



# EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

November 30, 2022, Volume 01, Issue No. 12

## Featured Community

### JOLO COMMUNITY

Jolo, Sulu, Philippines

Our community this year is composed of relatively young brothers namely Jeff Rhey Antiquisa, Aljon Yonder and, yours truly, Dionesio Acosta, Jr. We get along well.

Br. Jeff Rhey, our community guest master, teaches Japanese language online. His students are from Notre Dame of Dadiangas University.

Br. Aljon is one of the Academic Coordinators of the school. He also has teaching loads. In the community, he acts as the assistant treasurer and is very dependable on this responsibility. And as for me, my role is in the administration of the school and the servant-leader of the community.

Br. Allan (Provincial Superior) and Br. Danny visited the community last September 12-14. Br. Allan spent time to talk to the brothers individually and as a community.

On Sundays, we help each other do the marketing and prepare our meals. If time permits, we visit one of the nearby beaches for rest and relaxation.

The Academic Year started last August 22. The enrolment population from grade 7 to 10 is 1,190. Everyone was excited to finally be back in the campus including the parents and guardians. Various activities were implemented to support the different programs of the school such as Student Orientation, Parents' Orientation, Institutional Meeting, PATA General Assembly, and the KSG (student government organization) election and induction.

Last September 9, the Administration organized an outreach activity at Ikih Elementary School in Indanan, Sulu. The school shared its resources like computer units, printers, and ink for the use of their teachers. The personnel who joined the event prepared simple snacks for the pupils of the said school.

Br. Jong (Dionesio) and three other personnel attended the CEAP National Convention at SMX Convention Center, Pasay, Metro Manila last October 25-29. During the event, the school received a plaque of recognition for its 75th year foundation. The same recognition was given by NDEA and ZAMBASULTAPS (Zamboanga Basilan Sulu Tawi-Tawi Association of Private Schools) during their respective general assemblies.

On Fridays, the personnel have regular prayers organized: Duwa'a for the Islam and creative prayers for the Catholics. The brothers' presence in the said events is an expression of their support to the school community.



*Brs. Dionesio, Jeff Rhey and Aljon*

## YEAR OF MARIST VOCATION 2022 TESTIMONY

(from FMS Message Number 51 (Year XXXV) – 08/2022). Pages 55-59  
Testimony of Br. Alfredo, FMS

# WHERE is MARIST life HEADED?



Br. Alfredo Herrera,  
South Korea

WHEN talking about MARIST life in the future, we could let our imaginations run wild and dream of some youthful and forward-looking group of religious Brothers and lay Marists, facing up to the painful reality of a highly complex, multifaceted and secularised world with a degree of heroism and responding to its challenges with foresight and courage.

This might be an interesting exercise but the truth is that as soon as I received the invitation to write about this topic, the answer to the question above struck me in a somewhat abrupt way: Marist life is heading in the direction that we, Brothers and lay Marists, are now steering it; not some 'we' of the future, but all of us who currently identify with the charism of Marcellin Champagnat and the "gang" of his first Brothers.

I know that there are those who, with a somewhat ironic smile, take it for granted that we are dying out and that the end is fast approaching. And yes, I recognise that in some places and situations this seems to be the fate that awaits us, especially if we limit ourselves to what we can see and witness from the standpoint of our own small part of the world. But I would like to invite you to lift your gaze and take note of what is happening in the Marist world beyond our own borders. Then maybe we will realise that the Spirit of God is still at work in our midst, through and sometimes even in spite of us. Other pens will better describe what Mary is continuing to do among us at the present moment, but let me list here just a few of the things that, in my admittedly very limited and partial vision, allow me to dream with my eyes open, looking at what is happening now as a portent or prophecy of what may yet emerge in our Marist life in the years ahead.

*The  
Brother's  
Vocation*





# 17th MSPC OFFICIAL STATEMENT

**“They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their gifts . . . and they departed for their country by another way.”**

Matthew 2:11b-12

We, the 275 delegates to the 17th Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference - lay faithful, consecrated men and women, priests and bishops - have reflected on the theme: The Gift of Faith and New Evangelization as a Synodal Church. Like the Magi, we have come from various particular Churches in Mindanao-Sulu, bringing our own gifts (concrete experiences of faith). We raise our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to the Triune God who “always leads the Church” “along the paths of time” as “she makes her pilgrim journey in the world.” (Synodal Eucharistic Prayer). And we go back home by “another way.”

