



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

March 31, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 06

Featured Community

MARIST BROTHERS KIDAPAWAN COMMUNITY Philippines

The Kidapawan Community is composed of "Triple A" brothers, namely: Brothers Albert, Armando, and Arnel. Each plays a different role in the community and in the school. The youngest member, Br. Albert, is the Prefect of Discipline of the College. He makes sure that before students get inside the campus, they are in complete uniform or in proper attire. The job is not new to him because he was once the prefect of the discipline of Marist School Marikina. Aside from maintaining the proper behavior of students, he is also effective in giving sound advice to those who are in need of direction and in conflict with the school policy. To make his program in discipline more effective, he works in close coordination with the people in the Guidance Office. As the community treasurer and procurator, he provides the members with food supplies and an up-to-date financial report during regular monthly meetings.

Br. Arman is the community leader. He cooks for the community, especially when the community cook is not around. He ensures that the food served on the table is nutritious enough. Br. Arman delights into buying fruits and vegetables for the community. He has the skill of making Bugnay organic wine, and he applied for the product branding, naming it Fratello Vino. In producing the wine, he advocates the good effects of planting and restoring the forest in the locality since the Bugnay tree is an effective catalyst for reforestation, indeed, an act of caring for mother earth, our common home.

Br. Arnel is the school, President. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame of Cotabato, BRC, NDEA, and Marian Hills Memorial Park. Recently, he was elected as the President of Cotabato Private Schools Athletic Associations. In his leadership, Notre Dame of Kidapawan College hosted the COPRISAA meet this year. His efficiency as a leader merited the IBED program, a PAASCU re-accreditation with a clean slate for five years.

The community received Brothers and Postulant to experience the apostolic immersion. The two novices from Mission Ad Gentes, Br. Mai from Vietnam and Br. Felis, from East Timor, stayed for more than two months in the community. They were assigned to the Campus Ministry office and Community Extension Services in the College, respectively.

Br. Nowelle Solinap, our Scholastic who finished his novitiate formation in Fiji, came last August 30 to start his apostolic immersion for four months. During the whole duration of his stay in Kidapawan, he was assigned in the College Guidance office since he is also pursuing his Graduate School in Guidance Counselling. He was asked to report to MAPAC last Dec. 22 to start his formation program.

Last August 31, a Mission Ad Gentes postulant, Chiran Shovo from Bangladesh, stayed for two weeks to experience the mission of the Brothers here at Notre Dame of Kidapawan College. He was assigned to the Basic Educations program to observe and help in different school activities. They were so happy with their experience and they are looking forward for their next venture in life and hopefully, as professed Marist Brother.

Community photos



NEW APPOINTMENT OF BR. NIÑO M. PIZARRO, FMS

March 18: The Superior General and his Council have appointed Br. Nino Pizarro , from the Province of East Asia, as the new Assistant Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization for a period of three years. He will assume this role beginning July 15, 2023, replacing Brother Mark Omede, from the Province of Nigeria.



EAST ASIA PROVINCE ENGAGES IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

On March 17-18, the persons in charge of the different commissions, committees, ministries, and desks of the East Asia Province were convened to review once again the strategic plan of the current administration and to set priorities for the next two years. The venue of the said meeting was the Marist Asian Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu.

Dr. Alma Hordista and Dr. Andres Magallanes were the key facilitators directing the group to engage in discussions to find synergy in the implementation of priorities of each respective area.

The Oversight Team presented the working draft for the articulation of the Vision-Mission. Br. Manny de Leon, FMS presented the proposed Organigram, and Dr. Magallanes explained the Operational Flow Chart important in the work synergy.

The action points drawn from the discussions were, among others, the sending of the draft of the vision-mission statement, organigram, and operational chart to all brothers and laity for them to provide feedback for improvements and allow an experience of owning the process prior to the finalization of the said documents. Time would be needed to fine-tune the final form of the documents.

Br. Allan de Castro, FMS, Provincial Superior, enjoins everyone to take part in this important process affecting the life of the East Asia Province.



MARIST ECOLOGY

God in Creation

By Jose Nacianceno*

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.*

-Psalm 19:2

Be overwhelmed by the incredible images that the James Webb Space Telescope is sending us from outer space like the supposedly improbable existence of the six galaxies only over a half billion years after the Big Bang. (It is not expected for the universe to organize itself that quickly. The biggest of the six is like a trillion times bigger than our sun or ten times the size of our galaxy!)

Be amazed by the wave-particle duality of light and electrons in the quantum world. Or of the electrons that can be "here" and "there" simultaneously.

