



## Province Updates:

### MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

By: Mr. Christopher James Ferrer

There is no force more powerful than the idea that time has come like the Marist Global Network of Schools (MGNS) International Summit which was launched last October 25 to October 29. The MNGS was well-participated by around six hundred (600) schools around the globe including the seven (7) schools in the Philippines. The summit was designed based on Appreciative Inquiry as an approach for dialogue, meeting, designing proposals, and alignment of vision, mission, and action. There were various areas of opportunity and twenty-four (24) topics in which each participant – administrator, teacher, parent, student – can choose from. The topics were carefully categorized into six (6) areas of opportunities which are connection, exchange, quality education, innovation, evangelization, and social transformation.

The interview in pairs has been a beautiful privilege and avenue for dialogue and meeting. The value of sharing about one's self, background and impressions had been a springboard for the deep dive in the group dynamics and discussion of relevant and timely topics with fellow Marists of Champagnat. The collaboration, enthusiasm, openness turned out to be the core of every conversation.



For many of our colleagues in NDKC-IBED, it was their first time to participate in an online international summit. As Ms. Dyessa May Plaza, Elementary Guidance Facilitator shared, “I really had a great, fun, and worthwhile experience meeting

Marists like me across the world, from New Zealand, Madagascar, Australia, and Rome”. During the phase in our group sharing, I volunteered to be the group editor so it was a challenge for me to gather all the ideas and at the same time I was asked to speak in the podium in behalf of my groupmates to share our thoughts about treating this specific topic, added by Ms. Plaza.

Moreover; Ms. Aileen L. Calibo, Academic Coordinator emphasized that “as an educator, the willingness and dynamism to learn strategies in the Marist education and leadership are vital. At the summit, I shared our strengths and best practices with other Marist institutions and learned strategies based on their experiences”. Furthermore, “It is always great to hear brilliant minds, especially people who have been doing it for a long time or are really passionate about their role”, shared by Mr. Renzy Jamil, Guidance Facilitator.



In this phase, we were given the pencil to draw and the brush to paint positive images of the future through a meditation-visualization approach. Our group on Educational Innovation summarized our thoughts into “we dream to transform ourselves as bridge builders, building bridges among people, among nations, among cultures, among schools, and trying to find common ground, purpose, and meaning”. In addition, Hanz Turtogo, a student leader, shared that it has taught him practical ways to achieve goals. The summit introduced many individuals from different walks of life and they learned a lot from their plans and ideas.

In designing the proposals, the rich and dynamic experiences of the participants were pooled together. The action planning tasked us to create initiative, aspirational statements, aspiration impact, and commitment in the initiative. Ms. Dyessa Gabriel Plaza, Guidance Facilitator shared their group’s aspirational statement. It goes like this, “Educating the young through building linkage and open exchange. To help, to connect, and to carry out the mission to achieve the common spirit of Champagnat, reaching the people in all walks of life.” Further, Mr. Rico E. Nonles, Activity Coordinator, mentioned that “we dreamed, thought out of the box, and helped in making initiatives towards realizing the goal of being connected with fellow Marists of Champagnat”.

The Marist Global Network of Schools' International Summit is a memory that will linger in our consciousness and will be cherished forever. The lessons that we have learned, relearned, and unlearned will be carried on and carried out through our concrete actions especially in our day-to-day encounters with the young especially the least favored in the peripheries of life.

We all dream and dare of the day that we will all see each other in person and realize all our initiatives. We also anticipate and pray with hope and eagerness to whole-heartedly contribute and actively take part in the realization of all initiatives. Until then, we sincerely express our deepest filial love and care to everyone. We also express our warmest felicitations and gratitude to the prime movers of the MNGS and to the Marist Brothers' General Administration for gifting us a genuine relationship and to be part of the global Marist family. Kudos! Mabuhay!