Braving the challenge of Covid 19 pandemic, our coming together on Nov. 7 - 11, 2022 in Cagayan de Oro, the “City of Golden Friendship,” has been a grateful celebration and a joyful witnessing-sharing of the gift of faith, and a hopeful moving forward in the synodal path of the Church in Mindanao-Sulu. We would like to share some of the fruits of our spiritual conversation and communal discernment:

1. For the Church to remain faithful to her identity and relevant as synodal Church in our time, we must grow in our missionary zeal which flows from the genuine encounter with God in prayer that sharpens our sensitivity and capacity to discern God’s working in our present realities. In such encounter, God enflames our hearts as He made the hearts of the disciples on the road to Emmaus “burn within them.” (Luke 24:32). He transforms us into joyful missionaries (EG 1) and helps us to remain courageous, unwavering and uncompromising in bringing the Gospel message to all through the ministry of presence. We are thus enabled to facilitate genuine encounter and establish partnership with all corporate, public and private institutions and individuals who share the Gospel principles and values.
2. To fully embrace realistically “the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties . . .” (GS 1) of this age and to effectively respond to the present needs, our work in evangelization and mission must be grounded on solid empirical data; thus, we have felt the need to institutionalize the Ministry of Research and Studies (MRS).
3. With profound gratitude to God for the early missionaries whose zeal and audacity planted the seed of faith in our land, we continually commit ourselves, through the witness of our lives and the use of new and creative tools of evangelization (radio, television, print and social media), to venture into new missionary frontiers (politics, culture, education, recreation, economics, etc.), to nurture and propagate the gift of faith with the same intensity and sense of purpose in the family especially those “in difficult situations.” (cf. Familiaris Consortio).
4. As faithful and fruitful stewards of this gift of faith, we continually commit ourselves to open the ears of our hearts to the voices that are often ignored, especially the poor and the marginalized, other sectors of society (LGBTQ+, PWD, OFW, etc.), the silent and even the discordant voices, so that our journey of faith will truly be inclusive and synodal.
5. The Synodal Church looks at the youth with love as Jesus did. (Mark 10:21). She recognizes the youth as “street walkers of the faith” (cf. Christus Vivit) and promoters of dialogue and communion; they are indeed peer evangelizers of the faith and catalysts of change. (PCP II). Hence, we continually commit ourselves to listen to their voices, acknowledge their significant contribution and engage them as active collaborators and agents in the life and mission of the Church. We must harness their energy and creativity as we mold and accompany them as co-journeymen.
6. The BECs and other faith communities in their diverse and creative forms are expressions of the one synodal Church where the Vatican II principles of communion, participation and mission are lived out; these communities are truly “other ways” of being Church. Moving beyond the “maintenance mode,” BECs, nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, should be continually formed, organized and mobilized to become truly ecological and steward communities and agents of social transformation.
7. In the spirit of communion and stewardship, we place our gifts (time, talent and treasure) at the service of the mission of the Church; we need to strengthen transparency and accountability, to set up the standard living allowance of the clergy and the just remuneration of Church workers, and finally to abolish the arancel system.
8. The challenge to become a genuinely synodal Church impels us anew to overcome our prejudices and biases and to strengthen our commitment to Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding, human fraternity (cf. Fratelli Tutti) and reconciliation. The missionary fire drives us to go and proclaim the Gospel; it is the same love of God that urges us (2 Corinthians 5:14) to work for the healing of wounds and for the breaking down of the walls of hatred and division, thus, creating a safe space where diverse cultures and living faith traditions are inclusively and harmoniously celebrated and lived.
9. Mother Earth greatly groans and suffers from exploitation, degradation and destruction because of the paradigm of tyrannical and distorted anthropocentrism (LS 68-69), that is, the outlook that regards the human being as the center of everything. The “red light alarm of global climate emergency” (UN Assessment of Global Ecological Situation) urgently challenges us to adopt a theocentric paradigm. We have to live out our seamless connectedness and interdependence with the rest of creation for her preservation and sustainability. We realized the urgency to institutionalize the Integral Ecology Ministry (IEM) as a priority pastoral concern, not merely an appendage to Social Action.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary\* of MSPC, we recall the visionary initiative of our shepherds and collaborators who established and promoted the triennial pastoral forum for the local Church of Mindanao-Sulu. We are in their debt. Likewise, we remember with gratitude the arch/dioceses that had generously hosted the past MSPCs. Lastly, we thank the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and the suffragan Dioceses of CABUSTAM for hosting MSPC XVII in this significant year of its existence. We entrust ourselves to the Divine Mercy that He may form us to be a people of mercy with the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the Star of Evangelization.

