



Marist Brothers East Asia



Marists
of Champagnat

News Bits

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UPDATES FROM BR. LINDLEY

06 January 2022

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

Happy Feast of the Epiphany.



I am writing to give some updates about myself. I am now in Colombia; at the moment in the cattle ranch of the brothers of the Norandina Province (Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador) here in Guamal, Department of Meta (In Colombia, they refer to the province as department). The provincial, Br. Orlando Escobar^a, brought me here for some days of rest and relaxation. Brothers Laurentino, Francisco Javier^b, Julian^c, Alonzo^d, Abdon, Oscar^e and Ernesto^f are also here. We arrived on the 28th of December, the others the day before. The road trip from Bogotá took about six hours because we made several stops along the way. Normal travel time is about four hours.

There is a river two km away; we go there often to swim. Cycling is also another pastime. After almost two years, I can ride the bicycle again. We celebrated the 72nd birthday of Br. Alonzo^d on New Year's eve with a prayer and had barbeque while waiting for 2022. On January 2, we went to the parish 7 km away for the Mass. We had a simple lunch in the house afterwards to celebrate the feast.





I left Rome with Br. Angel Medina, the Director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, on November 28. After three days of self-isolation in the Provincial House in Bogotá, we visited the scholasticate in the southern part of the city and met the six student brothers⁹, Andres Robles, Duvan Correa, Christian Sandoval, Junior Jaramillo, Michael Anamá and Kevin Quezada. Also, during our first week on Colombia, Br. Angel co-facilitated with Br. Joao do Prado the online retreat of the brothers of Central America.

I travelled with the scholastics to the La Valla Inter-Provincial Novitiate in Medellín on December 6. The road trip took 12 hours, including several stops along the way. It was a good way to get to know the country. Br. Angel, on the other hand, travelled by plane the day before. There in the novitiate, we celebrated the Day of the Little Candles (Día de las Velitas) on the eve of the Immaculate Conception. The Day of the Little Candles is a precursor to Christmas here in Colombia.



On December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Br. Ernesto Jose da Costa^f, from Venezuela made his first profession. Two other brothers in his group from the Province of Central America, Jose Gerardo Rivera (El Salvador) and Mesvin Antonio Marroquín (Guatemala) also professed on the same day in Guatemala; while the fourth brother, Nicolás Pedro Pinzon of Mexico Central made first profession on December 11 in Mexico.

While Br. Angel stayed two more days in Medellín, I took a 30-minute flight to Ibagué with Br. Francisco Javier^b. Br. Angel flew to Caracas, Venezuela on the 11th to facilitate the retreat of the brothers of the Venezuela Sector from December 17 to 22. He spent Christmas there and flew to Spain on the 26th for his home visit.

In Ibagué, meanwhile, from December 10-12, I collaborated with Br. Julian^c and Br. Orlando^a in accompanying the retreat in preparation for the renewal of vows of the six scholastics^a already named above and six other young brothers, Alexnys Flores, Juan Pablo Burgos, Hernán Casanova, Francisco Ruiz, Oscar Bolívar^e and Duberney Giraldo. Br. Alonzo Pino^d also participated in the retreat as he prepared for his final vows. He has lived practically all his life with the brothers, doing different services in the schools and the communities, and in 2012 began his novitiate formation. That explains why he is making final vows at such an advanced age. December 12 was the renewal of vows of the young brothers and the final profession of Br. Alonzo.



The house in Ibagué is inside the school. It is a house for the sick and elderly brothers. When I was there, there were seven brothers who composed the regular community, five of whom are elderly. Two other brothers were also there recuperating from sickness. I stayed there until the 18th; one reason was supposedly for the centenary of Br. Rafael Rengifo on December 15. However, he was admitted in the hospital the week before and the celebration did not happen. He died on the 20th.

I spent the Christmas break, from December 18 to 26 in Timbío, Department of Cauca, with the family of Br. Orlando – his sister Mirlady and her husband Uriel, and the children, Camilo, Camila, Jose and Luisa. I knew them since July 2020, when, at the request of Br. Orlando, I started teaching English online to Camilo, who was in final year in secondary school. I had a good time with them. It was also an opportunity to learn more Spanish, immerse in family life and experience Christmas in the village. There, we prayed the novena every night in anticipation of the birth of Christ.





The trip from Ibagué to Timbio took 15 hours by public ride with two transfers. It should have been only between 8 to 10 hours; but there were so many delays on the road. I was accompanied by one of the caregivers, Irene, who went for her family visit in the same department.

