



# News Bits

Volume 4, Issue No. 15

April 04, 2022

## UPDATES:

### LAGAO COMMUNITY

Last March 25, the Lagao Community had a despedida party for Bro George Valle, who left for Bangladesh on the 30<sup>th</sup>. He had been our guest since he arrived in December 2021. In the same event we also had community happy hour; we enjoyed the food prepared by Bros. Ian and George, as well as the conversations regarding politics and the upcoming elections. Meanwhile, Br. Gilbert just finished his home quarantine for 7 days because he tested positive for COVID. Caregivers Ainiel and Mark provided him assistance in his recovery time.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, Br. Ador Santiago arrived from Rome where he attended the General Conference of Provincials. The following day, Br. Ted Fernandez, our new community member also arrived. The Brothers had a welcoming celebration for him as well as happy hour. We had a nice meal accompanied by beautiful oldies background music.

Seeing the elderly brothers gathered on one table and enjoying one another's companionship reflects the words of St. Marcellin in his last testament: *"May you be of one heart and one mind. May it be said of the Little Brothers of Mary as of the first Christians: see how they love one another."*



**Meeting of Vocation Coordinators and Teams / Encuentro de los Coordinadores y Equipos de Pastoral Vocacional. 9:00 AM Rome Time Group | 31 March 2022**



**NDDU College of Health and Sciences linking with Philippine National Red Cross for Blood Letting and Donation Activities. Our goal is to promote blood donation among personnel and students and at the same time save lives by making blood available in time of need.**

**Presidents of Higher Education Institutions in General Santos City had a breakfast meeting hosted by NDDU as part of getting to know each other and agreed to work together in promoting "engaged citizenship" in the city. Colleges and Universities represented were: Holy Trinity College, Golden State College, Brokenshire College, Gensan Foundation Inc., Cronasia College, MSU-Gensan and NDDU. We hope that other HEIs will be able to join in the next meeting to be hosted by MSU.**



DepEd Officials visited NDDU Senior High School to see its implementation of limited face to face classes.



**ANNOUNCEMENT:** from LifeRich Publishing, an imprint of Reader's Digest, 8:35 AM March 29, 2022.

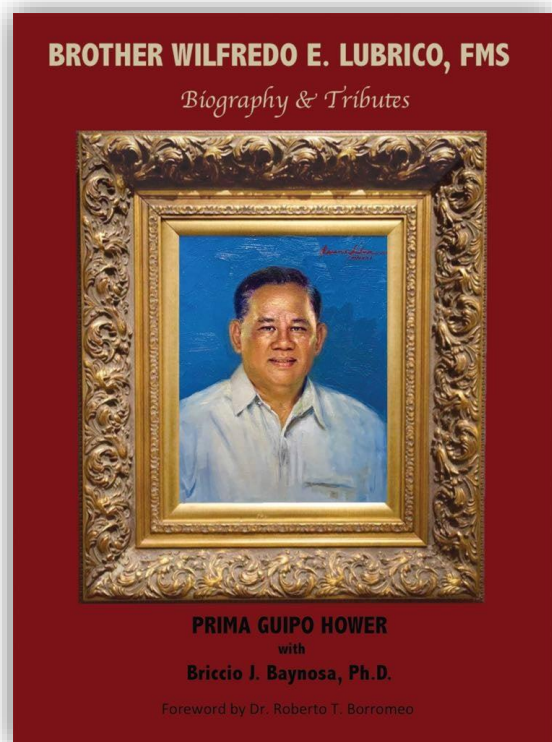
Dear Prima,

Congratulations

*! Your book, Brother Wilfredo E. Lubrico, FMS (Biography & Tributes), (Willy Lubrico) has successfully completed the LifeRich publication process. What you have accomplished is great—you're officially a published author! You've transformed your unique thoughts and ideas into a published work, and we here at LifeRich are thrilled we were able to help.*

*The print format of your book is now listed on the LifeRich website and will be available for sale through our ordering system within 24 to 48 hours upon receipt of this letter.*

*The print format of your book is expected to be listed on Amazon.com in 48 hours. YOU CAN ORDER AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY through Prima Guipo Hower. Yes, please share.*





## THE INSTITUTE OF THE MARIST BROTHERS IS COMMITTED TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION



During the X General Conference of the Marist Brothers' Institute, Brother Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Superior General, his Council, and the Provincials and District leaders who are gathered in Rome, Italy, from the 8th to the 27th of March 2022, resolved to support and participate in the Global Compact on Education with the following statement:

**As Marists of Champagnat, we are committed to the Global Compact on Education promoted and launched by Pope Francis to facilitate a renewed commitment to the education of children and young people not only in the formal classroom setting, but also in the family and the community.**

Consequently, the Marists of Champagnat will continue to place the human person at the center of all our efforts, promote the full education and participation of children and

young people, whether male or female, listen to their voices, and acknowledge the family as the principal and essential "educating component" in all systems of education.

