



News Bits

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Provincial's Message:

AN EASTER GRATITUDE

*Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)*



Happy Easter to all, Marists of Champagnat!

As we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, our hearts are grateful for the profound reality that we have been saved. This reality gives us never-ending assurance that we are redeemed by God's love manifest in Jesus. This same love celebrated in Easter inspires us all now to **"walk in the newness of life!"**

As I end my term as your Provincial for the past three years, I share with you the joy of Easter, with a profound expression of my gratitude to all of you. Thank you very much for all the support, the inspiration, and the collaboration to help realize the desire we set for the East Asia Province. We began our journey under my term with the vision of becoming **praying, caring, and daring** Marists of Champagnat. Your contribution in all forms realized these aspirations. Hence, to this day, I feel blessed knowing that our collaborative efforts bore fruits for the good of our Province and our mission.

To Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, and his Council, the members of the Provincial Council, Br. Allan de Castro, Br. Manuel de Leon, Br. Domingo Lee and Br. Andrew Chan, the Sector Coordinators, all brothers and lay Marists of Champagnat, the members of the commissions and committees actively at work for the best interest of our Province, our mission partners, benefactors, and friends, **thank you very much!**

One with Mary, I pray her song of gratitude as I conclude my term: *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"*

Hereon, may our Easter gratitude lead us always as we **walk in the newness of life!**


BR. ADOR SANTIAGO, FMS
Provincial



FMS Champagnat
APRIL 15, 2022

May we be found in depth with the resurrected Jesus! (H. Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Senior General).

"In the recent hearing we had with Pope Francis, towards the end of the General Conference, we ask him for his blessing for all the Brothers, Laicos and Laicos committed to the life and mission of the Institute, and for all the young people of nues after educational and social works in 78 countries and their families.

The Pope, among other things, told us: "Jesus Christ is the Master of life and truth, the way forward to becoming fully men and women, and the Holy Spirit is the inner Master who forms Christ in us. What a vocation, what a mission, brothers, to cooperate with Christ and with the Spirit to accompany the youth on this adventure! "

May we, this Easter, find ourselves in depth with resurrected Jesus and be able to respond with joy and passion to the challenges presented to us in these new times we live. He constantly reminds us: Fear not! (Mt 28,10).

Happy Easter to each of you, your communities and your families! "

H. Ernesto Sanchez Barba, Senior General



UPDATES

**BROTHERS OF THE
PHILIPPINE SECTOR
HOLY WEEK RETREAT
AT MARIST
SPIRITUALITY AND
MISSION CENTER
IN LAKE SEBU,
SOUTH COTABATO**



Arrival in the Philippines of Brother Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, and Brother Josep Maria Soterias, Councilor General.



Easter Vigil Mass and Renewal of Vows at Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center Lake Sebu, South Cotabato (APRIL 16, 2022)



Birthday Celebrations!

Br. Joseph Yoshida: 92nd Birthday in Kobe Community, Japan



Br. John Allen Timola: 33rd birthday and Easter Sunday Celebrations in the Philippines. Br. John Allen is a member of Kobe Community.





Br. Gilbert Bogacia was visited by his relatives on his 87th birthday in Lagao.



Photo of the group in Kalsangi Club House Restaurant during Br. Edgar's birthday celebration on April 17. Aside from the Brothers of Lagao Community (minus Brs. Gilbert and Wency). Also present were the two Councilor Generals, Bros. Luis and Josep, the two ladies who are volunteering to La Valla 200, Agnes Reyes, Br. Pat Corpus and Br. Cyril Sumugat.



**Malutok Community:
Simple Easter Celebration
in Puerto Princesa,
Palawan, Philippines**



Brothers Peteru Navuku and Dionesio Acosta from Marbel Community with their friends visited the Marist District of Asia Community in Davao City and Camp Sambros in Kapatangan, Digos City.

Holy Week: Monday



MARIST MARIKINA ENGAGES IN THE PROCESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

(Luz Jaban)

The Lay Marist Community of Marikina gathered on April 11 and 12 for the on-going reflection leading to the International Forum on the Marist Laity Vocation, with the theme: Welcoming, Nurturing, Living and Sharing our Vocation. The twenty-five participants were composed of administrators, CMMF members, faculty, and staff. It was animated by Ms. Marjorie Rañeses and her team.

They were led to recall the Marist Spirituality – Marian and Apostolic, the life and charism of our founder St Marcellin Champagnat and our vocation as Marist Laity.

Each participant shared his/her reflection on his/her vocation journey through an art activity and other engaging group activities that helped articulate experiences, difficulties, struggles, triumph, goals, and mission.

Some of them shared the articles/documents on Faith-based Family, Spiritual Itinerary Process and something on bonding and belonging.

