



Marist Brothers East Asia



Marists
of Champagnat

News Bits

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UPDATES

MARIKINA COMMUNITY

By: Br. Engel Freed Java, FMS

Greetings from Marikina community!

I hope and pray that each of you are keeping well in your respective places

As you are aware, the Philippines relaxed the restrictions on public movement, especially in Metro Manila, as Covid-19 infections declined during December. Many people were allowed to go out, including minors and senior citizens. Consequently, we took this opportunity to go out from the school vicinity. Here are some memorable events that happened from December to early January 2022.

Br. George stayed with us overnight after finishing his quarantine last December 9. To celebrate his presence in our community, we had dinner at CLOUD 9 ANTIPOLO: View Deck, Hanging Bridge & Restaurant.



Last December 22, we had a simple Christmas party with our mission partners and some school personnel. It was simple yet well celebrated and memorable experience for us.

On the following day, December 23, Jess Agbuya, Angel Sonico, and Reno Velasco, former brothers, visited the community. The community was glad to meet them.



Moreover, Last Jan. 2, we celebrated the 205th foundation anniversary of the Marist brothers with a simple prayer at the community chapel. We invited some school personnel to this important event. In the prayer service, Br. Manny gave us an enlightening speech about the memoirs of the first brothers. After that, a fellowship dinner was served at the community dining hall. Special thanks to Br. Chris for the delicious food that he prepared for us!



MALUTOK COMMUNITY AND PALAWAN MISSION



Simple Christmas, New Year, Foundation Day Celebrations with some students & parents.



205th Foundation Anniversary(FMS): Br. Albert planting Almasiga (bagtik) in our property.



Br. Albert's "Toto" 39th birthday celebration with the students, parents and friends on January 23.



Malutok Mission General Assembly (Edukasyon)



NURTURING A FAMILY THE MARIST WAY

Noemi B. Silva

Notre Dame of Marbel University

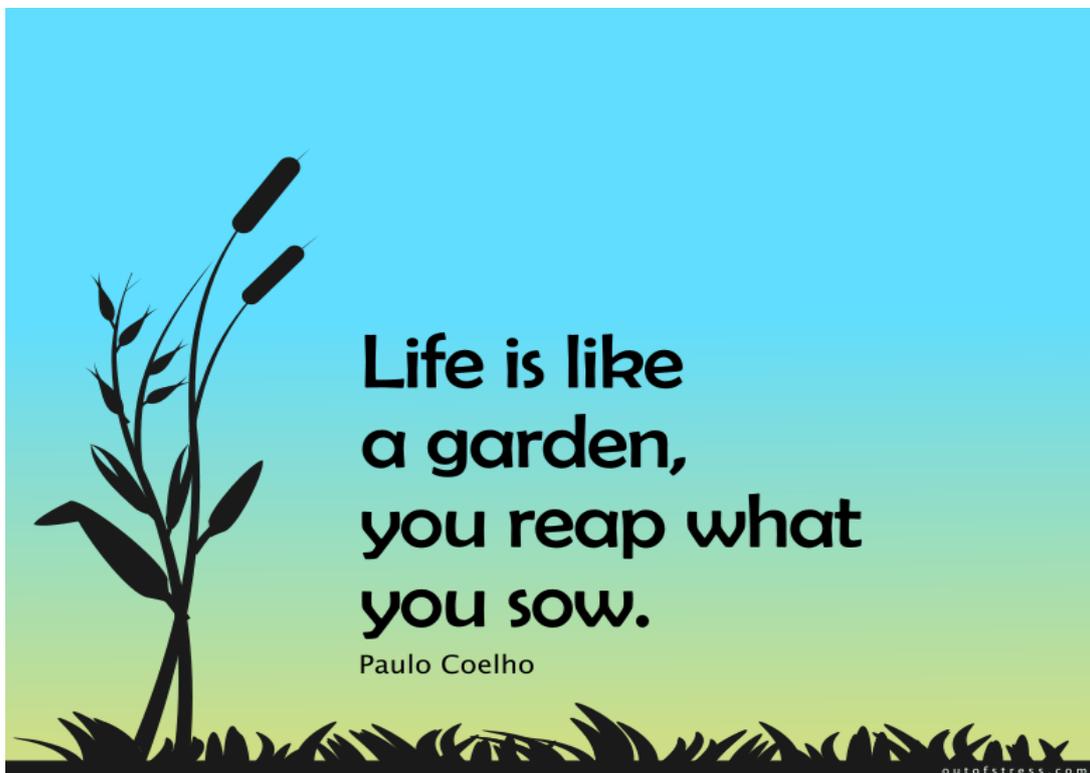
City of Koronadal, South Cotabato, PHILIPPINES

Bringing up three children while keeping a full-time university teaching job can be very challenging and at the same time rewarding. The daily struggle to do household chores, preparing lessons and ensuring that my children were fed and ready for school kept me busy all day. My husband and I had shared responsibility in child rearing and we agreed that our children were brought up with a strong faith in God. We attended Sunday mass as a family and evening prayers were recited before going to bed. My son once asked me if he can skip Sunday mass and evening prayer since he prayed in school and had attended first Friday mass. I said no because these are what we do as a family. We practice our faith and live by it. We ensured that they attended a Marist school where religious education is the core of the curriculum. I realized that what started as routine religious practices when they were young became an integral part of their grown-up life.