We will continue to educate the culture of encounter to avoid the culture of indifference, promote processes to achieve an integral ecology in all our ministries, and protect and nurture our "common home".

Our commitment to the Global Compact also extends through our participation in the local and international events which support the Compact's underlying principles.

We will continue partnering with the International Organization for Catholic Education (OIEC), the Education Commission of the Union of Superiors General (UISG/USG), and other like-minded entities to engage in studies to find other ways of understanding economics, politics, growth, and ecology.

### SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE MARIST BROTHERS:

**Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez**  
General Vicar

**Br. Josep Maria Soteras**  
General Council

**Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa**  
General Council

**Br. Hipólito Pérez**  
América Central

**Br. Antonio Benedito de Oliveira**  
Brasil Centro-Sul

**Br. Máximo Blanco**  
Compostela

**Br. Dominador Aquino**  
East Asia

**Br. Pere Ferré**  
L'Hermitage

**Br. Luis Felipe González**  
México Central

**Br. Orlando Escobar**  
Norandina

**Br. Mervyn Perera**  
South Asia

**Br. Allan de Castro**  
East Asia

**Br. Ernesto Sánchez**  
General Superior

**Br. Ben Consigli**  
General Council

**Br. Ken McDonald**  
General Council

**Br. Venceslas Baindekeli**  
Afrique Centre Est

**Br. Peter Carroll**  
Australia

**Br. Devis Alexandre Fischer**  
Brasil Sul-Amazonia

**Br. Raúl Schönfeld**  
Cruz del Sur

**Br. Robert Thunus**  
Europe Centre-Ouest

**Br. Michel Maminiamina**  
Madagascar

**Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez**  
México Occidental

**Br. Peter Horide**  
Pacific District

**Br. Norbert Mwila**  
Southern Africa

**Br. Gabriel Ville-Réal**  
L'Hermitage

**Br. João Carlos do Prado**  
General Council

**Br. Óscar Martín**  
General Council

**Br. Cyprian Gandeabo**  
Afrique de l'Ouest

**Br. José de Assis Elias**  
Brasil Centro-Norte

**Br. Gaston Robert**  
Canada

**Br. Capisio José Willrich**  
M. District of Asia

**Br. José Abel Muñoz**  
Ibérica

**Br. Aureliano García Manzanal**  
Mediterránea

**Br. Vincent U. Abadom**  
Nigeria

**Br. Pablo González Franco**  
S. M<sup>a</sup> de los Andes

**Br. Daniel O'Riordan**  
USA

**Br. Nicholas Fernando**  
South Asia

ROME, MARCH 22/2022



## Audience of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to the participants of the General Conference of the Marist Brothers

24.03.2022

Dear brothers, good morning and welcome!

I thank the Superior General for his words and I greet all of you who participate in the General Conference of your Institute, a very important appointment that convenes you every eight years, between two General Chapters.

It is therefore a strong moment of reflection, of reading the signs of the times, and also of verifying how the journey is going and how the indications given by the previous Chapter are received. But not looking back, always looking forward! Like someone who is at the helm of a boat: to see if the course is correct he does not look at the wake behind, but looks forward, keeping an eye on two or three reference points that



---

give him orientation. I imagine that you too have verified the path on the basis of some fixed points. And the first fixed point is the Word of God. We are in Lent, and the Mother Church calls us to put things back in the right order: in the first place God and his Word. It's easy to say, but it's not easy to do! Especially when the Word asks us to "look beyond", to "look beyond", as the title of your Conference says. Beyond what? Of the worldly mentality, beyond short-term interests, beyond a partial perspective, in order to be able to open up to the horizon of a universal fraternity. But always beyond.

