings of the Sacred Heart Formation Center in 1983. The company owner was and still is, Engr. Alberto Non who is already retired. It is now the son, Architect Albert Joseph Non who manages the business.

Working for the Brothers, is Engr. Enrico “Jun” Mariano of the J.E.M. 88 Construction Development Corporation. His responsibility is to design and supervise the construction of the Marist Care Home. His official title is “Designer and Project Manager.”

According to the contractor, he will be able to finish the construction “within THREE HUNDRED THIRTY (330) calendar days after the 30-day mobilization period (allotted time for securing various permits by the contractor). However, the official starting date will be determined by the date of

issuance of approved building permits from the local government. In the meantime, pending the permits, the workers are already cleaning and clearing the area since October 20. The application for demolition has been sent and we hope that we will receive the permit to demolish in two weeks' time.



## **THE SAGIP KA 2000 FOUNDATION OFFICE**

*By: Ms. Tinette Boston*

The Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation Inc. has moved to a new office at the Marist Province Center. The office is spacious, cool and has a good ambiance. Occupying a new office, the staff feels more comfortable and ever ready to serve its members.

The Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> year last July. With its existence, the Foundation maintains its primary purpose of promoting values such as respect for human dignity, integrity, order, justice, service, art and beauty, quality and excellence, spirituality and sense of freedom among its members.

Help us build a better future.

**“TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH; TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN”**



*Sagip Ka Personnel: Victor, Emjey and April*



## **MARIST PROVINCE CENTER BUSINESS OFFICE**

*By: Ms. Gelyn Ninofranco*

After 23 years, our Business Office at the Province was renovated for a more functional purpose and with an ambiance of warmth and a welcoming environment.

The eighty square meter space covers two small private offices for our Brother Provincial and Philippine Sector Bursar. There are two cubicles for the Office Personnel where each one has

its own setting. The walls and ceiling are all painted white and cream keeping the interior calm, well ventilated and the office furniture repainted with a touch of mahogany wood color. We bring a little nature inside the Business Office by adding indoor plants for increased oxygen and good ambiance. With personal touches, the area is so well organized and comfortable as working place.

With the new office set-up, we stay motivated to do our respective job with greater satisfaction, creativity and productivity. We do love being at work with this new office ambiance!



*MPC Business Office Personnel: Gelyn, Br. Romy and Melanie*



**Brother Provincial's  
Office**

**Philippine Sector  
Bursar's Office**



*Br. Romy is ready to welcome you.*



Two cubicles for  
Office Personnel



## **VIRTUAL VISIT: CHINA SECTOR**

Brs. Andrew and Ador visited the communities in the China sector virtually in the month of October. The Sibu, Kota Kinabalu, and Kuching communities were visited on October 9, Singapore community on October 16, Hong Kong community on October 23, and Petaling Jaya community will be visited on October 30. Brs. Ador and Andrew gave an update concerning the province and the China sector. The members of the different communities shared about their personal experiences in the community and in their ministry.



Hong Kong Community: Clockwise –  
Br. John Chong, Br. John Chin, Br.  
Ador, Br. Anthony, and Br. Andrew



Kuching Community: Clockwise – Br. Emil,  
Br. Robert, A student boarder, Br. Ador,  
and Br. Andrew



## COMMUNITY LEADERS' MEETING KOREA/JAPAN SECTOR

The Korea/Japan sector had their Community Leaders' meeting last October 20. It was attended by Br. Domingo (Sector Coordinator), Br. Ador (Provincial) Br. Jacobo Song, Br. Ignatius In, Br. Paul Won, Br. Alfredo Herrera, and Br. Lawrence Park (Community Leaders). Absent was Br. John Oh of Kobe community.

### KOREA/JAPAN SECTOR COMMUNITY LEADERS



Br. Jacobo Song



Br. Alfredo Herrera



Br. John Oh



Br. Paul Won



Br. Ignatius In



Br. Lawrence Park

## BR. NIÑO CELEBRATES 44<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Br. Niño Pizarro of Marist Dadiangas community celebrated his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday last October 24 in a private dinner with all the Brothers in his community. A sumptuous meal was prepared with mutton at the center of the menu. The Brothers and aspirants at Our Lady of Fourviere community joined the celebration.