In our culture where family is very important, the values of love, respect and helping one another were taught early in life. Household tasks were shared and studies were taken seriously. We led a simple life where only essential things were bought. When my children were young, they would happily go to the toy section in a store. They would choose a robot or electric car and I gently told them that they can get another toy. They knew we cannot afford to buy them so they settled for something less expensive. When they became professionals, I asked my youngest son, an electronics engineer, if a latest mobile phone model was worth its price. He told me that it was too expensive for my purpose. Now my children would remind me to stick to the essentials, even if I can afford it. Being a parent is indeed rewarding to see your children take their productive roles in society. I am happy that they are now responsible parents to their young children.

As members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF), my husband and I share the Marist charism with other lay people in our local community. My husband is a

Minister of the Holy Eucharist and do volunteer work. I am active in my advocacy on pro-life, violence against women and children, morality in media and environmental protection. My family has expanded to my students and the community that we serve. We are indeed grateful for the Marist family spirit that has permeated our life.



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#66

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



MARIST APOSTOLIC PRIORITIES

First of the Two Parts

The following article is reprinted from the research paper done by Br. Niño Pizarro and Br. Demosthenes Calabria. This Research Paper entitled 60 Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines (1948-2008) was part of the requirements of the Patrimony Course in Rome in 2008. This section is found on pages 100-107.

It should be noted that in many circumstances, growth or development would be preceded by challenges. Challenges in the Institute, in the forms of questions to be raised by the Brothers or lay persons and problems that would arise in any situation, could be considered as forces that could lead to clarification and purification of one's mission and vision and edification of one's work or apostolate. But it might also lead to stagnation and idleness if not treated or discussed in an objective manner. With this, allow me to present some important situations that occurred in the life of the Marist Brothers in the Philippines in the 80s that led us into a new way of understanding our life as Religious Brothers and to a new perspective of our Apostolate.

a.1. In 1983, the Province considered the On Going Formation of its personnel. The Provincial Councilors gathered in Tamontaka from March 31 to April 2 and after the meeting they recommended to draw up a Master Plan for the formation of the Brothers, to wit: religious formation; professional formation of school presidents, principals, and assistant principals; religious formation of superiors and provincial councilors.

a.2. In 1984, there were few things worthy of recalling: A Brother was assigned as a full-time vocation recruiter. But the call to each Brother in the community to recruit in their respective areas of responsibility was still recommended; those who were interested to go for foreign missions may write to the Superior General. One of the four Brothers in the Philippines who wrote to him was given the permission to work in Papua New Guinea. In the formation committee, the members frequently gathered throughout the year to improve the programs for the candidates in the formation houses and discern the kind of staff who would be working in the formation houses.

a.3. In August of 1986, Bro. Mark Gillogly of the Sydney Province came to the Philippines to help us with our Formation Programs. He stayed for five years working in the formation.

a.4. On November 14, 1986, the Brothers received an important letter from the Superior General informing them the result of the General Council's plenary sessions concerning the life of the Philippine Province. Let me quote what he said in his letter: *"During our plenary sessions, the General Council took some time to reflect on the Philippine Province and its present needs. The sondage gave the chance to re-examine the priorities you indicated, and to review the important recommendations in the past official visits to the Province. We also took notice of your recent assemblies, where vital issues and concerns were discussed for the purpose of giving new life to the Province. It is evident from this information, that this period*

is a critical one for the future development of a Marist presence that would take into account the formation needs of the Brothers and the demands being made on them by the apostolate." The result of the first sondage given showed the dispersion in the votes. Along with this result and with the above issues, the General Council decided to postpone a second sondage until the next official visit to the Province in 1987. Bro. Charles, in his letter, made a recommendation to send two General Councilors to be present for the Brothers' retreat and assembly in December 1987. This he recommended to allow the General Administration to be present in the discernment of the Brothers' priorities and in the choice of the Provincial who was needed in the circumstances.

a.5. From December 30, 1987 until January 3 of the following year, the Brothers had their retreat – assembly. With them were Bro. Charles Howard, the Superior General and Bro. Renato Cruz, Councilor General. Bro. Renato was appointed by the Superior General to be a delegate of the Chapter and was asked to finish the remaining term of Bro. James McKnight as Provincial. The Chapter was also convened to elect the new set of Provincial Councilors.

a.6. On March 20 to April 2, 1988, a Provincial Council was held in Calumpang and the major concerns discussed were the following:

