



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

November 15, 2022, Volume 01, Issue No. 11

Featured Community

MARCELLIN COMMUNITY: A HOME OF LIGHT FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

The brothers' community in Marcellin, Katanggawan, is composed of Br. Fred Salubre, Br. Cyril Sumugat and Br. Crispin Betita. We have a social worker and some volunteers who helped us run the foundation. They are very much involved in the ministry of responding to the needs of vulnerable children - particularly Children in Conflict with the law (CICL) and children at risk (CAR) of General Santos and beyond. As of now, we have sixty (60) boys that come from different backgrounds.

The core program of Marcellin is the Juvenile Justice program which includes CARING (residential service, food, clothing, health needs), HEALING (psycho-social intervention, legal assistance with their cases, psychological needs), and TEACHING (academic and school needs, technical skills, and Livelihood training). The teaching component aims to reintegrate in education these children by acquiring the knowledge and skills for the labor market and the socio-emotional and life skills necessary for themselves and the community. The reintegration pathway aims to be as open as possible to the local community and envisages children resuming their schooling according to age and grade in formal schools. The program also provides CICL and CAR with access to a technical skills training program in agriculture, food preparation, mechanics, welding, refrigeration and air conditioning, facilitating their social reintegration and employment.

Currently, Marcellin, in collaboration with CyberguardiansPH, advocates empowering the school communities to take action against OSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation) forging intense collaboration among them in co-creating & implementing specific Child Safeguarding procedures and flowchart, engaging the youth and general public in combatting OSAEC, promoting a cultural renewal and values enhancement among families and communities.

Our brothers in Marcellin community together with their lay mission collaborators continue in their commitment to becoming a "home of light" as they continue to work in this hope-giving pathway: Rescue, Recovery, Resurrection and Redemption of the most vulnerable children crying out for help and a better life in the future.



Brs. Crispin Betita, Fred Salubre and Cyril Sumugat



The Marcellin Boys during their prayer time.

August 16, 2022 two novices arrived in Marcellin for their apostolic experience for two months. They were Br. Augustine from India and Br. Joel from East Timor. They shared their talents and skills with the boys by teaching them music and some of the subjects like Math and English. They went back to the novitiate Tamontaka on October 27, 2022. Then on September 17, one postulant from Davao arrived for his apostolic experience lasted for two weeks.



October 28 was the 80th birthday of Br. Crispin Betita, FMS. The celebration was done on October 29 catered by the Province Center. Some of the brothers attended the celebration. His family also came most especially his mother and brother. Most of the boys were there including those who are professionals already.

Br. Crispin Betita, speaks with deep conviction:

“At Marcellin, two of our least favorite words are “inevitable” and “impossible.” Cynics tell us that it is inevitable that a wayward childhood will lead to future bad citizens. We never listen.

Skeptics tell us that it’s impossible for a small nonprofit organization to stand up to any system that degrades and mistreats young people. We don’t agree!

With the support of generous people, we will succeed in providing these children with a second chance.

We are mindful of our role to fulfill what Jesus said when the disciples tried to stop the children from coming to Him: “... let the children come.”

Yes, at Marcellin, we accept all disadvantaged children and youth who come for a second chance, sometimes for many, more chances, to have a better future.”



November 9, 2022 Marist Brother’s Econome General with some of the brothers and lay, visited Marcellin to see the place and the boys. Br. Crispin told them the history of the MFI during the visit. Some of the brothers played basketball with the boys.

BEING BROTHER FAR FROM ONE'S OWN COUNTRY

Br. Noynoy Sisneros,
Australia

Mount Druitt,
Australia

I was born in Philippines and I'm presently living in Australia. I was part of the Mount Druitt Lavalla200> Community



The
Brother's
Vocation



from 2017-2021. Now, I live in a Marist Community with two other Brothers in a suburb of Sydney called Burwood.