\*MSPC I was actually held in Davao City on November 17-21, 1971



## PAASCU ELECTS BR. PATERNO S. CORPUS AS MEMBER OF TRUSTEES

University President Br. Paterno S. Corpus, FMS, EdD, was elected as a new member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) during the 2022 PAASCU General Assembly held at the Manila Marriott Hotel on November 25, 2022 with the theme Making Roads: Challenges and Opportunities in External Quality Assurance in the New Normal.

The election results were presented after the keynote speech of Dr. Achim Hopbach, former President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the Managing Director of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (Q Austria).

Also, in celebration of the 65th year of PAASCU, this year's assembly has recognized the 2022 James Meany awardees who have been accreditors and staff of PAASCU and who have shown exemplary dedication to accreditation work.

Before the end of the assembly, the commission meetings were conducted simultaneously by the commission chairpersons on elementary education, secondary education, basic education, tertiary education, allied health and sciences education, information technology education, engineering and architecture education, basic medical education, and graduate education.

Congratulations, Br. Paterno S. Corpus, FMS, EdD!



## MARIST EDUCATION COUNCIL (MEC) UPDATES

Marist Tertiary Education Pasundayag 2022: Indeed, it was a shared space among Marists to reconnect, recreate and celebrate. Congratulations to all Marist athletes and coaches from NDDU, NDKC and NDMU. Next stop will be in Kidapawan for the Academic and Literary events!





# Photo News

Nov. 26-27:  
Brothers and Lay of  
KJ Sector prepared  
kimchi for winter.



November 15: NDMU ranked 1 among the top performing schools for social work board exams for 2022 - having achieved a 100% passing rate. Br. Pat Corpus received the award during the ceremony that took place in Manila Hotel.



November 25: The Brothers in Hong Kong community harvested dragon fruits from their garden. The brothers were delighted on its bountiful harvest.



November 19: Birthday Celebration of Br. Armand B. Mana-ay, FMS of Kidapawan Community



November 16: A quick meet-up of Arianne Jane Ylarde (Volunteer for Malawi, Africa) and Khim Arguez Camiring (Volunteer for Mt. Druitt, Sydney, Australia) with Bro. Teofilo Minga, F.M.S. at Coffee Project - Koronadal City. Bro. Teofilo Minga was their translator during their formation program in Rome.



November 24:  
Marist Formation for  
71 NDDU graduating  
students



November 26-27:  
Community Leaders' Meeting of the  
Philippine Sector at Marist Province  
Center, Lagao, General Santos City.

# Photo News



November 2022: The Brothers in Hong Kong  
community visited and prayed for our departed  
brothers at the cemetery.



November 27:  
CYPD: National Youth Summit on Safer  
Cyberspace - Empowering the Youth  
through Cybersecurity and community.



November 27:  
Renewal of vows of Br. Abraham Kang Min,  
FMS in Seoul, Korea. (KJ Sector).





# Phata News

**November 29-30:  
Provincial Council Meeting at the  
Marist Community- Kobe, Japan**



**November 30:  
Monthly online meeting of the Marist Global  
Network of Communicators, Group 4.**



**November 30:  
Unveiling of the Headstones of the  
late Br. Ramon Bereicua, FMS, in  
Japan.**

*The Unveiling of the Headstones*



of

*Brother Ramon Bereicua, fms*





## MARIST ECOLOGY MINISTRY UPDATE

Mr. Joe Nacianceno, member of the Executive Committee on the area of ECOLOGY, attended the meeting of the Marist International Solidarity Network.



### MEXICO

## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK

The Executive Committee of the Marist International Solidarity Network met in Mexico City from 14 to 18 November to continue its networking.

