



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

February 28, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 04

Featured Community

MARIST BROTHERS FOURVIERE COMMUNITY

PHILIPPINES

Greetings from Fourviere Community!

The members of the Fourviere Community (Aspirancy House) were completed when aspirants Jake and Jude reported to the community in mid-January, in time for the beginning of the school's second semester.

Jake is enrolled at Notre Dame of Kidapawan College and Jude at Notre Dame of Marbel University. Both are having their classes and on-the-job training here in General Santos City.



L-R: Bros. Lloyd, Jake, Jude and Danny

Br. Danny is the busiest man in the community. Apart from being the Community Leader, he holds a number of responsibilities such as Aspirant Master, Temporary Professed Brothers' Coordinator, and Provincial Econome and Sector Bursar. On a regular basis, he is often seen attending to money-related matters of the province, processing hospital requirements and bills, following up on the needs of our brothers who are sick, conducting classes, and doing accompaniment with the aspirants.

Br. Lloyd currently oversees the vocation promotion and recruitment ministry. His office is at the Province Center. Most of the time, he is not around in the community because he goes to places for vocation promotion. Br. Lloyd is also the community treasurer.

Br. Jeffrey who was out of the community for some time, returned to the community on the 7th of February. His task now is facilitating sessions for the aspirants. He will, as he did before, assist in the vocation ministry.

It was challenging when the formation program started. We began with three aspirants namely Jake and Kyrr from Magpet, North Cotabato, and Jude from Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat. When the formation year commenced, Kyrr eventually went back home. Jake managed to be present in the community most of the weekdays and he goes back to NDKC during weekends. Jude for his part has to stay in a boarding house near NDMU to attend to his classes. Whenever he has free time, he joins the schedule of the brothers in the community. Following up the aspirants and arranging matters regarding their studies was, indeed, challenging!

Our community schedule, however structured, becomes flexible because of the differences and the nature of the responsibilities of the brothers and aspirants. We attend the Holy Eucharist early in the morning either in Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish or St. Michael Parish, depending on the schedule that we have. Leading the prayers are done rotationally per week.

We celebrated Jude's birthday in the community last January 20 and we had our first-ever happy hour where five of us were present last February 9.

Now, the community is preparing to transfer to Lagao community. Once the house is ready for occupancy, the brothers and the aspirants will eventually move to Lagao and the Fourviere house will temporarily be closed.

Sharing of Experience...

Vocation Promotion and Recruitment Ministry

By: Br. Lloyd Gamboa, Vocation Director

During the convention of the Directors of Vocation in the Philippines (DVP) on July 25-27, 2022, Bishop Roberto Gaa of Novaliches, the Coordinator of DVP to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said: *"the pastoral work of promoting vocations is essential part of the overall pastoral work of each Church. it is not a sole ministry of Vocation Directors/Promoters... everyone is involved."*

When I started to assume the ministry, I don't have any clear idea on how to do it. I was confused of many things: no clear promotion agenda, formation program was unclear, and I have only few contacts, to mention a few.

So I began re-telling my story of how I came to know who the Marist Brothers are. I remembered my experience with the late Br. Jose Torrecampo, FMS. We went to the different schools and started talking about Marcellin and the brothers. I began contacting people I knew in our schools, the batch 7 RE scholars, my former classmates at NDDU who are now teachers in the different public schools. Then I did room to room vocation campaign, promotion and gave examinations.

I visited our schools, namely NDDU, NDMU, NDC, NDKC, Marist School Marikina. I went to Norala National High School, Polonuling National High School, Johnny Ang National High School, Kidapawan City National High School, Adamson University. And at the moment of writing, I am attending the Vocation Jamboree 2023 here in the University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu City. Big thanks to the Redemptorist Priests and Brothers for my accommodation in Cebu City.

I was able to attend the all-in-one DVP-Phases Seminar Workshop for the Vocation Directors and Promoters of the Philippines at the end of January. The event was held at St. Scholastica Center for Spirituality, Tagaytay City. The Seminar Workshop used to be held in phases, yet for two reasons, the organizer made it all at once. One reason was because of financial matters. And secondly, all members might finish all phases right away. It was an enlightening experience for me in many ways. There was so much to learn about the ministry of vocation. The event allowed me to create linkage with the different vocation promoters from the different dioceses and congregations.