One of the powerful images that helped build my understanding of my life as a brother is the popular image of the Holy Family journeying towards Bethlehem. Contemplating the images of the donkey, and Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, together with Joseph, in their life-changing journey, ignited my personal understanding and connection of the Marist tradition of presence and mission. My personal conviction of "becoming like the donkey" of Jesus' infancy narrative allowed me to be a companion of young people I worked with in the past years, journeying with them in their struggles and in their search for identity, hope, and belonging. It has been a genuine journey of encounter, meeting them where they are, bearing with them their frustration of being unable to change their situation, and celebrating with them each of their tiny glimpse of their sense



Camaldoli,
Italy

of achievement and belonging. Whether the popular image of the Holy Family journeying with a donkey is historical or not, is of little significance. What is truly valuable is the conviction and better understanding how to live my life as a brother it gave me.

So, if you were to ask me what a brother's life would look like in the future, I envision seeing Marist communities overflowing with "donkeys." A Marist world where each person, each brother, carries Mary and Jesus and a companion of Joseph wherever they go, present in the lives of people they encounter. And when the time comes to let go, we brothers, quietly and gently move away, like the donkey in the story that was never mentioned again, but nevertheless contributed to the lives of Holy Family. May we become faithful bearers of Jesus and Mary and companion to people we encounter along the journey.

MEETING OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The East Asia Province welcomed the participants of the Marist Brothers International Finance Council spearheaded by Br. Jorge Gaio, General Econome together with Br. Goyo Linacero, Assistant General Econome for their annual meeting held at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, General Santos City on November 7 to 10.

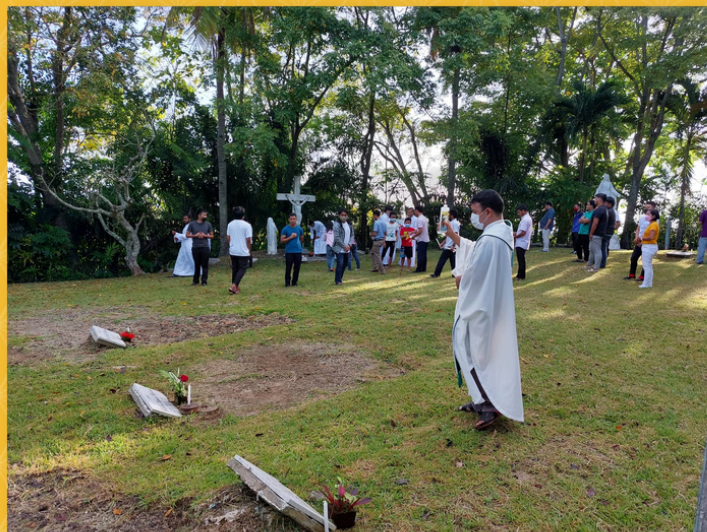
Br. Jorge and Br. Goyo also held a series of meetings with the committees of the three sector of the Province.

They had a chance to visit the Marist Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu, Notre Dame of Marbel University and Marcellin Homes, and met some students at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University.



All Saints Celebration All Souls

A Holy Mass and blessing of the graves of our beloved Marist Brothers was held at the Marist Brothers Cemetery, Immaculate Conception Novitiate in Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, Philippines on November 1 and 2.



The Superior General Br. Ernesto Sanchez and his Council together with the Secretariat of the Laity expressed appreciation to Ms. Agnes Reyes as she ends her term as Co-Director of the Secretariat of the Laity. Agnes ends her term this 31st of December 2022.

Thank you, Ms Agnes!



Marcellin Foundation Produces Outstanding Graduate

Every good intention undertaken by Marcellin Foundation gives way to heart-warming stories of success amidst struggles of surviving.

This year, Julius Beltran graduated from his midwifery course at the University of the Philippines-Manila-Senior High School Extension Campus, South Cotabato.

Julius was once a street kid, cleaning tricycles and selling plastic cellophanes at General Santos City market. The meager amount he collected was intended to buy him food to address his hunger pangs. Bro Crispin Betita, Executive Director of Marcellin Foundation, took him in and assisted him in his formation and schooling.

Today, he beams with pride for graduating and expresses deep gratitude to Marcellin Foundation and the Edullantes family who was responsible in taking him to Marcellin Foundation.



Congratulations Julius Beltran!

THIRD STAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

The process of the International Forum on Lay Marist Vocation began in 2021 and will conclude in 2024. Now on its 3rd stage, around 100 participants gathered at Casa di esercizi spirituali Nostra Signora Madre della Misericordia, Monte Cucco, from November 4 to 11. This international event allowed the participants representing all the Administrative Units across the Institute to experience the rich diversity of the Marist world.

