



Marist Brothers East Asia



News Bits

Volume 3, Issue No. 54

December 13, 2021

Updates:

LAGAO COMMUNITY

The Lagao Brothers had their recollection at our Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu on November 30 to December 1. After the recollection we had tree planting activities. Thanks to Br. Larry who brought some seedlings from Lagao. We went to Sibul Farm on top of the hill with a panoramic view of the lake. Mr. William Sy and wife who own the farm were so gracious to serve us chocolate cake and chocolate drink. They served us hito and dalag (mudfish) for lunch.

Br. Ador and Br. Gilbert did not join our recollection. The six of us, Brothers, were joined by the three caregivers (Gerald, Ainel and Medi) of Brs. Pius and Larry.



Lunch at Sibul Farm



Brothers' residence and guest house



Tree planting

On December 8-9, we were at Marian Beach in Tuyan, Glan, Sarangani Province for an outing. We celebrated there the birthdays of Br. Pius (Dec. 2) and Br. Larry (Dec. 9). During dinner, Br. Ador and the three scholastics (Brs. Romar Dave Rano, Jay Jay Escudro and Dave Becislao) who have just arrived from Marikina joined us in the celebration.



Brs. Romy, Wency and Pius



A sweet delight



Br. Larry blowing the birthday candle



Br. Ador and the 3 Scholastics joined the dinner celebration

MAPAC CHRISTMAS PARTY

By: Br. Romar Dave Rano

On the 7th day of December, the MAPAC community momentarily celebrated their Christmas Party. It was a big celebration organized by the Brothers and lay staff. It was a memorable gathering to culminate the whole year activity as well as to reminisce good old days of MAPAC since it will be temporarily closed next year. It's a bit of a sad news not only for our lay staff and workers but also for those who have been part of MAPAC community for many years especially the teachers, students and affiliated members. That is why the MAPAC brothers made this day extra special and unforgettable.

The celebration started with the Holy Eucharist followed by a simple program and lunch. We invited the Marist School Community, the families of our mission partners, neighboring congregations as well as some teachers and students who have been part of MAPAC in recent years. During the program the MAPAC staff and workers had the opportunity to share their experiences and express their thanks for being part of MAPAC. Truly, for them this celebration was very special. In addition, they were very happy because they received their Christmas bonus as well as their 13th month pay.



Lastly, Br. Ray Arthur, Acting Rector of MAPAC, gave his closing address and expressed his word of gratitude and thanksgiving to the people who made the Christmas Party celebration possible and memorable despite the Pandemic. He also highly emphasized also his appreciation to the mission partners who dedicate their work and full support to the Brothers. Indeed, this celebration touches their hearts along with their overwhelming smiles as they listened to Bro. Ray's speech.

CMMF REFLECTS ON VOCATION OF LAITY

CMMF Memorare Community gathered on December 08, 2021 to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and to engage in the first reflection session on the Laity Vocation. The process addressed the objectives and reflection points proposed by the International Forum on the Laity Vocation. The family gathering was held at the residence of Ms. Elma Rafil in Surallah.



DECEMBER 5, 2021 - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VOLUNTEERING:

A MESSAGE FROM BROTHER ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ BARBA, Superior General

My greetings to all those who are participating in this meeting: provincial co-ordinators of voluntary service, the Board of Directors, the organising teams of the Provinces and Districts and, in particular, I greet all those who are participating or have participated in experiences of voluntary service. All of us, Marists of Champagnat.

I hope you are well, as are your families and your communities, in the midst of these difficult times in the world.

I rejoice with you in this celebration of the International Day of Volunteering. This day has been celebrated since 1985 on the initiative of the UN.

The first word I want to express is thank you! I thank each of you for being part of this important movement of service, as volunteers.

Service is at the heart of our Christian and Marist life: Jesus tells us that he did not come to be served, but to serve (cf. Mt 20, 28). And he showed us how the master washes the feet of his disciples. And Jesus always felt that he was sent. When we become more aware of feeling sent, it is easier for us to face the challenges that are presented to us in the mission.



Valdicer Fachi, Matteo Cavicchioli, accompanied by Br Luis Carlos Gutiérrez and by Br Oscar Martín (who is involved with Lavalla200 and the Fratelli Project). Thanks to all the organising teams in the Provinces. May the Network of volunteers continue to create synergy and continue to make everyone feel supported. Best wishes and courage in this mission!

THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#60

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



On February 2, 1959, the American province was split into two autonomous bodies and the care of the Philippine Mission was confided to the province of Esopus under the leadership of Br. Linus William Hall.

In 1960, Maurus James is succeeded by Br. Teston and we move into new development phase.