It was a fulfilling experience noting that the campaign initiatives bore fruits. We had our first come-and-see weekend workshop group in Marbel Community where 5 young men participated: 2 from Norala, 2 from Polonuling, and 1 from Polomolok. Thanks to the brothers of the Marbel Community for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Truly, everyone has been involved in making things happen in the vocation ministry. It could not have been possible if not for the help of those people. Surely, there are other ways to make this better. Vocation ministry entails ongoing improvement.

I am Looking forward to more collaboration to do with everyone. May we have a quality harvest that will continue the legacy of our dear founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat.

May Jesus and Mary be known and loved throughout the world.



On Being Earthlings

By Jose Nacienceno*

“We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (*cf. Gen 2:7*); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters” (*Laudato Si’ (LS), 2*).

Yes, you read it right. We, humans, are dust of the Earth. We have “forgotten” it. We think only of ourselves humans. We are busy with our activities to survive, to be grand, happy, and saved. We think of ourselves, but we do not think that we are dust of the Earth. That we come from Earth. We are not conscious of Earth.

We have forgotten that we are dust of the Earth. Therefore, *LS* is inviting us to *remember* this truth of our identity. We are indeed children of God. We are created in his image and likeness. But it is equally true that we are dust of the Earth. It is a truth that needs a depth of awareness to fully realize who we are and transform our lives.

Genesis tells, “the Lord God formed a man [Hebrew *adam*] from the dust of the ground [Hebrew *adamah*]” (2:7). On Ash Wednesday, the old formula for putting ash on the forehead was, “Remember you are dust and to dust you will return” (Genesis 3:19). More than a reminder of penance and contrition, ash recalled the origin of humans (from *humus*, Gk. for fertile ground) from dust.

In creating from dust, God dirtied his “divine hands.” It showed the intimacy between the Creator and creatures. Like a potter, he formed creatures from dust. Delighting in his creation, God said they were “good.” He loved Earth and all creatures. Then, God sent Christ to be human, an earthling, a member of the Earth community, “for he [God] so loved the cosmos” (John 3:16). Jesus too was a child of Earth.

Breathing in, I see the element earth in me, the element air in me. I see clouds, snow, rain, and rivers in me. I see the atmosphere, wind, and forests in me, the mountains and oceans in me. I see the earth in me. Breathing out, I smile to the Earth in me. I am one with Mother Earth, the most beautiful planet in our solar system. - Thich Nhat Hanh

In another creation story provided by science, Earth is part of the 13.7-billion-year evolution of the universe. It is a very small part of the edge of the Milky Way galaxy, which is composed of billions of stars. It was formed only around 4.5 billion years ago together with other planets around the sun. On this planet, life began around 3.5 billion years ago; human life followed some 6 million years ago in Africa.

We are Earthlings. We come *from* and *belong* to Earth. The elements in our bodies (including Jesus’) come from Earth. (E.g., nitrogen, calcium, phosphorous, and oxygen. They were spewed out from a supernova star.). Like animals, trees, birds, fish, viruses, etc., we are a form of Earth. This makes us connected with all other creatures. We are not *apart from* but a *part of* Earth.

The Earth (and the Universe) has become conscious through us humans and also to some degree in other creatures, like plants and animals. This consciousness has become conscious of itself, self-reflective. We are not only conscious that we are conscious, but we are Earth that has become conscious of herself. What a stupendous achievement of Earth! Brian Swimme, a physicist who has been reflecting on cosmogenesis, quips that Earth, a molten rock, evolved to be humans after billions of years: “The earth was once molten rock and now sings operas.”