## More Photos



### **Final Briefing and Orientation on the Proposed VIRTUAL CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH MENTORING TO CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY TEACHERS**

(October 23, 2021)

By: Br. Edgar Ceriales, FMS

The program, designed by Ms. Christy Loida E. Legad, a volunteer from Notre Dame of Kidapawan College - IBED, focuses on activity-based mentoring of conversational English to Cambodian community teachers. This emphasizes multi-level English macro skills building to promote language autonomy among them. Carefully designed gearing on Marist principles, Hofstede's cultural dimensions, and communicative behavior models, the virtual mentoring seeks to create a supportive environment and to cultivate an appreciation of diversity by engaging the teachers to their cultural knowledge and experiences as resources in the language learning facilitation.



The program consists of 10 modules of eight lessons per module and at least 2 hours per lesson.



#### **Note:**

*The program is still subject to the acceptance and approval of Marist District of Asia and Marist Education Center of Pailin, Cambodia.*



## **CMMF-MEMORARE COMMUNITY GATHERS** **FOR BONDING AND FAITH SHARING**

On October 24, 2021, the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF) Marbel group gathered for bonding and fellowship and to pray together and share faith testimonies. The gathering was meant to rekindle once more the bond of Marist family. The experience was enriching for it provided opportunity for each one to share on personal experience of the pandemic and how in the light of faith, praying the rosary and devotions to Mary nourished, strengthened and nurtured faith in times of crisis.



Significant to all who participated in the gathering was the meaningful re-naming of the group as CMMF- the Memorare Community, in honor of the memory of that significant event in the life of St. Marcellin, where, through Mary's intervention Marcellin and his companion found solace at that moment when they were lost in the snow. Present in the gathering was Br. Pat Corpus, FMS, brother point person for the laity concerns in Marbel.

## **MARIST FORMATION SESSION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

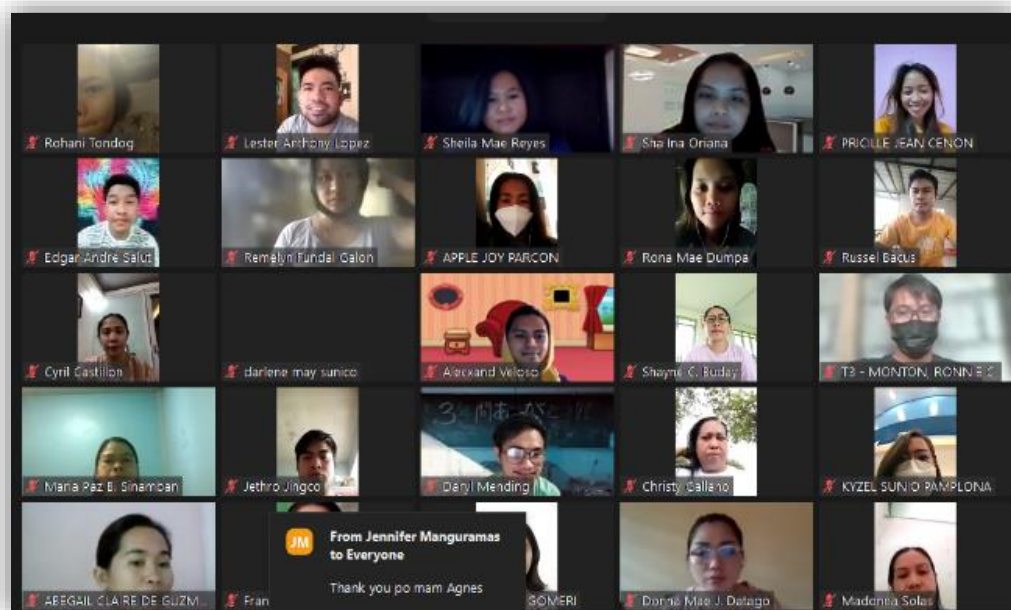
The Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Graduate School scheduled a Marist Formation session for all the Graduate School students last October 23, 2021. Around 250 participants joined in Zoom. The content and reflection process had for its theme: Being Marist and the Call to a New Beginning. Ms. Agnes Reyes, the formation facilitator, took reference on the Marist Charism and the roadmap for the new beginning, particularly highlighting Br. Ernesto Sanchez's message during the Closing of the 21<sup>st</sup> General Chapter: (1) To be tireless searchers in our search for God; (2) To form homes that nurtured life and generate new life; (3) To be prophets of human dignity present among the most



vulnerable children and youth and (4) To be healing and co-creative presence of our common home. The session ended with the video of Br. Niño Pizarro, FMS on Laudato Si and the call to participate in the thrust of the school to become a Laudato Si University.