Wonder at the beauty and complexity of simple flowers in a garden. Or of wild green grass growing on a lawn. Or the night sky with the sheen of the stars and the moon. Or the melodies of a bird song.

The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine. -Laudato Si' (LS), 85

Creation invites us to be "shocked to amazement" (Abraham Heschel) whether by the immensity of the universe, the teensy-weensy of the quantum world, or the "commonplaceness" of a tree, bird, river, or a dog.

But to be in awe and wonder, in an ecstasy of and inebriated by the world depends on our openness to the goodness and beauty around us. It depends on how we see the universe. We can be jaded or numb and not see beauty and goodness.

Live your life as if nothing is a miracle, or everything is a miracle. -Albert Einstein

There is nothing that we do to deserve the beauty of a night sky, the lonely face of a dog, the colors of the rainbows, the stability of trees, the fragrance of flowers, the cool of mornings, the silence of the night, the spinning of the Earth, or the diversity of animals. In the presence of the magnificence of creation, we can only bow down our heads in gratitude.

This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since "for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice. -LS, 85

The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: "To sense, each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope. -LS, 85

Laudato Si' invites us to see God present and reveal himself in creation. God is not confined to the church and in the Scriptures. He is also found in creation. If he is revealing himself in creation, we have to listen to him there too.

We can say that 'alongside revelation properly so-called, contained in sacred Scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night. -LS, 85

God has written a precious book, "whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe." -LS, 85; quoting John Paul II.

The universe is the primary revelation of the divine, the primary scripture, the primary locus of divine-human communication. -Thomas Berry

Scripture itself is telling us to look outside--away from our narcissistic preoccupations. Take a leave from our cellphones and laptops. See the glory of God in creation. "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:2). For God is present in creation: "If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me . . ." (Psalm 139:8-10).

Contemplate God in the natural world, outside the classrooms and chapels. Learn to contemplate creation as a sacred text (*lectio divina*). Not only meditating of the Scriptures, praying the Rosary and celebrating the Mass. Allow the natural world to speak to us in its peace and silence. Beaches, mountains, gardens, forests, or parks, more than places of recreation and adventure, are sacred places to listen to God.

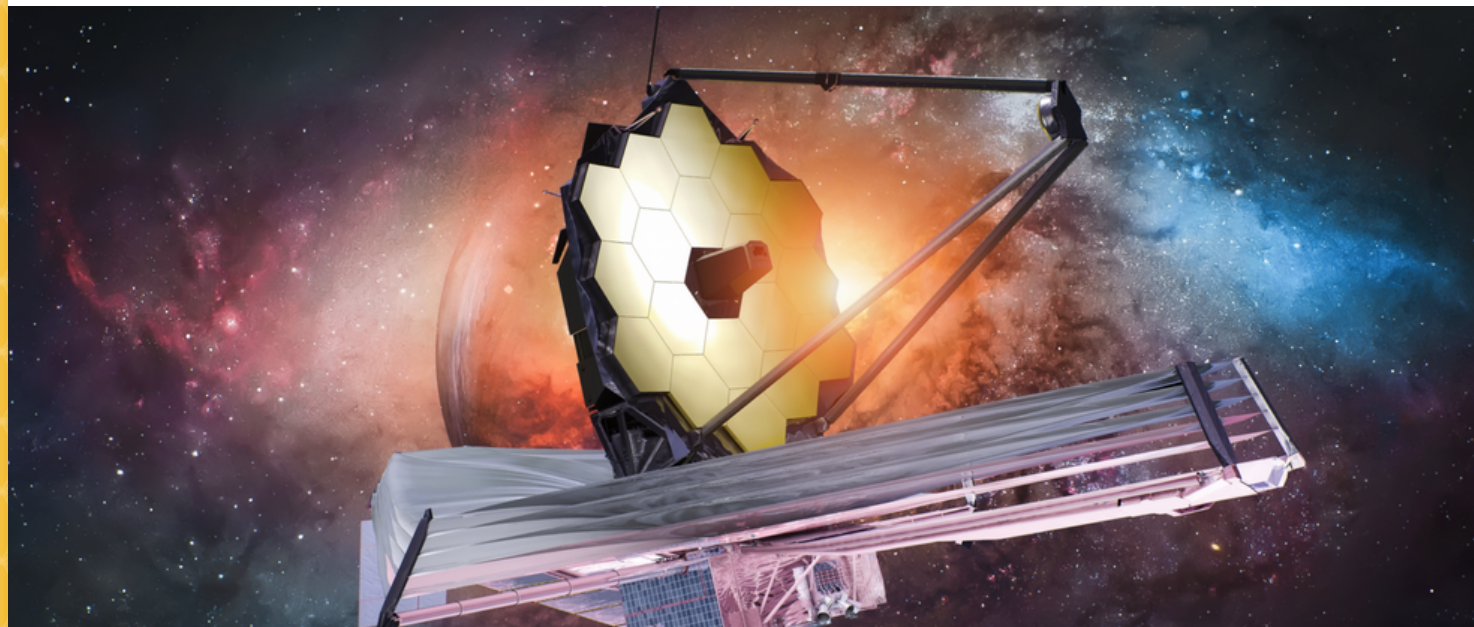
God's presence and revelation in creation provide a profound motivation to protect and preserve the natural world. If the destruction of the natural world continues, "Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right" (LS, 33).