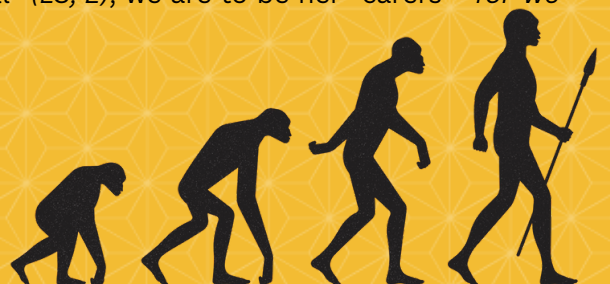
Breathing in, I see the stars and galaxies in me. I am consciousness manifesting as cosmos. I am made of stars and galaxies. Breathing out, I smile to the stars in me. I play my part in the immortality of clouds, rain, stars, and the cosmos. - Thich Nhat Hanh

Scriptures and science tell us that we are Earth. Identified with and dependent on her, we need to love and protect her. Our well-being depends on her well-being; her well-being depends on us. We cannot be cut from her. We have to work for our common good—hers and ours. As Thomas Berry says: “We must now understand that our own well-being can be achieved only through the well-being of the entire natural world around us.”

Therefore, our reality as earthlings critiques a narrowly human-centered theology/spirituality and a dualistic worldview where spirit matters but body, flesh, and Earth are depreciated. It embraces the good of the whole earth community; putting us, humans, in our proper place within her—rather than separate. Thus, rather than “her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will” (*LS, 2*), we are to be her “carers”—*for we are Earth*.

(ii-2-2023)

*Jose Nacienceno is the chair of the Marist Ecology Ministry.



MARIST EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM UPDATE:

MARIST SCHOOL LEVELS UP IN LINKAGING WITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

As part of Marist School's effort in establishing international partnerships and linkages, Br. Mark Laurea hosted a meeting with Tom Ristoski (Pro Vice-Chancellor) and Prof. Michelle Campbell (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) of the University of Australia last February 28. The administration is deeply committed to its aim of providing support and range of opportunities for the students and educators through international scholarships, exchange programs, professional placements, and volunteer opportunities.



NDMU-SHS Admin Benchmark at Maris Stella High School, Singapore

Mrs. Leann Jester D. Rosali, MSc, the SHS Principal, and Ms. Princess Joy F. Dicto, MSc, the STEM Strand Coordinator of NDMU-IBED visited the Maris Stella High School, a Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O-Level) school run by Marist Brothers, to learn about the best pedagogical practices and STEM academic program of the said school last February 13, 2023. The visit to the aforementioned Singaporean school included classroom observations for Mathematics and Science classes and a dialogue with the key academic personnel of the school.



ADVOCACY AGAINST ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (OSAEC)

Eleven (11) Notre Dame Educational Association (NDEA) Cotabato cluster schools participated in the 2nd Seminar-Workshop on STOP Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children on February 24-25 at the OMI Retreat Center, Maguindanao. There was a total of 49 participants comprising school principals, guidance counselors, prefect of disciplines and child protection officers.

A team of competent resource persons conducted the seminar-workshop. Atty. Ma Theresa Biongan-Pescadera gave input on the Anti-OSAEC Law. Ms. Leann Jester Rosali, Principal of Notre Dame of Marbel University-Senior High School, shared her experiences on Cybersafety in Schools. Ms. Genalyn Macalinao, Policy Lead, Cybersecurity Bureau Department of Information and Communications Technology of the National office, provided her input on Cybersecurity and Parenting in the Digital Age. Br. Crispin Betita, FMS for his part, assisted the participants to understand the importance of formulating the child protection policies and the flow chart in reporting and handling cases that arise.

The participants found the seminar-workshop valuable since it created in them a strong consciousness of the risks the children and the young are exposed to in the cyberspace. It equipped them with the knowledge on cybersecurity and on how to keep children safe from all forms of cybercrimes.

Dr. Evelyn Dollete, the NDEA Executive Director, expressed her gratitude to the Marist Brothers, East Asia Province, for this opportunity being shared with the NDEA member schools. This advocacy program is implemented with the funding support of Misaan Cara, through FMSI-Rome.



Photo News

February 14:
Some Christian Teachers visited the brothers in Kobe Japan Community



February 15:
Br. Lindley with Br. Lawrence who is in Rome attending the MidLife Course and Br. Anselmo, member of the Commission of Brothers' Today.