DISTRICT AUTONOMY¹

Within the Institute, a mission territory demonstrates its potential for evolution by its vitality and sustainability from being totally depended on the mother province and by signs that attest its capability of being somewhat autonomous.

The Council of the Esopus Province decided on April 25, 1960 to submit proposal, meaning conditions to make the Mission an autonomous District. Hence on May 1, 1960, Provincial Linus William informed Assistant General Paul Ambrose of the desire of the Esopus province to grant "greater autonomy" to the Philippine Mission and that this Mission would be "directly responsible to the General Council and not to the province of the United States. Some essays written in the Philippines err in this matter and dependence on the General Council is clearly established by the fact that District Council decisions were straight to the General Administration and not any longer to the Esopus Provincial Council for approval.

With the Philippine Mission, this step occurred on August 31, 1960, by the Holy See granting Indult No. 109675/60. The Indult was executed by Superior General Charles-Raphael on September 12, 1960 and the General Council appointed a leadership team for a three-year term. Organization links with the Esopus province were severed, but cordial relations, financial assistance and willingness to let Brothers volunteer for the Philippines remain for a ten-year period. All American Brothers who came to the Philippines after 1959 were from the Esopus province, but for Francis O'Rorke of the Poughkeepsie Province. These were:

1961: Brs. Kevin O'Neill, Celestine Francis Ryder and Bonaventure Agostino Cocco;

1963: Brs. Peter Damian Adams and Richard Francis Shea;

1964: Brs. James F. McKnight and Jerome Daly;

1965: Br. Francis O'Rorke;

1966: Brs. Francis Martin Farrell;

1967: Brs. Robert McGovern; and in

1985: Br. Louis Alphonse Dubois.

Non-American Brothers:

1962: Br. Paul Johannes Meuten from the Francois-Xavier Institute;

1966: Br. Albano Stefani from Brazil

1964: Br. Simon Benedus from Sri Lanka

1980-1986: Br. Columbanus Pratt from Australia

1986-1991: Br. Mark Gillogly from Australia

1982-1986: Br. Gregory or Hans Seubert from Hong Kong to Guam

Philippine Province had accepted the supervision of Fr. Dueñas Memorial School in Agana. Assistance in Guam was provided by some American Brothers: Brs. Athansius Nobert Cote, Thomas Edward Hennessy, Francis Martin Farrell, and Louis Alphonse Buboïs.

In 1960, the new District personnel counted thirty-four Brothers, fifteen Filipino Brothers –two still finishing their studies at Marist College, nineteen foreigners, all Americans, five postulants and four novices, seven communities and 2,995 students in Marist schools. In 1961 the annual statistics published in *Circulars* report for the first time Marist Personnel in the Philippines independently of the mother province Esopus. The statistics for the 1948 to 1960 period did not segregate Mission personnel from the Brothers of the continental United States.

The District superiors were Br. Joseph Teston (September 1960-1964, the first Visitor of the District and Br. Norman Roy (May 15, 1954-1968). # # #

¹Copied from *The Marist Brothers of the Schools in the Philippines, The Mission Period: 1941-1960, A compilation of Essays by Br. Paul J. Meuten, fms, 2014, pages 19-20.*

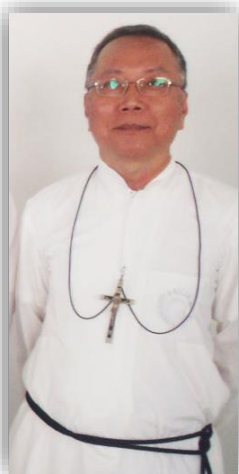
Birthday Greetings to:



December 13
Br. Paul (Keun-ho) Won



December 15
Br. Cristino M. Sta. Ana



December 20
Br. Thomas Chin (Hon Man)

Death Anniversaries:

December 16, 1936 – Br. Marie Hippolytus died in St. Genis-Laval.

December 16, 1974 – Br. Camille Leopold died in Aubenas, France.

December 20, 1981 – Br. Augustine Obed died in the Philippines.

December 20, 1962 – Br. Louis Gervase died in St. Genis-Laval.

December 20, 1978 – Br. Pablo Adonino died in South Africa.



Let us pray...

- For the sick brothers, affiliated members, benefactors, family members, friends and students.
- For the tornado victims in Kentucky, USA and other Southern states.
- For all essential workers, that God will protect them as they continue to serve others.
- For those most susceptible to the Coronavirus, that God will protect them from illness and surround them with the peace of knowing that they are loved and cared for beyond measure.
- For end of the pandemic.
- For all our birthday celebrants, may they receive God's abundant grace in their lives.

Attachment:

- ❖ Letter from Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, FMS, Superior General, dated December 10, 2021