Be radically amazed.

Be quiet--and listen to God's revelation in creation.

(iii-6-2023)

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



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CYBERSECURITY

On March 17, the program Asean Cybersecurity Skilling and Youth Empowerment was conducted at the Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU) IBED-Senior Highschool campus. Around 63 student leaders participated, coming from the 9 Diocesan Schools of the Diocese of Marbel and the host school NDMU.

The Supreme Student Council leaders worked together with the councils of the different strands of Senior High School and the Spectrum Creative Club officers in the preparation and delivery of the cybersecurity modules. The youth trainers were those who attended the training cascaded by the CyberguardiansPH sometime in October last year. They worked under the supervision of Ms. Leann Jester Dauz Rosali, Senior High School Principal. They tackled themes on cyber-attacks and how to protect themselves from cyber threats. Cyber security tips were shared to equip participants with the needed information on how to protect themselves online.

The event was attended by the Executive Director of the Notre Dame Educational Association, Dr. Evelyn Dollete, and the Director of FMSI-Rome, Mr. Andrea Rossi, and Mr. Marcello Romagnoli, Finance Officer. In his message of inspiration, Andrea Rossi emphasized to the student leaders that leadership is not about power but the capacity to make a difference in the lives of others and change them for the better. He commends the participation of student leaders in taking strong advocacy in protecting children and youth from all forms of cybercrime.

Br. Crispin Betita, the Chair of the Child and Youth Protection of the East Asia Province, takes for his priority the implementation of the advocacy program on anti-online sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the next two years. This program is made possible through the funding support of Misesan Cara, Ireland.



BLESSING OF THE FACILITIES OF THE ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY

Last March 19, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary, the facilities of the new St. Joseph community were blessed by Fr. Angelo Buenavides. Brothers, laity, and friends came to grace the event.

Br. Allan de Castro, FMS, Provincial, personally thanked architect Joseph Non and his Marbel Construction Development team, Engineer Enrico “Jun” Mariano of J.E.M. 88 Construction Development Corporation and all those who worked for the completion of the facilities for the last 15 months.

In his message, Br. Allan pointed out that the construction of the Care Home facilities is a concrete manifestation of a priority put forward that concretized care and concern for the brothers. Furthermore, Br. Allan recalled that in Chapter 2 of Br. Ernesto’s circular, “Homes of Light,” the Superior General highlighted that as Marists of Champagnat, the Marist family spirit unfolds in the Marist virtues of listening attentively, being available, honesty, patience, gentleness, hospitality, mutual support, courtesy, tolerance, and service to your sisters and brothers. This spirit helps build homes of light where we care for the lives of one another. Indeed, the gathering for the blessing of the facilities of the Care Home was, for Br. Allan, a profound expression of our way of building family spirit and caring for one another. He concluded his message with a note of inspiration:

“Brothers, Lay Marists, friends, we know that Mary was there with the other disciples and one in heart with them, just as she is among us today in this building, her work. We are in the hands of our Good Mother; we could not be in better hands! With her by our side, let us BUILD HOMES OF LIGHT THAT CARE FOR LIFE AND GENERATE NEW LIFE.”



Photo News

March 18:
Conference Meeting with OIC-PSWDO Sarangani, Focal Person of Provincial Juvenile Justice and Welfare Network-Sarangani, Marist Brothers International, Executive Director of Marcellin Foundation Inc., Focal Person of Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee and CSWDO General Santos City.



March 19:
The former Aspirancy Chapel was turned over to NDDU-IBED Lagao Campus for the use of students and personnel. The said Chapel is named Our Lady of Hope Chapel and feast day is celebrated on January 17. The significance of the name connects to our Lady, who appeared to the children in Pontmain, France, communicating the message to end the Franco-Prussian War. This devotion to Mary, Lady of Hope, encourages promotion of young people as the hope of the future. The NDDU-IBED Lagao campus is grateful to Br. Allan de Castro, FMS for transfer.