## **MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT** **IMPRESSIONS:**



*David Lumba*  
*Grade 9: Marist School*  
*Marikina*

Building a Global Family On the 29th of October, the International Marist Community launched the Global Network of Marist Schools. Its aim; to unite students, teachers, and personnel as a universal family- guided by the life, mission and charism of our patron saint. St. Marcellin Champagnat's goal was simple, yet challenging; 'to gather all of us around the same table, in a sphere of shared life and responsibility'. This same perspective is echoed and mirrored in the lives of his constituents today. I was lucky enough to be invited to a 2-day-workshop which included building teams and synchronization towards planning and evangelization. Throughout the conference, one thing was made clear, our mission is inter-reliant and is not due to a single person alone. The process isn't only something the Marist

Brothers would make an effort to build- we, laity, students, teachers and people in the academe; share in the responsibility and must do our best to cooperate and be one in mission. Under the supervision of the Marist Brothers, Bro. Ben, and a Marist Lay person, Mr. Pep- my group was given the topic entitled; 'Internationalization of Marist Students'. Joining me were Bro. Germain from Africa, Ms. Aisling from Europe, Ms. Maricarmen, Ms. Lupita and Matilde from South America. In the process, we talked and discussed about relevant media and windows of opportunity we could utilize in the formation of Marist Students around the globe. We united in sharing ideas and opportunities among ourselves on opening doors towards not only local, but worldwide collaboration. One of the suggestions our team came up with, would be the creation of a Global Youth Council towards better communication and dialogue between and among institutions. In between the workshops, Marist also premiered episodes to pre-empt the official launching of the network. Episode 1 on the 25th of October, Episode 2 on the 27th of October and Episode 3 on the 29th of October. They focused on establishing real relationships with each other as fellow Marists, a bond that may not be by blood; but by identity and character. Usually, one might say that each school is entitled to their own and is to act on their own prerogative, but to be one with each other as brothers and sisters walking the same path as St. Marcellin did- is a feat many people would deem worthy of a shot. Its high time to build bridges and connect, rather than destroying them and disconnecting. The world, amidst the pandemic which has taken a toll on us, still turns- and takes us along with it. Our duty is to respond to the calls of the time just like Champagnat did as he came to the assistance of Montagne- the dying child who awakened his sense to form the brothers. There are many 'Montagnes' around the world, and we are now being called to act. Act not only as an individual- because as you become part of the Marist Community you are never alone. Together with you is a global family, a 'network' to accompany you on the journey of becoming good Christians and virtuous Citizens; all to Jesus through Mary.



**Dr. Angela Undar Ph.D**  
Principal: Notre Dame  
of Cotabato

I'm happy and grateful to God and to the brothers for their invitation to be part of the launching of the Marist Global Network of Schools. It was a fulfilling experience being Marist as I connect with other Marists from different places in the country and abroad. This made me feel more as member of the Marist global family. The words given by members of the General Council were inspiring. This virtual gathering challenged me to work better for the education of the young entrusted to me.

I felt inspired and encouraged by the connections I experienced in all sessions during the Marist Global Network of Schools Summit. The summit is not just an avenue for more learning and benchmarking but also a venue to meet and gain new friends of Marcellin. In every workshop, the community spirit was present and nurtured at all times. Yes, the gathering has come to an end but the learnings are never-ending. Congratulations to the committee and facilitators behind this noble endeavor!



**Mr. Allan Sumadic**  
Principal: NDMU-IBED

It was an overwhelming experience connecting with fellow Marists from the different parts of the world. Honestly, I was reluctant to share. I felt too small to be with the group; but with no choice, I was proud enough to share with them even the little I contributed to the group work. I believe that I was being listened to and I feel the sense of belongingness. The



family spirit is very much evident. I am so happy with my experience. All of us share a common goal, that through education we can continue St Marcellin’s mission and vision which is “To make Jesus known and loved.”

**Ms. Necesita Yator**  
*Coordinator: Marist School Marikina*

A Champagnat of the new generation of Marist educators, daring in hope and possessing a heart that knows no bounds. This is exactly how I felt while participating in the Marist Global Network of Schools International Summit on October 25 – 29. I felt truly blessed and honored to have taken part in this historic gathering of Marists coming from more than 80 countries across the globe. Indeed, Champagnat Global is—borrowing the words of the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter— “a beacon of hope in this turbulent world.” In the face of the pandemic all Marists bravely embark on the immense challenge of working together as one global family and transforming into a collaborative learning community that goes beyond the borders of differing languages and cultures but is united in the goal of raising “good Christians and virtuous citizens.” I am quite excited and do look forward to the countless possibilities and numerous opportunities that Champagnat Global offers and provides all Marists around the globe to interact, exchange knowledge, share best practices, and enrich the mission of making Jesus and Mary known and loved through education and evangelization.



