

District of the Pacific Update



Friday 22nd April
2022

PHILLIPINES NEWS

REFLECTION ON RENEWAL OF VOWS

from Br Petero



A Happy Easter to all from NDMU, Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Philippines. Many thanks for the support and brotherly messages I had received thus far. This year's Easter Vigil celebration was a very special one for me. Apart from celebrating the risen Christ, I also had an opportunity to renew my vows alongside eight other temporary professed Brothers. This celebration was the climax of the East Asia Province retreat which was held at the Marist Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. The retreat ran for a week but due to my classes and immigration matters at Davao city, I was only able to attend the retreat from Holy Wednesday through to Holy Saturday. I found the speakers, liturgy and interaction among those who were present was very warm and joyful. Understandably, it was a time to refresh and reconnect with each other, nature and God. Furthermore, we had the presence of Br Joseph M. Soteras FMS and Br Louis C. Gutierrez FMS. They will be joined later by Br. Sylvain Ramandimbarisoa FMS. The General Counsellors and the Vicar General will also be attending the East Asia Province General Chapter which begins on the 20th of April at Lake Sebu. Also joining us for the retreat were three SMSM Tongan sisters who are currently working here in South Cotabato. All in all, the retreat was definitely a memory to treasure and a stepping stone to build on. In summing up the week's talks on Holy Saturday, the outgoing East Asia Provincial, Br Dominador A. Santiago FMS mentioned that all the topics, theme and experiences of the retreat, all centered around LOVE. I took that to heart, knowing that love is one word that unites all. Love bridges everything and overcomes anything. Love always finds a way. I reflected on the love that I have experienced in my 36 years of living and moreover, in my 4th year now as a Marist Brother. I am thankful for all that I have received and pray for the grace to continue loving especially during moments when loving could be humanly difficult or challenging. While traveling back to NDMU, I felt refreshed and ready to pick up where I left off. Once again a Happy and LOVING Easter - sayo lahat.



WORD OF GRATITUDE

from Br Steve



Talofa lava and greetings to you all in this beautiful Easter season. I hope that everyone has had a great Easter celebration with your community and together with your loved ones as well. First and foremost, I thank God for his love freely given to us, especially his inspiration and invitation for me to renew my vows in the Marist Brothers' Institute. I also offer my word of thanks to our District Leader, Br John, and his council for accepting me to renew my vows. I acknowledge the kindness and care of Br Dominador, Provincial of South East Asia, for receiving my vows. I cannot forget also my family members, Brothers and friends who continue to support me on my journey in so many ways. God always repays the good deeds via very surprising ways. During our one whole week's retreat with the Brothers of the East Asia Province at Lake Sebu, it was a good time to spend with the Lord. I was so grateful to listen to different sharings from various speakers on the Beatitudes. I may say that the sharing on the Beatitudes is revealing the real character of God to us "He is a merciful, loving and caring God." I pray that our Good Mother and our founder Saint Marcellin continue to pray for and inspire us to serve God faithfully through our vocation.

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Communities at Sacred Heart College



The Easter posters completed by Year groups and students at SHC displayed in the staffroom

Special Easter Sunday Breakfast & Lunch

- Ambrosia pudding.
- Kiwi fruit pavlova.
- Trifle
- Yummy.

Br Kevin with his three desserts (two in the background) on Easter Sunday





The two communities of Onslow and Manly gathered in Central Auckland for a combined Easter Sunday Celebration.

BRAZIL NEWS



Our community hosted more than 50 indigenous people from Colombia who live along the Amazon River on Easter Sunday. I prepared the BBQ for all. Thanks Br Luke

TORCH NEWS

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/torchmygpacific>



MARIST SPIRITUALITY
(Water From the Rock)

Speaker
Brother Ray , FMS

Date
1 May, 2022

Time
Samoa & NZ @ 8:00 PM
Fiji & Kiribati @ 7:00 PM
Philippines @ 3:00 PM

Zoom Account
Meeting ID: 89078514135
Passcode: 723643

We kindly invite you to participate in our Marist Youth Session on 1st of May, 2022. Your presence will help a lot in nurturing the life of our youth. Thank you!



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