This meeting had three fundamental objectives:

- Advance in the work of updating the Network's documents.
- Strengthen and organise the different Working Groups.
- Hold a face-to-face meeting of the members of the Committee, after the years of the pandemic.

The Executive Committee is made up of representatives from each of the Regions of the Institute, as well as the two Brothers who form the Solidarity Secretariat. A total of 8 members attended the meeting: Socorro Álvarez (Mexico Central), Analía Ruggeri (Cruz del Sur), Maryury Morales (Norandina), Joe Nacianceno (East Asia), Javier Salazar (SED-Spain), Andrea Rossi (FMSI-Rome), and Brothers Francis Lukong and Ángel Diego, directors of the Solidarity Secretariat.

During the first three days, the meeting was joined by Brother Ken McDonald, General Councillor, as the link with the area of solidarity; also present were Brother Luis Felipe, Provincial of Mexico Central, and Brother Rodrigo Espinosa, responsible for Mission in the Province of Mexico Central and Secretary General of the Arco Norte Region.

The first part of the work focused on a review of the five documents that are key to all the activity of the Network: the Strategic Plan, Functions Manual, Glossary, Operational Action Plan and MoU. During the work, each of the documents were studied individually, following a methodology that goes from personal reflection to large group sharing (time for personal re-reading, sharing by language groups and assembly).

The second part of the work has been focused on the Working Groups of the Network, looking at how to offer some guidelines to guide the progress of these Groups, taking into account their



specific reality and in sync with the rest of the Network.

Throughout the week's work there were various moments to encourage personal encounters and exchanges between all the participants. A highlight was our contact with the reality of the province of Central Mexico, through a meeting with the Mission Team and a visit to the Miravalles educational centre.

**"We are born to cooperate with each other, just as each of our feet, hands, eyelids and teeth has a counterpart."**

**(Marcus Aurelius)**

As a summary of the week's experiences, we can signal the great progress in work proposed for the different areas, as well as the good atmosphere among all the participants of the meeting. With joy we have been able to bring to life the thought presented at the beginning

of this article. We have enjoyed working together as a diverse group in order to succeed in our common goal of growing as a Global Family.

This short summary also serves to thank the brothers and lay people of the province of Mexico Central for their welcome and for their help in making this meeting such a success.

Br. Ángel Diego García Otaola  
Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity





# BECOMING PILGRIMS OF HOPE

*Faith Must Be Embraced, Fate Has to be Endured*



by: Irene Q. Rafael

"When the spirit sings, the dance of the mission begins", is the significant and meaningful personification adopted by the International Communities for a New Beginning of the Marist Institute for the Marist Brothers and Laypeople, which is considered as sharing life in various Marist communities. In order to ensure that Ms. Kimberly A. Camiring and Ms. Arianne Jane V. Ylarde are emotionally, physically, psychologically, and spiritually equipped for the mission, a number of preparations and formations are put in place as they are responding bravely to emerging needs and making themselves globally available for God's mission. How well-equipped am I for the task? A simple query goes unanswered during the initial meeting and processing led by Bro. Edgar R. Ceriales, FMS, coordinator of the East Asia Province Volunteer Program, together with Ms. Mary Joy A. Alave, a Clinical Psychologist in Training, and Ms. Grace S. Dalde, a Cultural

October 21, 2022. Ms. Alave and volunteers from the Notre Dame of It is fundamental to prepare for an respond to the challenges in the see the world from a wider every dimension of humanity, and possibility. Being open to God's call purpose as we strive to become the Going back to the original question humanity, it is impossible to match living and fulfilling the Marist of His plan? In essence, fate and understanding. Hence, *faith must endured!*



**Ms. Camiring & Ms. Ylarde**

A triumphant though difficult journey is made possible by the preparation and formation of the Marist lay volunteers' thematic focus, *"Bridging Self and Culture: Gaining Deeper Understanding of Self and Developing Cultural Competence for Marist Intercultural Living for Mission."* A deeper self-discovery and continuing rediscovery of the great diversity of cultures that promote acceptance and mutual respect regardless of ethnicity, race, language, or skin color results in a concrete encouragement in improving intercultural competencies. As Bro. Edgar Ceriales puts it, *"participating in God's mission means developing greater understanding of oneself and being culturally sensitive in order to inspire people of other cultures to unite as a community and celebrate differences and similarities"*. Building a healthy connection with the community entails striking a balance between one's own identity and that of the community. Therefore, one's individuality must be strengthened rather than diminished as part of a healthy integration into the new community.