**Mr. Benjamin Balatbat**  
*Principal: Marist School, Marikina*



The Marist Global Network of Schools Summit has indeed been an appreciative dialogue among us all. I truly enjoyed the connectedness despite the situation we are facing right now. I was able to discover the strengths of each group, and the new horizons that have opened due to the common dreams and aspirations of each and every team towards addressing the challenges of the time. The collaborative work of team 7, Research and Development, with its title “I-knowvation Towards Educational (Im)Pact”, is a testimony of our commitment to fulfilling Champagnat’s dream of loving and educating the young.

**Ms. Shellah Marie C. Tabayoyong**  
*Marist School, Marikina*

Marist Global Network of Schools Summit widened my horizon to know more about Marist in all parts of the world. It gives us an opportunity to connect globally to our fellow Marists of Champagnat. I am truly honored and grateful to be a part of this Summit. The experiences and learnings I gained, getting to know our fellow Marists, sharing our thoughts, goals, visions, best practices and Marists values we have in our respective institutions and connecting with them are great a fulfillment to start collaborating with our Fellow Marists of Champagnat. Indeed, this truly depicts the meaning of a Marist Family: we gather, we share, and we connect with each other globally!



**Glorita Gay P. Fan**  
*Assistant Principal Marist School, Marikina*



*Br. Nino Pizarro, FMS  
Principal: NDDU-IBED,  
Lagao, General Santos City*

The role out of the Marist Global Schools Network in the Basic Education level is a very good and promising initiative of the Marist General Administration. It opens a bigger door for 'Internationalization' where 'Marist Schools' throughout the world can enjoy. This 'Internationalization' in many ways will help, in a bigger context, the preservation and growth of our sense of 'Maristness' which will lead us to continue to be faithful to our Marist traditions/practices, culture and values. Also, the implementation of shared Marist programs that inculcate the sense of being Marist will further lead to collaboration and enhance Marist networking among Marist Schools and paved the way for growth in all aspects among Marists of Champagnat.

## **A BIRTHDAY DURING PANDEMIC TIMES**

*By: Br. Cristino St. Ana, FMS*



There were around 20 visitors, mostly Alumni of Marcellin Foundation as the community celebrated the 79th birthday of Bro. Crispin on October 28, 2021. During the program, testimonies were made by some of these Alumni. The boys, at least some, had listened to the words of wisdom uttered by these alumni. One of these boys, saved up to give a gift for Bro. Crispin. The rest just simply enjoyed the meals; some of which were donated by generous people. In the social media, a lot of birthday greetings and well wishes can be read from Marist staff, teachers, former students, Alumni, Brothers, Lay and friends of Bro. Crispin. Indeed, he had so much to thank for and acknowledge until the late evening of that Thursday. God bless you Brother and continue to be a Marist influence to others. No pandemic can stop you from any God-given and worthwhile inspiration!

*Photos during the celebration!*

*Br. Crispin with  
the Alumni of  
Marcellin Home*





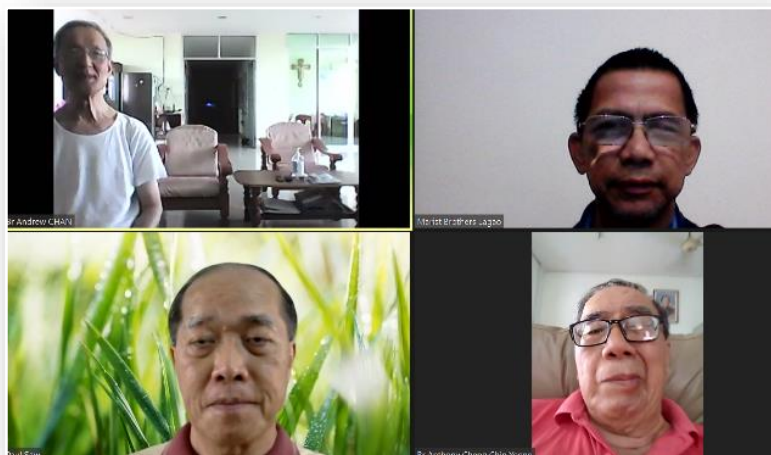
*Giving of gift to the birthday celebrant.*



*Candid shot at the Dining hall.*

## **VIRTUAL COMMUNITY VISIT**

Br. Ador visited the Petaling Jaya community virtually with Br. Andrew, the China Sector Coordinator. A Province and China sector update was shared with the members of the community. Brs. Paul Saw and Anthony Cheng were in the community residence in Petaling Jaya, while Br. Joachim was in Sibiu, Sarawak visiting his brother during the meeting.