Dr. Gina de Guzman, the Graduate School Dean, fully supports and puts in the thrust of the department the Marist formation of all the graduate school students every semester, during the academic year.

### THE PARTICIPANTS





# THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

## #53

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



### THE MARIST CHINA PROVINCE IS BORN<sup>1</sup>

Since the beginning, the Marist Brothers in China had been under the authority of the Province of Saint-Genis-Laval in France. But because of the unfortunate events in France in 1903, reorganization began taking place within the congregation of the Marist Brothers. In 1908, a look at the community of China showed that they were already capable of standing on their own. Thus, the Marist China Province was officially erected, and the Marist Brothers of China became a fully independent administrative unit, with Br. Louis-Michel serving as its first Provincial from 1908 to 1911.



CANTON, CHINA – COMMUNITY – 1904

As in times past, the experiences of the Brothers in China often intertwined with the political history of this country, which, among other things in this period, was characterized by civil war triggered by cries of nationalism. China's turbulent transition to its new government was not without effect on the work of the Brothers. For example, the Chinese Revolution of 1911 resulted in the closure of the Brothers' schools in Canton, Chengtu and Weiweifu. Another consequence of the proclamation of the Republic was that schools became more closely supervised, and every once in a while, the Brothers had to deal with a maze of requirements from the new government.

In general, though, the schools were operating as normally as possible in the new Marist Province. However, when "World War 1 broke out in 1914, many French Brothers were among those who were mobilized. In the Province of China, there were around 50 Brothers who were bound to this duty. Fortunately, much goodwill was shown by consuls and the French military to those involved in teaching. School directors were allowed to stay in place, and those mobilized to work in the barracks were allowed to return to school and teach for some hours. Consequently, only about one-third of the Brothers were required to wear uniformed and carry arms. Most of the Brothers' schools continued to function with some schedule adjustments.

At the end of the war, there was a renewed interest in education. This was good news, but only for a time. Already, certain political ideas had started to spread all over the country, especially in the cities. Treaty of Versailles awarded territorial rights in Shantung to Japan. Many of those in the younger generation were all fired up, and began organizing and participating in school strikes. The

massive popular protest which started in Beijing and spread throughout the country came to be known as the *May 14th Movement*. One such scenario is described in an account from 1919: On May 18, our students, egged on by the heated arguments of boys from other schools, got into their heads to protest against the Japanese. Some started off by making posters and sticking them on walls, doors, windows, and even on lamp posts; the text read “Boycott Japanese goods.” Others took upon themselves to examine all items they could find bearing the text “*Made in Japan*,” and they then smashed or tore or broke them ...

Because of the strikes, disruptions to school schedules happened every now and then and at a certain point, some schools had to be temporarily closed. When these reopened, there would be renewed interest in education; however, after some time, student strikes would start anew as the younger generation became influenced by ideas of reform.

The fact was that the political situation was far from being at its best. There was unrest, civil war, strikes, as well as anti-European and anti-Christian tensions. The Republic was only such in name; the reality was that there was arbitrary rule based on military strength, and warlordism was becoming evident. The Communist Party of China (CPC), which was founded in 1921, then joined forces with the Kuomintang (KMT) or Chinese Nationalist Party in 1923 to combat warlordism at the local front as the First United Front. But after the death of Sun Yat-sen in 1925, tensions began to rise between the Communist Party and right wing of the KMT. Chiang Kai-shek, the new commander-in-chief of the KMT, moved to eliminate the Communists from areas in his control. The left wing of the KMT continued supporting the Communists for a time, until friction developed between them and ended their alliance, thus bringing an official end to the first United Front in 1927.



SHANGHAI, CHINA – TEACHING STAFF OF THE FRANCO-CHINA –  
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL – 1938

Aside from the political chaos, there were also trials caused occasional sickness, and the wrath of the natural elements such as deadly floods which claimed as many as 4 million lives in 1931.

#### *The Province flourishes*

In spite of all the seeming misfortunes in the emerging Republic, the Brothers were actually quite successful in their endeavors in China. Their schools enjoyed a good reputation, with a steady rise in enrollment, even in those turbulent times. In the schools run by the Brothers, vocations blossomed, too. A good number expressed the desire to become Marist Brothers.