Ms. Camiring will be assigned to Lavalla200, Mount Druitt, in an outer suburb of Sydney regarded as among the most socially disadvantaged in Australia. Its main ministry is to support the operation of the Marist Learning Zone, a joint project of the Marists and Catholic Education. Their aim is to reintegrate students who are currently not attending school. On the other hand, Ms. Ylarde will be assigned to Malawi, Africa. The true missionaries' hearts are filled with zeal for God and compassion for humanity. It is a profound act of love and honor to God to listen and respond to the voice of the least favored and oppressed minority. Furthermore, it nourishes the Marist life to have such a boundless heart like St. Marcellin Champagnat. Prior to mission-sending, a strong sense of self and culture is indispensable for understanding the two Marist lay volunteers' task. According to Ms. Dalde and Ms. Alave, *"processing and evaluating their distinctive characteristics will ensure a smooth transition"*.

A pilgrim of hope is a genuine cultural pilgrim who is willing to serve the host culture rather than dominate it. The conversion of mind and heart is essential for realizing the mission's goal - to become pilgrims of hope. It is challenging to foster qualities such as embracing God's immeasurable love, developing the harmony of personality traits and culture, and having genuine acceptance of others. The accomplishment of such a noteworthy task, however, will determine the fate of a sincere and prepared pilgrim, ready to serve and make a difference in the lives of others, with the right guidance and personal conviction.



Repost from the facebook page of Br. Edgar Ceriales, FMS.



# MARIST CYPD UPDATE

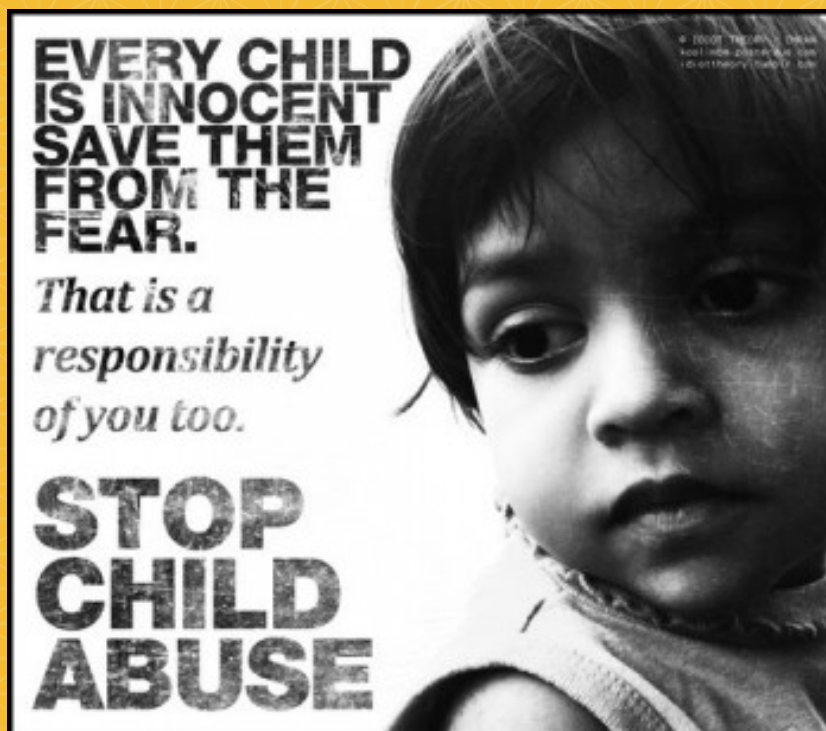
## MARIST CYPD STOP OSAEC PROGRAM EXTENDS TO NDEA

Last November 24, Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS, the chairperson of the Child and Youth Protection Desk (CYPD) of the East Asia Province, together with Agnes S. Reyes, met with Dr. Evelyn Dollete, the Executive Director of the Notre Dame Educational Association (NDEA), to present the possibilities of reaching out to NDEA schools and share with them the advocacy program Stop OSAEC. In the next 2 years, the following activities will be engaged in to heighten the campaign against abuses and exploitation of children and youth: (1) Training of key administrators; (2) Seminar of parents on Digital Parenting; (3) Youth Empowerment Seminar of Students and (4) the organization of Cyber Youth Council. All these are meant to ensure a whole-of-nation-approach in keeping children and youth safe from all forms of cyber threats.