## MARIST KOBE VISITS KOBE FOREIGN CEMETERY

The Marist Kobe community members paid their annual visit to Kobe Foreign Cemetery in Futatabi on October 30. It is in this cemetery where the Marist Brothers from other countries who died in Japan were laid to rest.



*Brs. John Oh, Bernard Yamaguchi, Joseph Yoshida, and Allen Timola*



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## TEMPORARY PROFESSED BROTHERS IN ACTIVE MINISTRY

### ZOOM MEETING

*By: Br. Lloyd Gamboa, FMS*

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2021:**

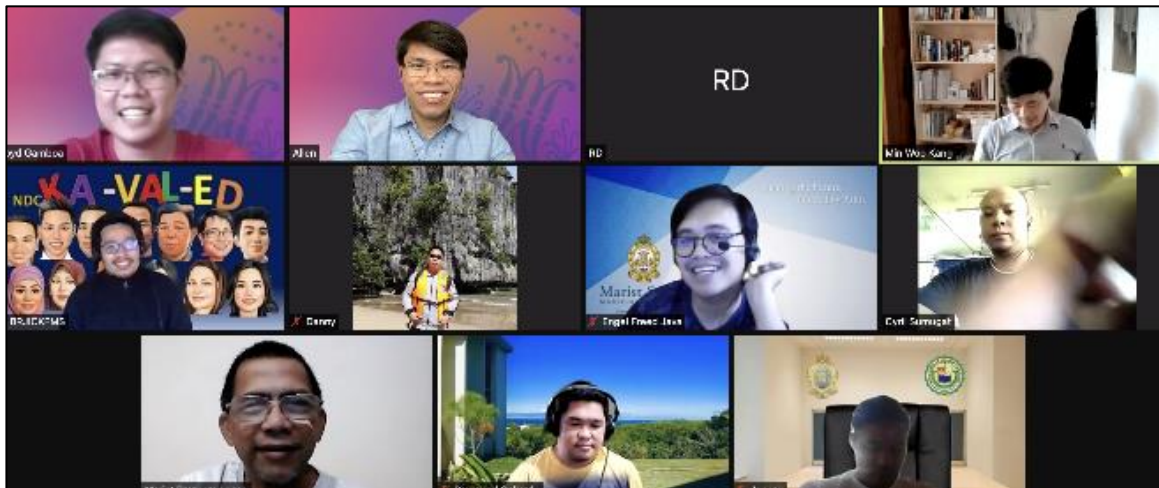
***First gathering of the Temporary Professed Brothers in Active Ministry via Zoom.***

The TPBIAM welcomes 3 new members Br. Engel Java (Marikina Community), Br. Abraham Kang Min Woo (Chungju Community), Br. Karl Labio (Marbel Community). Ms. Agnes Reyes, our resource speaker, gave a talk about the Marist Laity. It was followed by the updates from Br. Ador. Then, an update from each of the brother's experiences in their community, ministry, prayer, studies, plans etc. Br. Raymund joined the group for the last time as he is now a perpetually professed brother. TPBIAM wishes him well in his ministry as full pledged Marist Brother.





*The TPBIAM members with Br. Danny: Left to right, from the top – Brs. Abraham, Dean, Allen, Lloyd, Joseph, Raymund, Cyril, Engel, Danny and Jick*



*The TPBIAM members with Br. Ador*



*The TPBIAM members with Ms. Agnes Reyes*

## LAITY DESK PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO NDDU CAMPUS MINISTRY

On October 30, the Laity Desk provided assistance in the revision of the recollection modules for the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Campus Ministry. Sr. Sela Minisale, SMSM, the CMRE Director, convened the team of recollection facilitators of NDDU for this agendum. She requested the Laity Desk to facilitate and assist the process of reviewing and revising the existing modules in order to ensure that Marist elements in the tradition of St. Marcellin and themes on ecology are being incorporated in the spiritual formation of the students and the personnel. Sr. Sela further requested the assistance of the Laity Desk in the setting-up of the Personnel Formation Program for the NDDU Community. Continuing coordination meetings for the said concerns are now being arranged.



## SHARING ON MARIST MISSION AND VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM



Thirty-Seven (37) students participated in the NDDU Graduate School Educ 203 session on Marist Core Values last Saturday, October 30. The class was joined by other participants who were interested in knowing more the Marist Mission and Volunteer Program.