The themes of the recently concluded Forum were centered on the Marist vocation with emphasis on the lay Marist vocation, the formation itineraries, the accompaniment of vocational processes, the link to the charism, and the possible juridical structures for the Marist laity. These were identified as the current and future relevant topics related to the vitality of the charism and our journey of communion as a Global Charismatic Family.



Phata News



November 4:
Marists from Catholic High School Petaling Jaya visited Br. Robert at Kuching Community. They are Tan Meng Yah (middle) and Lan Lai Yen.



November 5:
Hong Kong Community Celebrating Mary's 83rd Birthday



November 15-18: Br. Allan de Castro, the provincial visited Br. Demosthenes Calabria at ND Hermitage Community in France



November 5:
Kuching Community Performance from SJIS during SJFS Annual dinner.



ICEA participants visited Marcellin's Boy at Marcellin Homes in Katangawan, General Santos City, Philippines.



ICEA Participants visited Notre Dame of Marbel University, Koronadal City, Philippines.



Brs. Jorge, Goyo and Teofilo visited Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines.

Stop Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children

In these days has started the program “STOP OSAEC”, implemented by the Marcellin Foundation of Philippines and FMSI to fight Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) in Mindanao Region. According to UNICEF, Philippines is the “global hub for online child pornography”. Most of the victims are vulnerable children from poor and marginalized families, children with disability and living in the street.

The program is constituted by multifaced training initiatives and awareness to empower school communities to become “outpost” for the protection of the children and engage the youth and general public as “cyberguardians”

The STOP OSAEC program is part of the action of the National Coalition “Cyber Guardians PH” and “Marcellin program: Protecting Poor Children at Risk and Children in conflict with the Law” supported by Misaan Cara. (News adapted from FMSI)



The third batch of trainees of around 75 participants, met at Holy Cross Parish last November 12. The team of trainers from the Marists and the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Marbel conducted the roll-out of the Cybersecurity modules.



Ms. Elma Rafil's New Appointment

The Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sánchez, and the General Council have appointed Elma Rafil (East Asia) as a member of the of the Extended Secretariat of Laity for a period of three years. She will begin this assignment on 1st January 2023.

The Extended Secretariat is a team that supports the directors of the Secretariat of Laity. At present, the "Extended Secretariat of Laity" is formed by Ana Saborío (Central America), Alida Bodomanitra (Madagascar), Nathan Ahearne (Australia), Br. Elias Iwu (Nigeria) and Marcos José Broc (Brasil Sul-Amazônia).

Elma Rafil

"My name is Elma Rafil and I am from the Philippine Sector of the Province of East Asia. I was born and grew up in the Philippines. My Marist journey began at home, being raised and catechized by my mother, who lived a very Marist life. I went to a Marist school in college where I learned about Marcellin Champagnat. In the 1990's, I heard about Marist lay and I got involved with the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family (CMMF) where members regularly gather in the atmosphere of a family to share life and faith, foster Marist vocation, and enrich the experience of God. I eventually became one of the lay animators.



I have been employed at Notre Dame of Marbel University, a Marist institution, for 31 years now. My involvement with this Marist institution gives me opportunities to deepen my spirituality and to "nourish, live, and share" the Marist life and spirituality.

Currently, I am the Coordinator of Marist Laity in Asia, a member of the Lay Commission of the East Asia Province, the Chairperson of the Lay Committee of the Philippine Sector, and a member of the Marist Ecology Ministry in East Asia.

For me, each day is an opportunity to examine my faith journey. It is a time to grow in my relationship with God and take part in His mission. My faith journey is a journey of gratitude and an ongoing dependence on Him. It is a constant journey of thanksgiving and recognition of His abundant love and His presence everywhere, in all creatures, and in all circumstances."

Br. Manuel V. de Leon, FMS, M.Ed 1988 Ed.D 1998 received the citation as UP College of Education Alumni Association (UPCEAA) Outstanding Alumni for Community Service Award 2022 with the UP Diliman Chancellor Dr. Fidel R. Nemenzo on November 13 at College of Education Building, UP Diliman Quezon City.