By 1915, almost 25 years after the Marist Brothers had first set foot on China, the Province had three schools in Peking, two in Tientsin and two in Shanghai. They had schools in Hankow, Chungking, Weihweifu and Canton. All in all, the Marist Brothers had 12 houses or schools in 1915, with more than 3,000 students, 113 Brothers and 67 young men under formation.

In 1920, the Marist Province of China was expanded to include the school of Negombo in Ceylon, where they eventually had three schools entrusted to them.



To support their growing communities, Divine Providence and the Brothers' hard work and perseverance enabled them to acquire new properties and to construct building over time. The Provincial House was erected on a bigger land in Chala in the years 1909-1910, and became the main house for formation and general administration. A large property, situated not far from the Summer Palace, was acquired in 1917. The Brothers named it *Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage* (but also *La Cuvette* because it had the shape of a wash basin). After afforesting it for some time, it became like an oasis, a place of refuge for the Brothers in the summer, and a place of rest for older Brothers. To this, a goat farm was later added. In 1925, a huge building called St. Joseph's Monastery was also built at the foot of the hill. It became the venue for the Major Juniorate and Scholasticate of the Chinese Province, because the one at Chala-eul, which had housed the same from 1917 to 1925, had become too small for the ever-growing numbers. # # #

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<sup>1</sup>The authors of the book are Spes Stanley Ku and Nathalie A. Pasa. It was published in 2017 by New City in the Philippines. Spes Ku is a Marist ex-student of St Francis Xavier's College, Hong Kong (class of 1982). The original title of the book is "Dawn of the word – In Silence – The adventure of the Marist Brothers in China". The authors present how the work of Marcellin Champagnat developed in China from 1891, when the first six Brothers arrived, to 1954. During their research, the authors studied diaries, personal letters, notes, interviews and other documents found in the Marist archives. On the day of the presentation, Spes Ku said that he had spoken personally with the last brothers still living in the country, New City Press Philippines, 2017, pages 108-112.

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## Information:

- October 25-29: Marist Global Network of Schools Summit
- October 31: First TPBIAM gathering. Below is the schedule:

### TPBIAM 1st Gathering 31st October 2021 via zoom

8:30 - 8:45 am	Attendance
8:45 - 9:00 am	Opening prayer
9:00 - 10:00 am	Laity by Ms. Agnes Reyes
10:00 - 10:10 am	Coffee Break
10:10 - 11:00 am	Provincial's time
11:00 - 12:00 am	Sharing and updates from the Brothers

<https://zoom.us/j/95687706184pwd=cVpkWjJSMDVGmUtVYXFySzlKOWY5UT09>  
 Meeting ID: 956 8770 6184  
 Passcode: MARIST

## *Birthday Greetings to:*



October 28  
Br. Crispin P. Betita



November 1  
Br. John Tam Wee Eng



## *Death Anniversaries:*

October 27, 2017 – Br. Kevin O’Neil died in USA.

October 27, 2018 – Br. Jose Torrecampo died in USA.

October 27, 2020 – Br. Gregoire Su Ping Qing died in Beijing.

October 28, 1941 – Br. Jean Anselm died in Chefoo, Shandung.

October 28, 1968 – Br. Antoine died in Beijing.

October 30, 1959 – Br. Ignace Elie died in Prison, Beijing.

October 31, 1984 – Br. Chrysostome died in Shanghai.

November 1, 1995 – Br. Marie Francis died in Beijing.





## *Let us pray for...*

- ✚ our local church currently undergoing a Synodal Process of reflection.
- ✚ all our sick Brothers, relatives, friends, alumni, students, members of the Marist Family.
- ✚ our Brothers working in other countries.
- ✚ all the health workers who are helping to save so many lives from the coronavirus.
- ✚ all the missionaries around the world.
- ✚ more vocation to the religious life.
- ✚ all the birthday celebrants.
- ✚ the intentions of our family members, friends, benefactors, and affiliates.
- ✚ the good health and protection of all the members of the Marist Family.
- ✚ the end of the pandemic

*Heavenly father, creator, and master of all the earth. You are the reason we are alive and you know all our pains. Please give us your comfort and bring healing to our lives.*



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