Br. Edgar Cerales, FMS, the East Asia Volunteer Program Coordinator presented the different Marist missions and the volunteering program, inspiring participants to offer their giftedness to others in need.

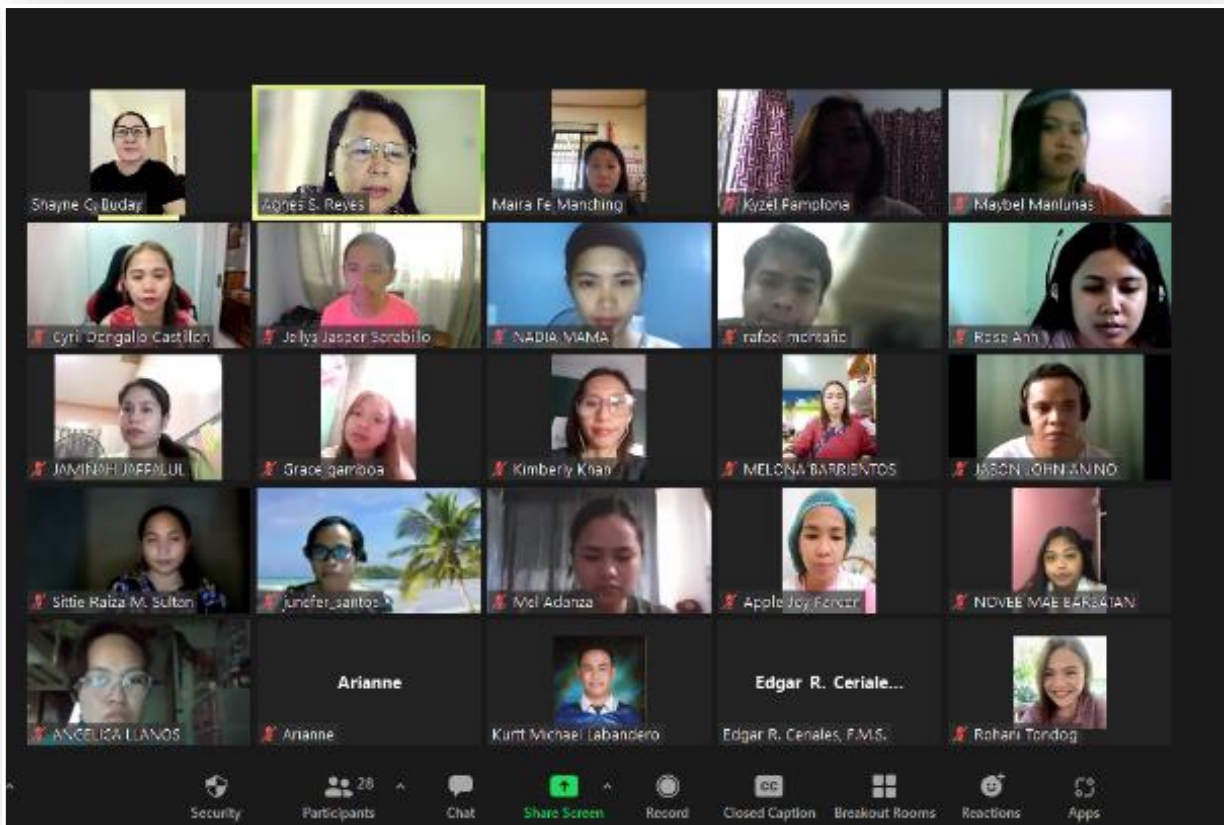


## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity For Social Enterprise

A social enterprise or social business is defined as a business that has specific social objectives that serve its primary purpose. Social enterprises seek to maximize profits while maximizing benefits to society and the environment. Their profits are principally used to fund social programs. The following social objectives may be addressed by the program:

1. Poverty Alleviation of the Indigenous People of Malutok
2. Ancestral Domain/Land Protection
3. Restoration of the Dignity of the Indigenous People
4. Environmental/Ecological Protection
5. Regeneration of Culture



*The Participants*

# THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

## #54

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



### THE VINEYARD AT CHALA-EUL<sup>1</sup>

When one thinks of the different undertakings of the China Province, one thing that must not be left out is the vineyard at Chala-eul. While it did not directly involve education, it was one of the most important undertakings of the Province, as it became one of its major sources of income.