The gathering was graced by the Marist Brothers: Brother Luis Carlos Gutierrez, FMS, Vicar General, Brother Josep Maria Soteras, FMS, Link Councilor General for Asia and Oceania, and Brother Allan de Castro, the incumbent president of Marist School Marikina and the incoming Provincial of the Marist East Asia Province.

The event culminated with a table fellowship. The participants were spirit-filled, had the sense of bonding and belonging, inspired and motivated to continue the journey of being lay men and women in the way of Mary.



Brief meeting with Bro Josep, General Councilor, with the NDMU Law School admin and other lawyers, Notre Dame alumni from different Marist schools.



Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, Vicar General, Br. Josep Soterias, General Councilor, and Br. Paterno Corpus, the University President, with some of the NDMU CMMF members.



Champagnat Movement of Marist Family Lenten reflection at Alumni Center, Notre Dame of Marbel University

The CMMF gathered for prayer, reflection, and sharing to run through the process for the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation.



**Champagnat Marist
Family of Kidapawan
Gathering, Prayer,
Reflection, and Easter
Celebration at Ochia's
Farm House**

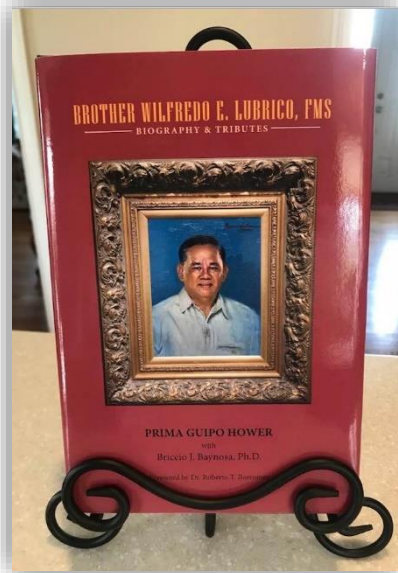


The publication of Br. Willy Lubrico's book.

The book is now published! I am reaching out to everyone who might be able to help us spread the word. Below is our request to all our friends to help promote BW's book especially abroad where it is now widely on sale (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Target, and numerous other online bookstores).

Our publisher Reader's Digest LifeRich Publishing is giving us 25% royalty for all books sold which will go to the Abante Lumad Scholarship Program that BW initiated in 2011 at Notre Dame of Marbel University. All profits from this book will also be donated to this scholarship to send to college the poor but deserving Indigenous students.

Prima Guipo Hower
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Thank You!

Contributors: Tribute



The Vicar General, Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez, and Councilor General Joseph Maria Soterias visited Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, General Santos City, Philippines.



Dinner with visitors from Rome and Marikina. Welcome home, Br. Lindley. Thank you, Br. Ador. Best wishes, Br. Allan.



THE ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

#78

Br. Romulo L. Porras, FMS



The following article is a reprint from **AMIHAN NEWSLETTER** of the then Marist Philippine Province, January-February 1997 issue, pages 39-43. This article was written by Fr. Robert Sullivan, OMI through the effort of Mr. Jose Nacienceno, former Campus Minister of Marist School, Marikina.

A BIT OF HISTORY OF OUR PROVINCE'S BEGINNINGS

From the Point of View of a Non-Marist Brother

Last of Two Series

In Cotabato, the campus of ND Boys Department and ND University were not adjoining but very near each other. In NDU, we could hear the loudspeaker at the Boys' Department. Every day at the opening of the morning session and again in the afternoon session, Bro. James would give a talk about some aspects of moral living. Two talks every day. Even in the burning sun of 1:30 p.m., the talk would go on. He told me that he knew it would be boring for many of the boys, but he just hoped that some of it would stick.

Maybe, someday!

One day I was on a plane from Manila to Cotabato. A Moro was beside me and introduced himself as a graduate of ND Boys. He wanted to talk about old times, like where is Bro. Damian and something about him. How is Br. Peter. He asked about other Brothers who had come later but might be in Marbel or Lagao. Then there was a long pause. He said, "You know, I always hated Bro. James." Pause. "Until I had my first child. Then I understood what he was trying to do for us." Bro. James had hoped that some of his talk would stick. It did.

Bro. James got sick years later and was brought to Manila for treatment. After some time, he was brought back to Cotabato Notre Dame Hospital. He died soon after that. The winning coach was reporting to headquarters. He was always faithful to the Rosary before every game. That's what the team saw.

Bro. Peter Leonard was a very different type. He taught Biology and when the lesson was about vegetation or about the function of an animal's body, the lesson would be outdoors. And real grass and real seed, real leaves were the text. The same applied to

animals and their parts like why do some animals have eyes on the front of their head, but others have eyes on the side of their head?

During vacation time, Bro. Peter would disappear. They would get a post card from him from some remote part of the Philippines. Most of the time he would help farmers and move from one

place to another. He worked like all the others and enjoyed it. He would be back a day before the opening of enrollment.