It seems to me that this is precisely the perspective you have chosen for your works these days, in order to be able to serve in the best way a family - that of the Marist Brothers - which is multicultural and multiethnic, and which therefore asks you to overcome borders, not so much geographical, but mentality. This does not mean detaching oneself from one's roots, absolutely not! There is no contradiction between faithfulness to the roots and universal openness, it is continuity, it is normal growth. On the contrary, according to the model of Christ the Lord, it is precisely by remaining faithful to the end of the pact of love with the people entrusted to us that our service becomes fruitful for all, through the power of God's grace, the fecundity that makes us look forward with strength.

For the Marist Brothers, this means remaining faithful to the education and evangelization service of the young, according to the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. He knew how to "look beyond", and he knew how to teach young people to "look beyond", to open themselves to God, to the horizons of love according to the Gospel. He was guided by the example of the Virgin Mary, the "good Mother",



---

as he said: Mary was a little woman from a suburban village, but her heart looked beyond, she had the horizon of the Kingdom of God, she it was open. And this is reflected in the *Magnificat*, where God's plan of salvation resounds through the voice of her humble servant. What is more beautiful, more effective than the *Magnificat* to educate a girl or a boy to open up to God and to his loving plan? The *Magnificat* contains a vision of life and history; it is a school of faith and prayer, which frees one from being closed in on oneself and from all spiritualism, and shows the joy of believing, hoping and loving according to the Gospel of Christ.

All this, dear brothers, belongs to you, belongs to your roots and your heritage, and asks to always be conjugated with the changing reality, with the characteristics of the new generations. For example, young people are showing sensitivity and interest in ecology. There is a great field of education here; because unfortunately the worldly mentality - allow me the pun - also pollutes ecology, reduces it, makes it ideological and superficial. Instead, God's horizon is that of an integral ecology, which always holds together the environmental and social dimensions, the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. Children, young people and young people are predisposed to become guardians of creation, but they need to learn that this is not reduced to slogans, it is not just a denunciation, but a way of life, it requires patience, fortitude, temperance, justice. In short, one is not born as a custodian of creation, but one becomes one with an educational journey.

This also belongs to you. And the example I gave on ecology can be applied to other fields, such as social and political commitment, such as the field of communication, or even before that of study and



---

work, seen from a perspective of integral promotion of person. But above all, as religious, spiritual education belongs to you, which is the basis of integral growth. This belongs to you as religious: spiritual education. Jesus Christ is the Master of life and truth, the way to follow to become men and women in fullness, and the Holy Spirit is the interior Master who forms Christ in us. What a vocation, what a mission, brothers, to cooperate with Christ and the Spirit to accompany young people in this adventure! It is really too big for us, poor sinners.

This is what I wish for you and all your brothers around the world. *Looking beyond to educate to look beyond*, with Mary, in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus. And this is precisely the strongest denunciation against the Enlightenment conception of education, that is to copy ideas, ideas, ideas ... No. Educating to look beyond to teach look over. This destroys the whole static and enlightenment, ideological conception of education. Education is a challenge to the whole person: to people's thoughts, feelings and work. But this must look further.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten you and comfort you always on your journey and in your service. And also my blessing accompany you. And you, please, do not forget to pray for me, because this work is not easy!

Franciscus





# THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

## #76

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



### AMIHAN NEWSLETTER<sup>1</sup> EXCERPTS

*January-February 1997, page 6*

A. College Days (at NDDC) prompted the postulants and aspirants to join in the track and field, scrabble, and softball events. Allan (de Castro) was first place in scrabble. At the track and field competition, Luis Manzano was first in 200-meter dash, Rommel Ocasiones, second place in a 100-meter dash and Cristopher Talandron ranked second in 400-meter dash. In academics Allan de Castro and John Paul Purisima were qualified to be in the Dean's List for the Mid-term this second semester. Congratulations to everyone! (Br. Hilario Sevilla, fms)

*January-February 1997, pages 21-22*

Br. Gilbert is cooking up something. It is not really a secret for he has told Bro. Ray (Renato Cruz) and myself about this. I don't know whether he has told anybody else. He is doing something which I consider as particularly unique - he is writing his autobiography<sup>2</sup>. I find this quite unusual for a person like him. If there is one Brother in our province whose background is quite a mystery to me, it is no other than Gabe himself. In fact, it was only recently that I solved the mystery of his name. I always wondered why on earth do I call him Gabe when his name is Gilbert. I heard Brothers calling him Gib. In case nobody knows, his real name is Gabriel and Gilbert is his religious name. That explains the name Gabe. To go back to the autobiography, I couldn't but notice the excitement in which he told me

About the news of his plan to write his life. I would have thought that he would break a news like this in a more morose or reluctant way, but not in this exuberant mood as if he has won first prize in a lottery ticket. Doubtless, this is something extraordinary; I haven't yet heard of anybody in our province planning to do this. And to hear this from Gabe is quite a shock for me. Questions race through my mind... Is he finally going to confront himself with his past? Is this the beginning of a purgation of sorts? Will this be a painful exercise for him? Will he share this with others? Will I have the chance to read it at all? How is it to travel with Gabe down memory lane? These and many more queries floated through my questioning mind.