February 16:
Bros. Robert and John Emil attended the celebration of the World Youth Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese of Kuching.



February 16: (Kobe Community)
Brothers Yohan and Allen attended a prayer service as part of the activities for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held at Sumiyoshi Catholic Church. The Auxiliary Bishop of Osaka Diocese together with 2 priests and 2 pastors led the service. About 50 Christians from different denominations were present at the service.



February 20:
Four (4) student leaders of Marist Brothers International School and a teacher visited the community for the first time and met all the brothers. In the photo, Brother Yoshida is sharing with them the Marist history of Japan.



February 18:
Br. Anthony Cheng and Br. Anthony Tay visited Kuching Community and met up with Fr. Joseph Ng, SJ an "old boy" from Catholic High School in Malacca.



Photo News

**February 22:
Meeting of Province Spirituality Commission**

February 22: Hong Kong community members and St. Francis Xavier students celebrated Ash Wednesday.



**February 22:
Br. Tom and Br Andrew visited Br. Francis,
a brother of Montfort Brothers of St.
Gabriel, at Kinarut, Sabah, Malaysia**



**February 25:
Br Tom Chin & Br Andrew Chan (Marist Brothers)
visited the De La Salle Brothers in Malaysia.**



Get-together Activity of the Marist Communities of East Malaysia and Singapore

The Marist Brothers in East Malaysia and Singapore had their get-together activity on February 17 to 19 at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

On February 16, Br. Thomas Chin from Singapore was welcomed by the community members, Br. John Emil Alada and Br. Robert Teoh. On February 18, Br. John Tan and Br. Andrew Chan arrived in the community from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Br. Thomas and Br. Andrew had a chance to visit the St. Joseph's International School and the Marist Hostel.

On February 18, the brothers left the Marist residence and had lunch at the Hawker Centre. Afterward, they proceeded to Palm Beach Resort at Sematan for an overnight stay.

The next day, they left the resort and went to Telok Melano, and had lunch at Lundu, a town between Telok Melan and Bau. They visited Tasik Biru, Shi Wang Gong and Siniawan.

They culminated their get-together activity by attending a Thanksgiving Mass at St. Mark's Church. It was presided by Fr. Paul Hu, CDD, a friend of the Marist Brothers from Gansu, China, followed by a simple dinner at a Hawker Centre with Fr. Paul Hu. Right after the dinner, Br. Robert sent off the brothers to the airport in time for their departure schedule.



Provincial Econome's Visitation

On February 24 to 27, the Provincial Econome, Br. Danilo M. Sevilla together with the Province secretary, Ms. Gelyn S. Niño-franco visited the Brothers in Hong Kong Community. The purpose of the visit was to meet Br. John Chin, the former Province Econome and to finalize the document for the forthcoming Bursars Immersion in the East Asia Province on March 5 to 11. Both had a chance to visit St. Francis Xavier College and St. Francis Xavier High School. They also met Ms. Mary, an affiliate member of the Province and Ms. Gina, the cook of the brothers from Davao City. Other people they met were priests, alumni, and close friends of the brothers. Brothers Anthony, John Chong, and John Chin happily welcomed the presence of Br. Danny and Ms. Gelyn to the community during their stay.



Provincial's Visitation

February 14-19: Provincial's Visit to Jolo Community

Rev. Bishop Charlie Inzon visited Notre Dame of Jolo-Kasulutan High School.



Br. Allan with Jolo Community members



Mrs. Mildred M. Elorpe receives a Plaque of Appreciation in recognition of her 10 Years dedicated service to the brothers in Jolo Community.

Former high school students in the early 2000s visited Br. Allan in Jolo.



Br. Allan with the Religious (OMI & OND) in the Vacariate of Jolo





Mount Druitt Community
Sydney, Australia

Transition

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. (Chinese proverb, Dao Di Jing)

Any journey or travel that one undertakes must begin with a strong determination to reach his or her goal. But reaching this destination, one must consider his or her experiences and all the things that one carries.

These are what he or she brings as one embarks on the journey.