- The Provincial Council was initiating the turnover of administration of one of our colleges due to lack of competent personnel and the need of Brothers to work directly with the students.
- The Provincial Council was initiating an alternative apostolate for the poor in the area of Mindanao.
- Social Analysis Workshop and Exposure Programs for the Brothers' awareness of the social issues affecting the lives of the poor.

a.7. In 1989, exposures to different places were made by the Brothers for them to become more aware of the poor and to help the Province in its search for an alternative apostolate.

a.8. In 1990, Bro. Renato Cruz was appointed by the General Council as Provincial of the Philippine Province for a term of three years. After the Chapter in April, the incumbent councilors were all re- elected. It was also in this year that the Asian Superiors gathered and thought of establishing a Scholasticate for Asian Brothers. For the following year, a three-year Marist Asian Center program based on the Nairobi model to be established in the Philippines was endorsed by the Provincial Council. The Marist Asian Center Scholasticate later was changed to Marist Asia Pacific Center to accommodate the Brothers from the Pacific Islands. December 17, 1989 was the launching of the Marist Family Movement in Kidapawan. It was considered as the first movement emphasizing the role of the lay people in the Institute.

a.9. In 1991, two various apostolates geared towards working with the poor were founded, namely: Marcellin Homes for Street Children and Sinayawan Mission. After the Brothers left Sinayawan mission, they opened a new apostolate with the same nature of work except the formal teaching in the school.

- **Marcellin Homes for Street Children**

"Bro. Crispin Betita, on January 25, 1991, started the street children project. He started with 9 children at NDDC's Dadiangas Heights house. In March the children were transferred to Obed Hall (formerly Alumni Hall) at NDDC High School campus in Lagao. The following month, the group moved to Katangawan, at the house and land of Mrs. Gloria Ramos."¹ This

project has been considered as a fruit of the Brothers' exploration on alternative apostolate where they could continue to make Jesus Christ known and loved. "From the very start the project had the approval and cooperation of the city Government, particularly the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)."2 # # #

End of the First Part

¹ Marist Philippine Province's History; 1991, Doc. 683.H.027

¹ Daring in Hope, Fifty Years of Marist Presence in the Philippines (1998-1999); Marcellin Foundation (1991)

Birthday Greetings to:



January 29
Br. Paul Ching (Sun Nam)



January 29
Br. Anthony Tan Kim Hock



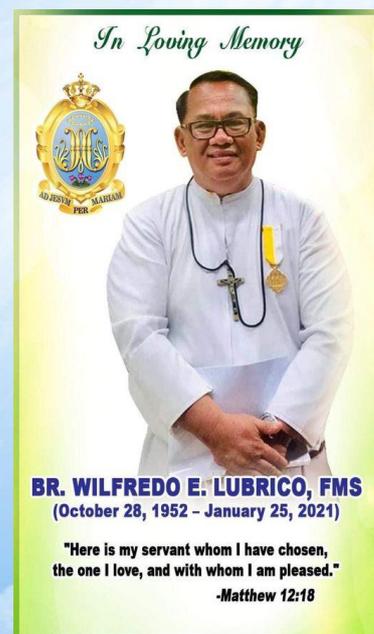
January 31
Br. Arnel S. Alfanta



January 29
Mr. Michael Lim Onn Hock

Death Anniversaries:

- January 24, 1988 – Br. Michael O’Keefe died in USA.
January 24, 1931 – Br. Joseph Clerus died in Shanghai.
January 25, 2021 – Br. Wilfredo Lubrico died in the Philippines.
January 25, 1957 – Br. Marie Bajule died in SPTC, France.
January 26, 1984 – Br. Jowang Barnabe died in Hebei, China.
January 26, 2004 – Bartolomeo Kim Chang Soo (Affiliated member) died in Korea
January 28, 1992 – Br. Norman Cyril Roy died in the Philippines.
January 28, 1948 – Br. Joseph Vincent, Provincial, 1928-1938 died in Beijing.
January 28, 1948 – Br. Joseph Felicite died in St. Genis-Laval.
January 29, 1976 – Br. Francois Antoine died in Sri Lanka.
January 30, 1977 – Br. Michael Desire died in Hong Kong.
January 30, 1941 – Louis Wang, a junior died in Beijing.
January 31, 1995 – Br. Nicetus Ku died in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.



Let us pray...

1. For the victims of natural calamities that they will find comfort and generous people to help in their needs.
2. For world peace and the end of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
3. For the safety and protection of each one of us as we live our lives amidst the threat of the surge of corona virus.
4. For those who are in anguish and struggling in their lives brought about by the effect of the pandemic.
5. For children and the young experiencing difficulties in their studies and day to day life.
6. For our students and personnel as they continue to cope with the demands of the new normal.
7. For our Brothers and Lay Marists that as the new year begins, we may find the inspiration to carry-on meaningfully the mission for the children and young in most need.
8. Grant us the strength to always act as stewards, keeping the preservation of your creation at the forefront of our minds as we go about each day.
9. As we prepare for our 6th Provincial Chapter, may the Holy Spirit guide us all in discerning for our apostolic priorities in the years to come.