Below is the narration of Br. Jean-Emile:

*Without the income from the vineyard, instead of 130-140 young men that have places in our Training Centers, it would probably be necessary to crease the number by three-quarters. For that reason, the vineyard must take its place in the history of the Province. The creation and organization of the vineyard was due to Brother Joseph-Gabriel... who came to China in 1902, at the age of 53; on arrival in Shanghai he was sent to Chungking to open a school there, and stayed in the Province of Szechuen for 8 years. At the age of 60, when many people retire, he had only one thing in mind, to serve his Brothers in whatever capacity he could. When (he was) working in France, and later on in Turkey, had shown an interest, in the growing of grapes, or viticulture. Naturally enough, the idea came to him in his retirement, to attempt planting vines in the large property of Chala. At first, he had in mind, producing enough wine for the community of the Provincial House, and if possible for the communities of Peking.*

*He went through a long process of experimenting in order to find the type of vine most suitable for the climate of North China...*

*The vines that he was able to produce, were of good quality and all he needed now was a set of circumstances that would enable him to produce large quantities. The set of circumstances turned out to be World War 1; only very limited quantities of wine came from France, and a number of importers and their clients turned to Chala where they knew a skillful craftsman was manufacturing wine of good quality. In the same field, the question of Mass wine came into play; this had to be absolutely pure, and with the knowledge that the wine was produced in a monastery, there was no room for doubt...*

*As a result of demand, production increased, and instead of making 10 barrels in a year, he had to aim at 50, and later on at 100...*

Br. Joseph-Gabriel died in 1928 at the age of 79, leaving the Brothers a flourishing enterprise. His job was taken over by Br. Marie-Ausone, and later by Br. Louis-Michel, who developed the enterprise and ran it like a modern business. The profit from these vineyards supported, to a large extent, the endeavors of the Marist Province of China, and Divine Providence took care of the rest.

The vineyards of Chala and China's vineyard of souls: in those years, these two vineyards were nurtured and cared for by the Brothers. Both had their fair share of storms, and both had abundant harvests.

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<sup>1</sup>This article was lifted up from the book *Dawn of the Word in Silence, The Adventure of the Marist Brothers in China*, written by Ms. Nathalie A. Pasa, the principal writer, New City Press, 2017, pages 112-113.

## INFORMATION:

- November 5: Finance Committee meeting. Philippine sector
- November 6: Marist School Marikina Board Meeting
- November 8: Notre Dame of Kidapawan College Board Meeting
- Attached with the Newsbits is Marcelline news and an article of Br. Bao Nguyen, FMS on the experience of the young Brothers working as volunteers in Vietnam.
- Br. Rosendo will have his 30-day retreat starting November 3 in preparation for his golden Jubilee celebration. He will be staying at the Trappistine's monastery in Landan, Polomolok, South Cotabato. His golden Jubilee will be celebrated on December 23, 2021 in Lagao, General Santos City.
- The Provincial Council approved the participation of the following to the International Course on the Formation of Lay Leaders:
  1. Wenna Brigaste (Marikina)
  2. Leander Arroza (Espina)
  3. Lea Jean Carmona (Lagao)
  4. Ann Sexton (NDDU Main Campus)
  5. Cristine Ruiz (ND Kidapawan)
  6. Jano Dalumpines (ND Cotabato)
  7. Qalista Dohny (Malaysia)
  8. Marjorie Rañeses (Marikina, Member Laity Committee)

The Course will be on January, February and March of 2022, to be delivered 2 hours per day for 3 days in a month. They will be joined by laity participants coming from Europe and Africa.

### *Death Anniversaries:*

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

November 3, 1943 – Br. Paolou 'Casimir died in Beijing,

November 4, 1953 – Br. Joseph Bernard died in Neuville, France.

November 6, 1917 – Br. Frederick 1894-1917 died in China.

November 6, 1975 – Br. Joseph Constance died in St. Genis-Laval.

November 8, 1968 – Br. Berchmans died in Hubei, China.

# *Birthday Greetings to:*



November 01  
Br. John Tan Wee Eng



November 02  
Br. John Emil I. Alada



November 04  
Ms. Mary Wei Ling Ru  
(Affiliated Member)



*Let us remember and pray in honor of all the deceased Brothers, Sisters, Fathers, Family Members, Friends and Affiliates. Also, we pray for the blessings of all Saints and martyrs, and for mercy of the Holy souls in purgatory.*