However, one must understand that beginning a journey of life can be overwhelming. There are things that do not appear as they are. There are difficulties that one encounter which can affect one's destination, goals, dreams and aspirations. Thus, there is a need for extensive preparation and planning. It is like building a house. One must calculate the costs, time, manpower and other resources. This is a process one must undergo. One must have a clear vision or a clear picture of What he or she wants in this journey. When all of these are clear, one can now begin the journey. In my case, I am ready to start the journey.

I have gone through all the formations, processing of documents, discernment and personal preparations. After all the farewells and well-wishing, I started my journey. I am part of the Lavalla200. My assignment was to go to Mt. Druitt in Australia. During my departure from General Santos City Airport, I had an emotional goodbye to my family and friends. I felt a mixture of joy, excitement, nervousness as well as fear. Being away for a couple of years from my home environment is something big and challenging. But I know that I will be in a good place with amazing people.

Many speak of opportunities - "When one door closes, another one opens. But rarely about the hallway. The transition. The in between where you are and where you are headed. The hallway doesn't have to be scary, dark and endless confusion - it can be a space of massive transformation, great memories and peace.

Many speak of opportunities - "When one door closes, another one opens. But rarely about the hallway. The transition. The in between where you are and where you are headed. The hallway doesn't have to be scary, dark and endless confusion - it can be a space of massive transformation, great memories and peace.

dark and endless confusion - it can be a space of massive transformation, great memories and peace. Before going to Australia, I went to Singapore for a three-day transition activity. I stayed at the Marist Community there. Br. Elmer and Br. Tom Chin took care of me while I was there. It was a nice experience for me to see and learn the Brothers' community life and their ministry. The three-day transition activity gave me time to process my own thoughts and emotions to become aware of the reality of what I am about to get into, that is to live a life of a cultural pilgrim. Being in Singapore also gave me time to explore the city and its tourist areas. Honestly speaking, I enjoyed my sojourn in Singapore.

After three days in Singapore, I flew to Australia. Although I enjoyed the airport rush and layovers, I felt something different about this trip. I believe this trip would play a significant part in my life as a volunteer.

Community

When I arrived in Australia, I was met by Br. Jeff Crowe, Br. Chris Wills and my future community members Br. Lawrie, Ruben and Silvia. The warmth of their embrace and smiles as they welcomed me gave me a sense of family.

The Lavalla200 community of Mt. Druitt would be my family for the next couple of years. I was the newest member. Being new, I was guided and helped by the old members. They made sure I was comfortable and I was treated with respect. I never thought that living in this mixed Marist and intercultural community would be heartwarming. Here, we shared the same vision and mission.

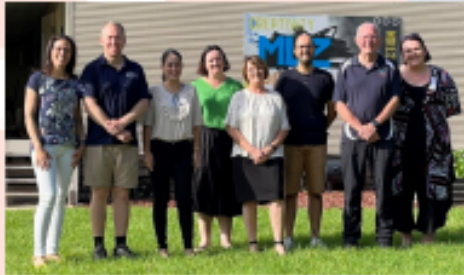
We strived to make community living as best we can. We have a lovely house and we took our meals together.



We also shared moments of disappointments and celebrations. We shared each other's laughter, explorations and winning times. But most of all we worked together always grounded on the purpose of our mission, that is, to be of service to others and to respond boldly to the emerging needs of the people we are handling.

The Ministry

MLZ, or Marist Learning Zone, is a type of non-formal education center that provides a fresh start to students from Grades 7-10 who have dropped out of regular



The team who work together to help and assist student. L-R: Silvia Martinez Garcia (Marist Volunteer from Palencia, Spain), John Philippa (Leader of MLZ), Kimberly A. Camiring Marist Volunteer from Philippines), Kerryen O'Brien (Lead Teacher of MLZ), Maggie Traversa (Wellbeing Lead Counsellor - Psychologist), Ruben Galego (Marist Volunteer from Vigo, Spain), Br. Lawrie McCane, F.M.S. (Australia), Josephine Edwards (Specialist Teacher, Wellbeing & Behavior Support)

school attendance for a variety of reasons. The center's goal is to help students rediscover a sense of success and get them excited about learning again. The type of instruction provided is quite different from what they received in school. They receive more individualized attention, project-based learning, enjoyable educational activities, and cross-curricular learning. For these students, the center aspires to be more like a family.