Congratulations Br. Manny!



International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation (Statement of the Asia Region Participants)

Dear Marists of Champagnat in ASIA,

We are blessed to have lived the experience of the International Forum on Marist Lay Vocation where Brothers and Lay around the globe gather to share the wealth of our stories and the richness of our experiences of living Marist life.

We live the same values, dreams and hopes. We shared our stories; we have reflected together, proposed different ideas, discussed, and dialogued. It was for us, a sacred space of encounter, being fully aware of the presence of *Ruah*, the breath of the Divine, gently guiding us in all moments of our experience.

We were faced with and received the challenge to keep alive the Charism of Marcellin in our world today, particularly in our context in Asia. We, however, embrace among us the richness of the diversity of culture, faith, and tradition. And it is in this diversity that we celebrate Marist life with you:

“Come to the table. You are welcome to celebrate life as we gather at the Table of La Valla. We are a family. We are Marists.”

We continue to believe that this is our call, our vocation, to be Marists of Champagnat today: one family amidst diversity, zealous partakers in the Divine mission.

And so, we go forth ...caring for and generating Marist life in whatever we can.

Come, journey with us, with Mary and Marcellin.

ASIA REGION PARTICIPANTS:

Elma B. Rafil
Marjorie Raneses
Agnes S. Reyes
Br. Lindley H. Sionosa
Br. Allan J. de Castro
Br. Jiji Dasan
Br. Bao Nguyen



East Asia Province Participants



Asia Region Participants

MISSION VOLUNTEERING

A Journey Towards Transformation of Being

MARIA LIEZEL N. IGOY
Marist Lay Volunteer, East Asia Province



My purposeful stay in South Africa as a Marist Lay Volunteer and as a member of the Atlantis Marist International Community has lasted for approximately 15 months. Since September 2022, our community of four has shrunk to three, with Denise Hernandez departing for Mexico following a period of reflection. Brothers Paul Bhatti from Pakistan and Tony Clark from Australia are now with me, and they have always been supportive. The fact that I was the only lay in the neighborhood wasn't as difficult as I had anticipated. It was a rewarding journey to learn about life through missionary service.

The decision to relocate the Lavalla200 community to Malawi was made in May 2022 by the Conference of Marist Superiors of Africa. In recent weeks, we have started bidding farewell to the people of Atlantis that we have been serving. Serving the young people in various ways, particularly by being there for them, has always been a joy. We hope that they will continue to be encouraged and empowered. The community decided to hold a retreat time here in Shelley Point, Western Cape, as we wrap off our apostolic activities in Atlantis. This period of prayer, thanksgiving, and reconciliation is something for which I am grateful.

Personally, I feel humbled and pleased to be a part of the Marist International Community. The shared experiences and fostering obstacles have made my heart happy and joyful. The Marist community influenced me to develop, respect others' needs, and have an accommodating mindset toward other people in various circumstances. Living among the laity and brothers has taught me to have an open heart, to deal with the realities of differences and disputes within the community, and to appreciate diversity. I will always be indebted to my Marist family for all of the inspirations, enlightenments, joys, hopes, perspectives, and a sense of belonging



Living among the laity and brothers has taught me to have an open heart, to deal with the realities of differences and disputes within the community, and to appreciate diversity.

that they have provided for me.

Being a lay Marist, I hope that my desire to learn and help others will only grow. Additionally, I hope that by virtue of my presence alone, waves of inspiration will spread, allowing many more individuals to experience the thrill of extending love to children and young people especially those in the margins of life.

We pray for the smooth closure of the Atlantis community by the end of November 2022 and for the opening of the new Marist International Community in Malawi on February 2023.

Baie baie dankie (thank you very much) as they say in Afrikaans.



Brothers Paul Bhatti from Pakistan and Tony Clark from Australia are now with me, and they have always been supportive. The fact that I was the only lay in the neighborhood wasn't as difficult as I had anticipated. It was a rewarding journey to learn about life through missionary service.



Serving the young people in various ways, particularly by being there for them, has always been a joy.



I hope that by virtue of my presence alone, waves of inspiration will spread, allowing many more individuals to experience the thrill of extending love to children and young people especially in the margins of life.