Without applying much pressure, I cornered him one afternoon and gently asked him some innocent but leading questions regarding the progress of his autobiography. He gladly indulged me with his answers. Again, to my surprise he did know with much gusto and enthusiasm. The gist of our conversation went like this: He has so much time in his hands that it has literally become a luxury for him. At a certain point in time, an inspiration struck him leading him to toy with the idea of putting his life in writing which later became a conscious desire to start with it. He claimed that this is the right time for him to do it because he is still able to recall the events in his life which according to him are still vivid in his memory. He can still go back as far as when he was still three years old, the time his family migrated from Iloilo to the wilderness of Mindanao, the involvement of his two brothers who were members of the guerilla movement, his early

experiences in Mindanao where their house was destroyed by flood, etc. He is already into chapter six of his *obra maestra* and it is worth while waiting for its accomplishment since I am one person who would like to know the real Bro. Gilbert. Knowing one's history is one way of knowing who the person really is. If you want to know yourself you much discover your roots - the wellspring of what you are today. (Br. Briccio Baynosa)

<sup>1</sup>*Amihan Newsletter*, a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Marist Philippine Province. This was later replaced by an annual publication of East Asia Province called *Amihan Plus*. At present it was transformed into a weekly Province's publication called *FMS News Bits*.

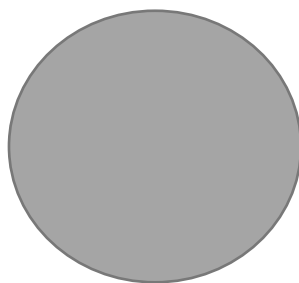
<sup>2</sup>Br. Gilbert Bogacia's autobiography entitled *Searching: A Travelogue of Life*, November 2007, has been published in this *News Bits* in 9 parts under *The Archivist's Corner*, #34-#42.

## *Birthday Greetings to:*



**April 04**

Br. Albert A. Muñoz



**April 04**

Dr. Luca Go Kyong Mun  
(Affiliated Member)



**April 09**

Br. Anthony Cheng (Chin Yeong)



**April 09**

Br. Michael Park Sung-won



**April 10**

Br. Edgar R. Ceriales



**April 10**

Br. Rechie Dean M. Bagsican

## *Death Anniversaries:*

- April 4, 1947 – Br. Marie Anthelme died in Negombo, Sri Lanka.  
April 4, 2007 – Br. Denis Condado died in Hong Kong.  
April 5, 2008 – Br. Lece Dominique died in Beijing.  
April 6, 1967 – Br. Xavier died in Tianjin, China.  
April 7, 1936 – Br. Marie Francis died Beijing.  
April 7, 1988 – Br. Reginald Theodore Laflamme died in the Philippines.  
April 8, 1985 – Br. Leon Marie died in St. Genis-Laval.  
April 9, 1883 – Br. Nestor, 3<sup>rd</sup> S.G. 1880-1907, died in France.  
April 9, 1951 – Br. Marie Ausone died in Indian Ocean.  
April 10, 1961 – Br. Joseph Avit died in St. Genis-Laval.  
April 10, 2009 – Br. Timoteo M. Cabangon died in the Philippines.



*Let us pray...*

- *For the departed Brothers, Sisters, Family Members, Friends and Affiliates.*
- *For the eternal repose of the soul of Mrs. Joyce Sucayan. Mrs. Sucayan was the registrar of Marist Asia Pacific Center from 1991 to 2008.*
- *For fast recovery of Mr. Carlos Malinao.*
- *For relief of all who are suffering.*
- *For all those in authority, that they govern wisely and fairly.*
- *For our communities, that we proclaim the love of Christ in word and deed.*
- *For the protection and comfort of the victims of human trafficking and slavery as well as to the children and youth who suffer greatly throughout the world.*
- *For Pope Francis and all the Religious around the world.*
- *For world peace.*
- *For all birthday celebrants and for their own personal intentions.*