Maybe Bro. Peter was most famous for his "Coconut Medal," This was just a very old dried-up coconut tied with fibers so that it could be carried.

Every Monday morning, the coconut medal would be awarded to the one who had done the dumbest thing during the past week.

The coconut medal became famous because you could not get rid of it and everybody in school knew about the coconut medal.

For example, if someone was caught cheating in a test, he was the next honoree to get the coconut medal because cheating in an exam is stupid.

On Monday morning he would be awarded the coconut medal. He had to bring it with him. He had no place to hide it. It was too big to hide it easily. If he tried to hide it, that would be stupid, so he would get it again next Monday.

When noon recess came, he would have to carry the coconut medal along the street among countless other students who could see him and who knew what the coconut meant. When he got home, he would have the same shame of showing the coconut medal to the family. Then on next Monday, he would have to walk the street again carrying the coconut medal back to school with great relief and with many prayers that he would not be chosen by the class to get the same medal again. It happened more than once.

Despite the horrors of the coconut medal, it was done very democratically. A list of the most irresponsible acts of the week were written on the board, and the class was asked to select the one that deserved the medal. Even your own friends might vote for you. Everyone knew how dangerous Monday mornings were, but it was most dangerous to stay out of class hoping that one might escape from the medal. That technique was used only once and then Monday morning would have the best attendance of the week. Everyone wanted to avoid the shame and humiliation of carrying that coconut through the crowds of other students. Facing them and facing one's family were two kinds of agony.

The class never got angry about the medal, and they came to realize that the medal was Bro. Peter's way of telling them to grow up and accept responsibility for their acts. In the end and in spite of the pain of the medal, the boys appreciated Bro. Peter and what he did for them. Even a year later they could tell you what Bro. Peter had said in class. It made them very attentive, good students and good men.

In the first week of February 1949, Cotabato burned down. It had been built only of nipa and wood, so it burned easily. Cotabato burned two more times before they began to get cement and safe building materials. In that February burning, the Church and convent of the Oblate Father also burned. The Marist Brothers invited us to live with them. It was an offer that we could not refuse because the alternative was to live in a hotel. We had many good times together. The convent of the Sisters was big enough to accommodate us all. It was good for both the Brothers and the Fathers. They were able to meet and enjoy one another. There were four Brothers already mentioned and Fr. Mongeau, superior of the Oblates. Fr. Edward Gordon, pastor of the Parish, and Fr. Robert Sullivan, dean of the Notre Dame College.

Bro. Damian is now Superintendent of Religious instruction for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia. He was under medical treatment for a long time, but he has recovered now and still works for the diocese.

I do not know where Bro. Peter is, but we can make a good guess that he is helping people who work with their hands. (He died last year, 1995)

By September of 1949, our new classroom building and convento were finished right beside the church. After seven happy months with the Marist Brothers the Oblate Fathers moved to their new quarters.

We continue to meet every Sunday night when we had supper together.

Every year, new Brothers came and then the Marist began to expand to new openings in Marbel where they have developed the high school to a university, done by a lot of diligent work and good teaching. Nothing substitutes for the personal interest that the brothers have in each student.

They went to Lagao in 1952 and its offshoot in Dadiangas now known as Gen. Santos City, the fastest growing city in the Philippines.

The Marist adventure into Jolo is a story by itself. They almost had to fight their way into that Moro town. Now the Moros are proud to say that they come from Notre Dame of Jolo.

As the Brothers spread out, we lost contact with each other. We had been closing together in the early years when our houses were only one kilometer apart, but when the distance is 125 or 175 kms. It is hard to meet often.

We still remember the wonderful early years together we were building schools and basketball teams and good students who became responsible men. # # #.



Death Anniversaries:

April 18, 1907 – Br. Theophane, 4th S.G. 1883-1907 died in Spain.

April 20, 1964 – Br. Marie Victorin died in St. Genis-Laval.

April 21, 1898 – Br. Joseph Valentin died in Sri Lanka.

April 21, 1951 – Br. Joche Albert died in Xichang, China.

April 22, 1990 – Br. John Peter Flood died in Ireland.

April 25, 1964 – Br. Abel died in St. Genis-Laval.

April 25, 2020 – Mr. Marcelino Bang Shi Young (Affiliated member) died in Seoul, Korea.

April 26, 1926 – Br. Louis Theophane died in Tianjin, China



Let us pray...

- *For the departed Marist Brothers, Sisters, Family Members, Friends and Affiliates.*
- *For Pope Francis and all the religious around the world.*
- *For the sick and suffering.*
- *For the victims of natural calamities.*
- *For the success of the 6th Provincial Chapter of East Asia Province.*
- *For all the Marist Brothers around the world.*
- *For the children and youth.*
- *For the personal intentions of Bros. John Emil Alada, Lloyd Gamboa and John Allen Timola who finally professed on April 20.*
- *For all birthday celebrants and for their own personal intentions.*