At the moment, the center is staffed by eight people who work together to help and assist students. The team consists of four people from the community, two full-time employees and two

part-time employees. The CSPD, or Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, also oversees the center.

Every day, we all go to work at MLZ as a group. As someone who has been more exposed to primary teaching, it is a big adjustment for me now have to deal with adults and journey with them. It was a little rocky at first, but I eventually got into the groove. I have good and professional colleagues who have taught me and are constantly guiding me every day.

As volunteers, our ministry extends beyond our time at MLZ. We are also involved in the Baabayn Center, an aboriginal center, where we help teach young children in the Homework Club on Tuesdays and the Youth Group on Thursdays. We also respond to any requests as long as we can take action.



What a Month



It's almost a month that I'm here and everything seems to pass by so quickly. My life here as a volunteer had been great so far. *I might commit flaws and mistakes and shed some tears along the way, but nothing compares to the joy I felt because I am doing something I love, participating in God's mission.* I met a lot of good people, I get to explore places, and I was given a chance to attend meaningful formation.



Australia Day Celebration - Yabun Festival



One might believe that how you begin a journey determines how it ends, but I disagree with that viewpoint. The person on the journey, not the journey itself, determines how it will end. *I know that this journey of mine has a long way to go, but I am happy to have amazing people journeying with me, I have a beautiful community, and I have God. When the end goal is in sight, the beginning of a journey is important.*





Companion in the Journey

By Ophelia Cruz-Marcelino



Khim a.k.a. Kimberly Arguez Camiring, said, " It's almost a month that I'm here and everything seems to pass by so quickly. My life here as a volunteer had been great so far. I might commit flaws and mistakes and shed some tears along the way, but nothing compares to the joy I felt because I am doing something I love, participating in God's mission." Khim experienced the twists and turns as she started as cultural pilgrim in Mount Druitt. Out in the mission, she started to experience and respond to the unexpected, made crucial decisions and faced adjustments during this transitional phase in the journey. All events and situations that she experienced during her first thirty days in mission serve as learning opportunities, and I told Khim, there is more to come. **Life in the mission is a journey where a volunteer-missionary continues to face discomfort, sacrifices, trials, changes and challenges.** However, these are all part of giving service when and where one is called, participating in God's mission. Khim, as cultural pilgrim of hope in Mount Druitt is a blessing, like the other volunteers in their community. Like, Khim, I am a volunteer myself, her companion in the journey. I am blessed to be with Khim, walking and journeying together. We journey together, not on a face to face condition but in the virtual landscape. Using technology is beneficial to us. As companions in the journey, each day God invites us to live, to grow, to discover, to question and find meaning in our lives on mission. Being companions we engage in the ordinary experiences of life's journey through a spiritually dynamic, mutual exchange of sharing, conversations (articulating one's story,) listening (with the ear of the heart) and responding (in word and deed) to God, self, and others with a special emphasis on the roles that individuals, culture and faith play in our lives in mission. As volunteer-missionaries, Khim and I are on different circumstance, however, we have one mind and one heart welcoming and open to listen and to grow in intimacy with our Triune God, who is our real and true companion in the journey, our light and our hope in participating in His mission of spreading love and the Good News of our salvation.

Note: Mrs. Ophie Marcelino is doing regular accompaniment of Khim as she continues her journey into BEING



Provincials' Schedule

March 01 to 15, 2023

Provincials Conference
in Rome

March 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 03:
BR. DOMINADOR A. SANTIAGO

A Glimpse of the Province

JAPAN IS TRANSFERRED TO THE PROVINCE OF EAST ASIA

This article is a reprint from MARIST NEWS, General House, #228, September 27, 2012

The Marist Brothers arrived in Kobe, Japan, in 1951. Today, the Institute has three Brothers in this land: Ramon Bereicua, Bernard Yamaguchi, and Joseph Yoshida. The Kobe community currently belongs to the Province of the United States. Last year, the Brothers of Kobe requested that the community be transferred to the Province of East Asia. The request was the fruit of a discernment process brought to maturity by contacts between the Provincial Council of the United States and the General Councillors responsible for the Sector, John Klein and Michael De Waas. The request was recently accepted by the Province of East Asia and Br. Emili Turu has informed the Provincial of the United States that the change will come into effect in October.