The CYPD Team with Dr. Evelyn Dollete, NDEA Executive Director

The Child and Youth Protection Desk of Marist East Asia Province has its focus in the next two (2) years (2022-2024) the advocacy awareness on Keeping Children and Youth Safe from all forms of threats in Cyber Space. It will implement the Stop Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Program to target beneficiaries.





# *A Glimpse of the Province*

## *November 2022 Board Passers*

### A. Nursing Board Passers

1. ND Marbel University 36/36 or 100% with 8th Placer
2. ND Dadiangas University 61/63 or 96.83%
3. ND Kidapawan College 17/27 or 63.96%

### B. Civil Engineer Board Passers

1. ND Marbel University 42
2. ND Dadiangas University 30
3. ND Kidapawan College 9

### C. Pharmacist Board Passer

1. ND Dadiangas University 23/31 or 74.19%

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE BOARD PASSERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS!**

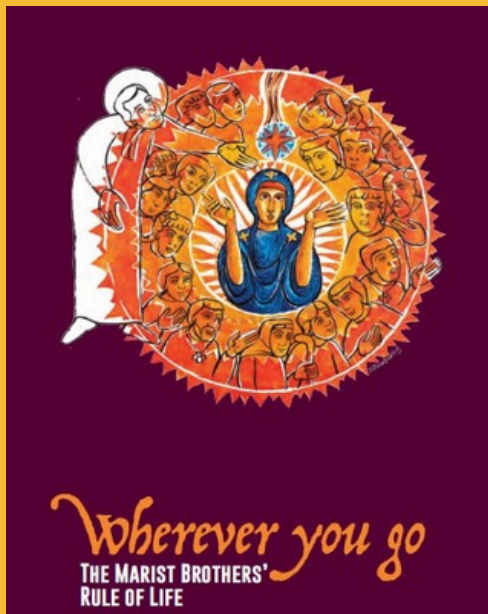


**NDKC**



## Announcement:

On the 2nd to 8th April 2023, the Holy Week Province Annual Retreat will be held at the Marist Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu with Br. Josep Maria Soteras, FMS – Link General Councilor for Asia Region, as Retreat Master. The theme will be centered on the RULE OF LIFE and THE CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF THE MARIST VOCATIONS.



CALENDAR						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Provincial's Schedule

*December 10 to 16, 2022*

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

December 1-4:  
Kobe, Japan community visit

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

December 10:  
Return flight to the Philippines from Kobe Japan

December 13:  
Special Marcellin Homes Inc. BOT Meeting at the Province Center

December 14:  
Care Home Committee Meeting at the Province Center

December 16:  
MAPAC Staff meeting at Tamontaka

December 19:  
Marist Mission Partners' Christmas Party



# Happy Birthday

## December 02

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

## December 03

Br. Eugene Pius R. Tajo

## December 05

Br. Jack J. de Leon

## December 08

Br. Norbert Wang Zhen Yong

## December 09

Br. Hilario Sevilla

## December 11

Br. Mr. Enrique Gayda  
(Affiliate Member)

## December 13

Br. Paul (Keun-ho) Won

## December 15

Br. Cristino M. Sta. Ana

## December 20

Br. Thomas Chin (Hon Man)

## December 23

Br. Elmer E. Jandic

## Prayer Intentions:

- As we begin the Season of Advent, may we strive to prepare well for His coming and allow the transformation of our hearts in tune with God's will.
- May the initiatives we do in caring for our common Home be sustained.
- That those who suffered from natural calamities find generous support from others.
- For the children and the youth that they may be protected from all forms of risks in the cyberspace.
- May we find generous people to support our Marist missions and for blessings to all our benefactors.
- For the repose of the soul Mrs. Anna Min, mother of Br. John Vianney, FMS of KJ Sector.
- For the repose of the soul of Madame Lee Bokriye, grandmother of Br. Paul Won, FMS of KJ Sector.