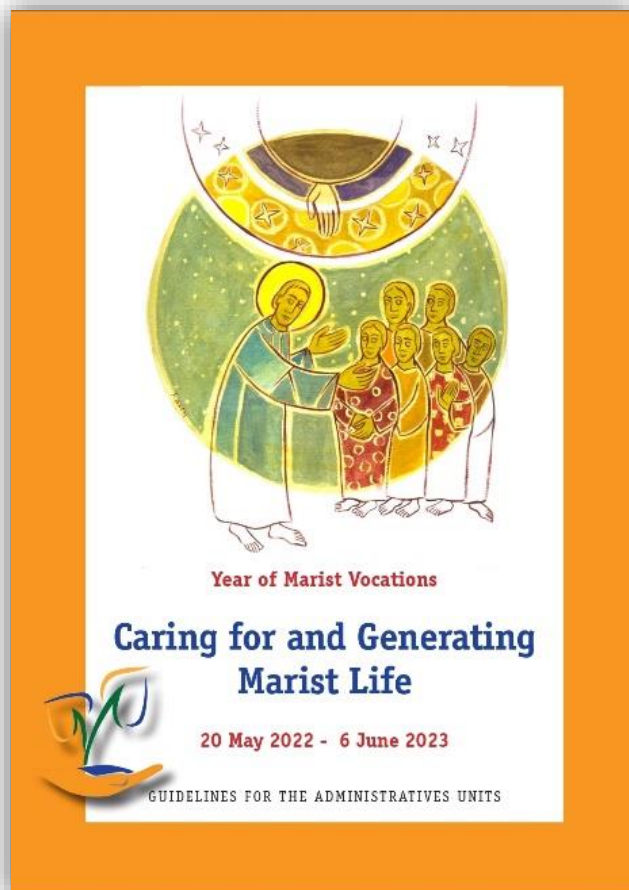
On the 27th, I flew to Bogotá and the next day, the trip to this ranch, which the brothers call, "La Pradera". On the 10th, we will return to Bogotá and I will be there until my return flight to Rome on January 15.

I should mention that while Br. Angel, our Link Councilors, Br. Oscar and Br. Joao, and I are not in Rome, we continued working with the Communications Department for the publication of the Orientation Guide for the Year of Marist Vocations. This guide was released on January 2, on the occasion of the 205th Foundation Anniversary of the Institute. Please check the website and download your copy.

This is all for now, Br. Ador. Oh, by the way, I hope to go to the Philippines sometime this year once the situation with regards to the pandemic improves. In the meantime, I could only keep my fingers crossed.

Fraternal regards to you and to all Marist of Champagnat in East Asia.

Lindley, FMS



PROVINCIAL'S COMMUNITY VISITATION

The Brother Provincial, Br. Ador visited the Brothers in the Communities of Dadiangas on January 3 to 5, Lake Sebu on January 6 to 7, and Novitiate in Tamontaka on January 7 to 9, respectively.

On the last night of his visit, the Brothers in the Novitiate invited him to have a dinner at the Arabian Cuisine. The food was great and the company was awesome.

He enjoyed the hospitality of the Brothers in the communities.



TPBIAM SECOND GATHERING

The Temporary Professed Brothers in Active Ministry (TPBIAM) had its second gathering last January 4-5 at Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu with the company of Brothers Danny and Jepoy. The gathering started with the opening prayer in the morning. The brothers were given time to reflect and evaluate themselves. Br. Danny scheduled an accompaniment for each brother in the afternoon. The brothers had dinner in Ramfels Paradise resort and stayed there for a night swimming and rest before going back to their respective communities the next day. The next gathering of the TBIAM is scheduled after the annual retreat of the sector. In this gathering, there will be reorganization and election of new officers.



VOCATION ACTIVITIES:

- October 28, 2021: Online Vocations Promotions at NDMU SHS
- November 17, 2021: Online Vocations Promotions at Marist School (SHS SMC Club)
- November 19: Progressive Matrices Exam of the following:
 - Rollenas, Jerry S. (Notre Dame of Magpet)
 - Compas, Orlando (Magpet National High School)
 - Rabika, Ashley Kian P. (Notre Dame of Kidapawan SHS)
 - Emoylan, Kirk Eugene S. (Notre Dame of Magpet)
 - Jopia, Romel B. (Notre Dame of Magpet)
 - Batongmalaki, Carl Andre G. (Notre Dame of Magpet)
- November 22, 2021: First meeting and initial interview of Mr. James Apura. His is 26 years old and a resident of PC Hill, Cotabato City. He is also an alumnus of NDC and finished his degree of BSBA at Notre Dame University)
- On-going follow up for those who expressed their interest



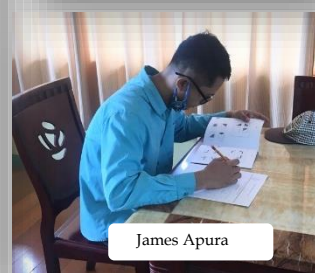
Kirk Emoylan



Jerry Rollenas Jr.



Carl Andrae Gementiza



James Apura

MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION

The initial meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the 6th Provincial Chapter of East Asia Province was held on January 7th. The Commission has various functions in preparation for the forthcoming Provincial Chapter which will be held on April 21-24, 2022. The Preparatory Commission is composed of Br. Rommel Ocassiones (Chairperson), Agnes Reyes (Secretary, laity representative), Br. Tony Tay (China Sector), Br. Paul Won (Korea-Japan Sector), Br. Ador (Outgoing Provincial) and Br. Allan de Castro (New Provincial).



