



Articles for October & November 2022

**Religious Profession, October 7, Tudella, Sri Lanka 2022 (Br Julio Brites)** With great joy and gratitude, nine of us celebrated on Friday our First Profession. Our group was from East Timor, Bangladesh and Vietnam:



- Br Juvencio Hanjam Nia fms (Timor Leste)
- Br Dionisio M. Martins fms (Timor Leste)
- Br Julio Brites fms (Timor Leste)
- Br Clementino Xavier fms (Timor Leste)
- Br Filomeno Mendonca fms (Timor Leste)
- Br Salvador B. Ferreira fms (Timor Leste)
- Br Topu Mondol fms (Bangladesh)
- Br Tran van Thanh fms (Viet Nam)
- Br Joseph Nguyen Van Ly fms (Viet Nam)

We chose the theme:

*"Let it be done to me according to your Word."* (Lk1:38)

We had many guests to support and participate in this special celebration. On the other hand, with the help of technology, our live stream transmission on Facebook united us with thousands of people from around the world (nearly 2000 views of our video so

far). We want to thank all those who have sent messages and assured us of their unity in prayer.

If wanting to watch some of the videos, click on the 15-minute mark for the start, at [www.facebook.com/maristinsl](http://www.facebook.com/maristinsl)

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## NEW BEGINNING (Br Joseph Ly)

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On the 7th of October, at the feast of Our Lady of Rosary, 9 novices from Marist International Novitiate Tudella made their first commitment to be professed as Marist Brothers. Personally, I felt really privileged and spirit-filled with wondrous blessings from our God and loving Mother. It is a new beginning for me and my companions as we take this new step in life after such a challenging and difficult journey we have been through. But with the grace of God, we were able to stand up together and make this happen. I would like to show my deepest appreciation to all who have been journeying with me, supporting, praying and pushing me to move forwards to this new beginning of life. God bless us all.





## The Profession Retreat (Br Joseph Ly)

From 18 to 26 of August, 2022, nine of us from Group 3 Novices did an 8-day retreat in preparation for our First Profession in October. The venue was at the Jesuit Retreat Center at Lewella, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

It was really a momentous and marvelous opportunity for us to be in an experience of a silent and prayerful spirit, in a supportive environment with the surroundings of nature and wildlife, and particularly the wonderful guide of a distinguished and gentle Jesuit priest who was leading us throughout these days of the retreat, Fr Baylon. He gave us a deep and meaningful point to reflect on for each of our retreat days, and a conference to explain many different important topics linked to our religious life, that we should keep in mind and how we should develop them as we move on to another step of life. Additionally, each of us had a chance to sit with him for an individual interview each day, to share with him what was going on with us, to share our feelings, our prayer life, and our learning from the guide which he gave us and even our difficulties to enter the spirit of the retreat.

Personally, I deeply savour and appreciate this moment of retreat. It really helped me not only in preparing for my First Profession, but it also gave me a chance to be aware of deepening and working on my spiritual life, from where I presently was, as I move forward. Finally, I would like to give thanks to those who helped make the retreat happen and organize everything to make sure that all of us could easily and meaningfully enter into this atmosphere of the retreat.



Making our tassels



Ruben in SD with the Master!

## Spiritual Direction (Ruas Ferreira)

Dear Brothers, Sisters and friends around the world. I am Ruas, a Marist novice from Timor-Leste. Today I would like to tell a little bit about spiritual direction in our Novitiate community. According to the novitiate program here, I meet with my spiritual director once a month. I am very excited to

Have spiritual direction because it's the first time in my life journey as a religious brother. My spiritual director is a religious sister from Sri Lanka. She is very friendly with me and I have found it very easy to talk with her about my spiritual life. When our formators first introduced her to us, Sister shared about her life and mission as a religious. It attracted my heart to deepen my own spiritual life and vocation.

I meet with her once every month for about one hour and it's very helpful for me because I am learning about myself and I am learning who Jesus is for me, how I encounter Jesus in others and how I sense Jesus is present in my heart. One thing I find really helpful is I am able to talk to her about what I can't share with other people. Sister listens very well and asks me questions to help me respond. This helps me grow more in my prayer life. Every time I finish my accompaniment with Sister, I feel free because I release all the things that are stuck in my heart.



## Assumption Feast (Dedimo Soares)

In the experience of our Assumption Feast, we celebrated the Mass by the local priest in our community. First of all, I was happy to celebrate the feast of the Assumption with the brothers here and we invited some of our connections, including some lay Marists who came to join us in our community.

In addition, I am excited and blissful with this Mass because many people have come to our community to celebrate with us. After finishing we invited the priest to dine with us, and all the lay people to join us in the meal.

This experience has made me feel comfortable and optimistic about myself, to understand people around us in our community, particularly Lay Marists and to know the local priest too. We enjoyed and shared many experiences each of us has had in our lives as novices in the community. But I am most grateful to celebrate the Assumption of our Lady because it was a good way to celebrate it. It is a part of our Marist spirituality to understand more exactly what the Assumption means in our lives.

## Elijah's Arrival in Sri Lanka (Nguyen Van Ky)

Dear friend Elijah, thank you so much; you've gone a long way, a very challenging journey with many flights to reach us Marist brothers in a foreign country, Sri Lanka and become one of the members of the Marist family here.

Thank you because of your presence here, thank you to bring joy among us, your talent and your initiative at work. Marist Brothers love you and need you my younger Brother Eli!



Elijah finally joining Br Rod's scripture class "in the flesh"!

## Non-Violent Communication Workshop – Oct.31 to Nov.3 (Br Rod Thomson)

“So, last week during the NVC program, when I saw most of you Marist novices having a go, speaking up in the large group, and trying to learn and practice NVC in front of others, I feel grateful, deeply proud of you all, and personally moved (i.e. a little bit emotional!).

Perhaps this is meeting at least **three of my needs**: a sense of satisfaction that our formation program is helping to build up your self-confidence and skills; it gives me hope that your developing communication skills will help you negotiate the challenges that lie ahead in your future ministries and community life, and this nourishes in me the love and energy to keep going as a formator for a few more years.

**My request**, if you are willing, is that you keep on practicing these new NVC skills that you are learning, that we do so in future Personal and Group Accompaniment meetings, and that you practice with each other, in ‘the heat of the moment’ when you find that anger is arising in you. Is that OK with you?”

As well as ourselves, we had 35 others participating in the program, from 2 men and 5 women Congregations. This was our first larger workshop post-Covid, and so was very much appreciated by everyone, after such a long time attending classes etc. just with their own members. May there be many workshops to come!