A Glimpse of the Province

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NOTRE DAME OF JOLO HIGH SCHOOL - KASULUTAN

The Notre Dame of Jolo High School was founded in 1947 by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI). Eleven years later, the Oblate Fathers decided to turn over the high school administration to the Marist Brothers and Dominican Sisters (of Siena). The Marist Brothers to take care of the Boy's Department and the Dominican Sisters, the Girl's Department. Because of the yearly increase of enrolment, the late Bishop Francis McSorley, OMI, decided to build a separate building for the Boy's Department at Gandasuli. Thus, giving birth to Notre Dame of Jolo High School in 1962. Since then, NDJHS has developed into an outstanding school, striving to give excellent Marist Education. In June 2001, Notre Dame of Jolo for Boys was changed to Notre Dame of Jolo High School - Kasulutan .

2

Source: Province Archives

Notre Dame of Jolo High School is celebrating its 75th foundation anniversary and 64 years of Marist presence this 2022.

This school year 2022-23, the Marist Brothers assigned at NDJHS-K are the following: Br. Dionesio Acosta, Jr., Br. Jeff Rey Antiquisa and Br. Aljon Yonder.

Kasulutan is a village of Gandasuli, a barangay of Patikul town in the province of Sulu. Jolo and Patikul are two of the 19 municipalities in Sulu, Jolo being the capital town and biggest in terms of population (137,266 per 2020 census). On the other hand, Patikul has 30 Barangays; it has a population of 79,564 per 2020 census.) Source: PhilAtlas. Why the name Notre Dame of Jolo? NDJ was first established in the Walled City of Jolo town. When the school was moved out of Jolo to the town of Gandasuli, it carried its original name. And today its official name is NDJ - Kasulutan. Br. Pius is said to be responsible for the change to its present name.



Announcement:

December 9-10:

2nd Joint formation of brothers and lay in relation to the year of Marist vocation to be facilitated by Ms. Elma Rafil and the Lay Commission Members. It will be in Notre Dame of Cotabato.

December 21:

3rd Joint formation of brothers and lay in relation to the year of marist vocation to be facilitated by Br. Angel Medina, FMS and Br. Lindley H. Sionosa, FMS of the Secretariat of Brothers Today



Provincial's Schedule

November 15 to December 10

November 15-18:

Visit to Br. Demosthenes Calabria, FMS at ND Hermitage, France

November 15 AM:

On-line Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Philippine Sector with the Econome General

November 15 PM:

On-line Meeting of the Finance Committee of China Sector with the Econome General

November 16 AM:

On-line Meeting of the Finance Committee of Krea-Japan Sector with the Econome General

November 17 AM:

On-line Meeting of the Finance Commission with the Econome General

November 18:

Flight back to the Philippines from ND Hermitage, France

November 19:

Burial of the mother of Br. Elmer E. Jandic, FMS

November 21:

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Marcellin Homes Incorporated

November 23-24: Exit Meeting with Phil.Sector Auditing Firm at Davao City

November 25-27: Community Leaders' Group Meeting at Gen. Santos City

November 28: Flight to Kobe, Japan

November 29-30: Provincial Council Meeting at Kobe, Japan

December 1-4: Kobe, Japan Community Visit

December 5-9: Visit schools in Japan – Kobe and Kumamoto

December 10: Flight back to the Philippines from Kobe Japan

Birthday Greetings

November 19

Br. Armand B. Mana-ay
Br. Romar Dave S. Rano

December 02

Br. Dionesio D. Acosta Jr.
Br. Robert Teoh T Khiang

December 03

Br. Eugene Pius R. Tajo

December 05

Br. Jick J. de Leon



Prayer Intentions:

- For the repose of the soul of Susana Erio Jandic, the mother of Br. Elmer E. Jandic.
- For the well-being of our Pope and our religious and government leaders.
- For the lives of those recovering from natural calamities, that they may find kindhearted people to support them in their needs.
- For increased mindfulness to do our part in the protection of our mother earth.
- For our young brothers in formation, that they may be strengthened in their response to their religious vocation.
- For our elderly brothers, that they may always find serenity, fulfillment, and good health of body and spirit.