Dom San

Agnes S. Reyes

Br. Anthony Tay

Won Kaunho

rommel ocassiones

ALLAN DE CASTRO

BR. MANNY'S 64TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The celebration of the 64th Birthday of the NDDU University President, Br. Manuel V. De Leon, FMS began with a Holy Eucharist at 8:30 in the morning at the auditorium. After mass, a simple snack was served. Guests and well-wishers who came to greet the celebrant during midday shared lunch at the Campus Ministry Office. Br. Manny was greeted by, among others, his friends, the Marist family, school personnel, and his own family and relatives. The evening event was more of a community celebration with sumptuous Filipino cuisines. And finally, as the day ended, Br. Manny posted in facebook his message that captured his gratitude and wishes for his birthday: *"Once again, thank you so much. At 64, everything that I got are now bonuses. Nothing to complain about. I can only wish to eat healthy food, love generously with no expectations and pray. I also would like to add, to be able to laugh at life's inconsistencies and to get a good night sleep to refresh me for another day."*



Photos:



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#64

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND THE “END” OF THE MISSION (1960-1997)¹

“When you study the history of the Marist Brothers, you cannot study it separate from the other Congregations in Mindanao at that time. You have to study it together.”

- Br. Joseph Damian Teston

Looking at the chronology of events relating to the Marist Presence in the Philippines between 1950 and 1959, one cannot help but agree with the youngest of the founding Marist Missionaries. It is with the same view that we look at the continuous growth of the Philippine Mission from the year 1960 onwards.

1960 was quite a busy year for the Marist Brothers. Notre Dame of Dadiangas College began the operation of its Elementary Department. Br. Grogan was appointed as Principal. At the same time, the Marist Brothers decided to respond to repeated requests of the Kidapawan community to open up a college in the area. Hence ND Kidapawan opened its College Department for school year 1960-1961 with Br. Norman Roy as its first Dean. Like what the Brothers did earlier in ND Dadiangas, ND Kidapawan functioned as a high school during the day and a college at night.

The Marist Novitiate in Tamontaka was being opened in 1960. In some accounts in the history of the Marist Brothers in the Philippines, the Novitiate in Tamontaka is said to have been opened in time for the habit-taking ceremony of the postulants from Lagao². The habit-taking ceremony was actually done on May 1st, while the Novitiate was officially opened on May 28th.

Also in 1960, the fourth group of Marist Aspirants in the United States returned to the Philippines. Like the ones before them, they immediately began their apostolic work, assisting the Marist Brothers in the schools.

The 1960 historical marker for the Marist Brothers in the Philippines proved to be the “end” of the Mission. I say the “end” of the Mission because in 1960 the General Council in Rome, under the leadership of the Marist Superior General Br. Charles Raphael, granted the Marist Brothers in the Philippines autonomy. After 12 years of Marist Presence in the country, the Philippines was no longer a Mission; it was now a Marist District.

The Marist Brothers are located in either country Provinces or District. Led by a Marist Provincial, a Marist Province is where the Marist Brothers in that country are able to support itself and undertake missions. The Marist Provincial directly reports to the General Council in Rome. A District on the other hand, while autonomous is still supported by a Marist Province. The head of a Marist District is called a District Visitor. The first Philippine Visitor was Br. Damian Teston. # # #

¹Reprinted from the unpublished book called MARISTA FILIPINAS, 60 Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines (1948-2008) written by Julio Gabriel G. Ubas, pages 47-48.

²The aspirants were Br. Crispin Betita, Jr., Br. Samuel Geveso, Br. Claro Precioso and Br. Isidro Saranillo. They were the first batch of Marist aspirants who underwent formation in the Philippines.

Birthday Greetings to:



JANUARY 12
Br. Joseph Ahn (Su-hun)



JANUARY 15
Br. Anthony Choi

Death Anniversaries:

January 10, 1960 - Br. Paul Felicite died in Beijing.
January 10, 1964 – Br. Joseph Avit died in France.
January 10, 1975 – Br. Emile-Andre died in Issenheim, France.
January 11, 1995 – Br. Marie Francis died in Beijing.
January 11, 2005 – Br. Konrad Bauer died in Hong Kong.
January 13, 1945 – Br. Joseph Claudius died in Hankow, China.
January 14, 1936 – Br. Louis Petrus died in Beijing.
January 14, 1951 – Br. Paul Chanel died in Hermitage.
January 14, 1972 – Br. Pierre Stanislaus died in Hong Kong.
January 15, 1977 – Br. Marie Kostka died in St. Genis-Laval.
January 16, 1991 – Br. Malya Bernerdin died in Beijing.
January 17, 1905 – Br. Andre Leon died in Beijing.



Let us pray...

- For the universal Church that it remains faithful in carrying out God's mission.
- For all of us Champagnat Marists that we will be protected as we stay under the mantle of Mary's protection and guidance in these times of crisis.
- For our Province as we begin our preparation and journey of discernment towards our 6th Provincial Chapter.