(We reproduce below part of the text written by Br. Ben Consigli, Provincial of the United States, to the Brothers of the Province on the Marist mission in Japan.)

The Japanese Mission Territory has a very interesting history in the years following World War II. It was evident that the great Marist Province in continental China, with a membership of over 200 Brothers, half of them Chinese, would come to an end as the Communists were taking control of the government. As a result of violent Communist persecutions on the China mainland in 1950, the Brothers looked for new mission countries in Asia. European brothers who had spent many years in China sought refuge that year in the city of Kobe, Japan. To maintain community life and to extend Marist influence to the foreign colony in that city, they opened an English-speaking school there. With the curriculum modeled on the British educational system, the school awarded the coveted Cambridge diploma.

(In 1956, two Spanish brothers who had studied at Marian College, Poughkeepsie, were sent to Japan by Br. Leonida, Superior General at that time. They were the first Marist reinforcements to arrive in Japan after World War II. Shortly after their arrival, they were sent to Tokyo to learn Japanese. At that period, the mission in Japan belonged to the China Province. Of the two brothers, Jose Nicolau and Francisco J. Castellanos, the first returned to Spain, while Br. Francisco J. Castellanos was economo of the school in Kumamoto for many years. He was also director of the school during Br. Patrick Francis' sabbatical year.)

In 1957, at the request of the Superior General, three Brothers from the United States went to Japan to begin the transition of the Marist Brothers International School to administration by the US Province. Brothers Daniel Michael Sullivan and Patrick Francis Tyrell were assigned to Tokyo to study Japanese, while Brother John Benedict Laroche went directly to Kobe.

With the success of the English-language school in Kobe, the Brothers expanded their mission by founding Marist High School in Kumamoto, conducted in Japanese. In 1957, Brother Patrick Francis Tyrell was appointed to oversee the construction project, and the school opened on April 12, 1961 and continues to this day.

When the United States Province was divided in 1959, the Japanese mission was entrusted to the Poughkeepsie Province until the two provinces were reunited in 2003.

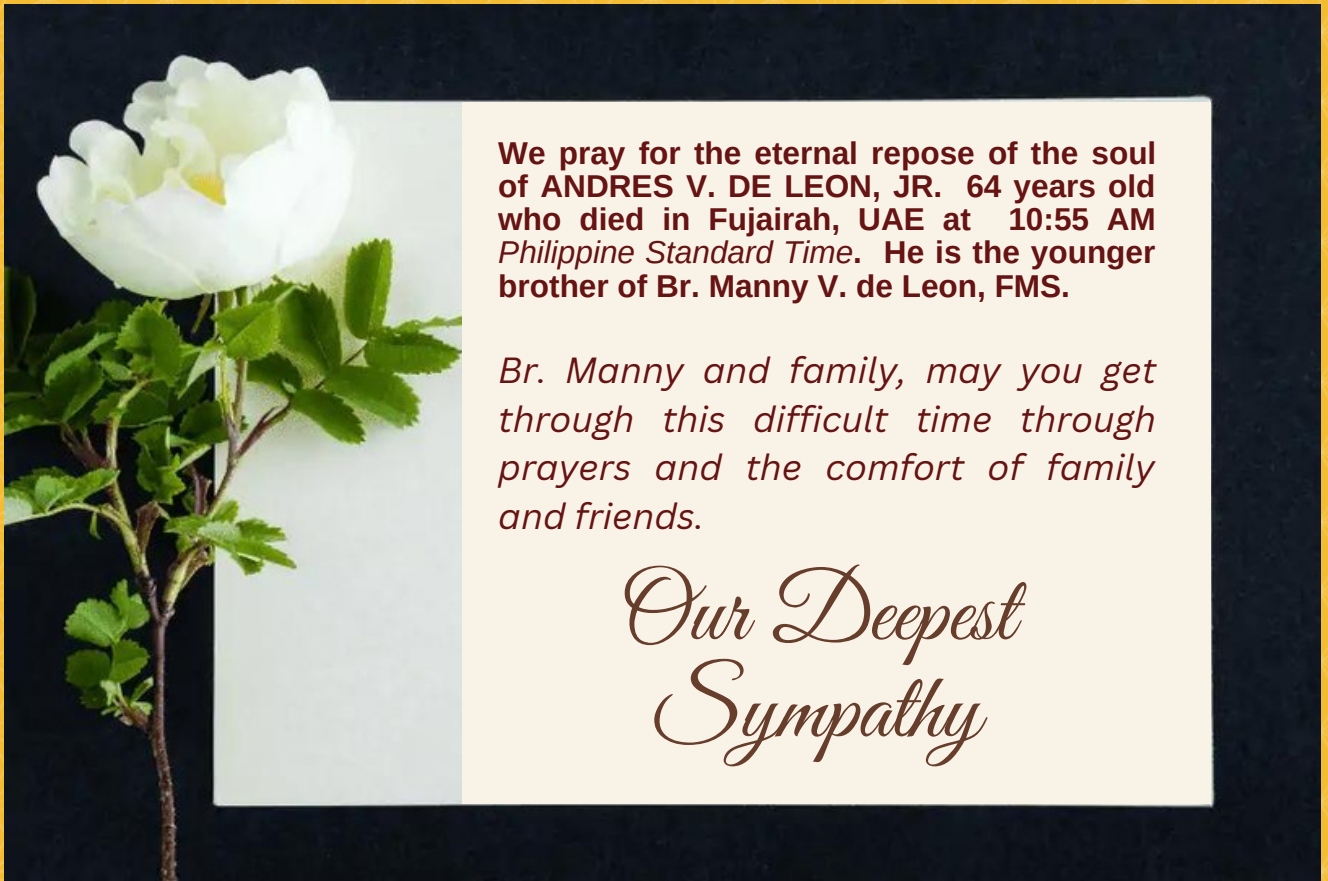
In 1995, a devastating earthquake destroyed much of the city of Kobe. The Brothers began this arduous of rebuilding the school and residence, and today the Marist Brothers International School continues its mission as a Catholic school with a Marist heritage.

In 1998, the Brothers withdrew from the Kumamoto school and turned over the administration to a lay board of directors.

In 2012, the three Brothers remaining in Japan, Brothers Ramon Bereicua, Bernard Yamaguchi and Joseph Yoshida, while retired, continue to make Jesus Christ known and loved in the way of Mary through their pastoral work in local parishes. Our recent 125th anniversary Province celebrations called us to "Remember, Celebrate, and Believe!". With that in mind, we remember with great pride and gratitude all the efforts of so many faith-filled Marist Brothers and lay Marists who helped to build and nurture the Church in Japan over these 60+ years.

We celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of their tireless efforts in making Jesus known and loved, and we must believe that we will continue to be strengthened and encouraged to live the Marist dream given to us by Saint Marcellin, trusting, like Mary. - Br. Ben Consigli, Provincial of the United States

The present members of Kobe Community are the following: Br. Joseph Yoshida, Br. Yohan Oh (Korea), Br. John Allen Timola (Philippines) and Br. Bernard Yamaguchi (U.S.A.)



We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of ANDRES V. DE LEON, JR. 64 years old who died in Fujairah, UAE at 10:55 AM Philippine Standard Time. He is the younger brother of Br. Manny V. de Leon, FMS.

Br. Manny and family, may you get through this difficult time through prayers and the comfort of family and friends.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Prayer Intentions:

- For our Universal Church that she may always remain steadfast in faith amidst the challenges of our time.
- For the institution of marriage, especially those that are in crisis, that husbands and wives may turn to God for strength, and serve as a living sign of His love for us all.
- For a meaningful observance of the Season of Lent by responding to the call for repentance and conversion.
- For our attentiveness to listen to the cry of the earth and take action for the healing of our common home.
- For blessings to all those celebrating their gift of life this month.