March 16:
Korea-Japan Sector - The first meeting of the newly formed community in 2023, which were the Jecheon and Chung Joo communities. They are Br. Tim, Tony, Dominique, and Domingo. The meeting was held on March 16 in Jecheon. The community name is JC(The initial of Jecheon and Chungjoo).



March 18:
Br. Allan de Castro, Provincial, Br. Crispin Betita, Director of Marcellin Home, Br Rommel Ocasiones, Prov. Councilor at the same time Director of Notre Dame of Cotabato with Mr. Andrea Rossi and Marcello Romanolli from FMSI in Rome during the Strategic Plan Meeting at Marist Asian Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu



Photo News

March 21:

Happy birthday, Br. Steve of Dadiangas Community - Celebrating the gift of life and the gift of brotherhood. Dinner by the seashore at Gen. Santos City



March 23:

Br. Allan and Br Rosendo visited the Claretian Community at Alabel, Sarangani Province. They are Rev. Fr. Elmer Cantular, CMF, Rev. Fr. Thai Pham, CMF and Despedida of Fr. Derrick Russel Q. Tapel, CMF. These Claretian Fathers are working with the B'laan Indigenous People at Datal Anggas, Alabel, Sarangani, Province.

March 24:

Hongkong Community- Visit of Bros. Robert and Andrew, and friends from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, namely, Yolanda Mah, Ambrose Lim and their daughter.



Photo News

March 25:
Gathering of CHS PJ class of '68. In
PJ, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,



March 26:
Nine young men from Johnny Ang National High School, Katangawan, General Santos City, attended the weekend vocation workshop in Marist Province Center. Four of them expressed their desire to join our formation program.

**Discover God's Plan for You!
Be a Marist Brother!**

#Maristlife
#brotherhood
#religiouslife
#KasamaALL
Maristfms Vocationph



March 27:
The statue of Our Lady, the Good Mother, is erected at Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu, today, March 27, 2023, the anniversary of the admission of eight postulants to the Novitiate in 1822 by Fr. Champagnat, the founder of the Little Brothers of Mary. It was the first response of our Good Mother Mary to the Founder's prayer for vocations.



Photo News

March 28-30: Provincial Council Meeting no.7 at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia...



March 29:
Contract signing between Marist Brothers and Archdiocese of Kuching- Br. Allan and Archbishop Simon Poh



March 30:
Happy Birthday, Marist 84.

Am sending photos of the visit of Marist 83 to the Marcellin Foundation here in Gen. Santos City. Fifteen alumni came and attended the blessing of their donated modular house van, which will accommodate the increased number of disadvantaged children endorsed to the care of Marcellin. We will need another one. Can Marist 84 do something similar?



NURTURING SEEDS OF MARIST LIFE IN MALAYSIA

Last March 20-23, a Marist Lay Gathering was held in Port Dickson, Malaysia. The formation session was participated by the laity from Malaysia and Philippines. Following the theme on “sharing, dreaming and journeying together as Marists”, participants were given input and sharing process on the following themes: Maristology: Following the Footsteps of St. Marcellin; Marist Laity: Life and Mission; and the last session was a workshop of dreaming together the direction of laity. It was inspiring to have the presence of our brothers who joined during the first day. Br. Robert Teoh, Br. Paul Chin and Br. Anthony Cheng enriched the group with the sharing of their own experiences and hopes for the growth of laity life in Malaysia. Ms. Elma Rafil, member of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity, looks forward to facilitating a similar gathering in other places of Asia where Marist life has just begun.

Marists of Champagnat
China Sector

Join us!
Marist-Lay Gathering

20-23 MARCH 2023
CHAMPAGNAT YOUTH CENTRE
PORT DICKSON, MALAYSIA
Champagnat Youth Centre
No 2, Jalan Pantai 12km,
71000 Teluk Kemang
Negeri Sembilan

To be facilitated by

Ms. Agnes Reyes
Marist Laity Desk,
East Asia Province

Ms. Elma Rafil
Extended Secretariat of Laity

**SHARING, DREAMING,
AND JOURNEYING
TOGETHER AS MARISTS.**

- **Maristology**
- **In the footsteps of Marcellin**
- **Marist Lay: Life and Participation in the Mission**
- **Dreaming as Marists: Where are we heading? What can I Contribute?**

**FOR INQUIRIES: PLEASE NOTIFY
BR. EMIL ALADA
+011-35930211**





Provincial's Schedule

April 1 to May 10, 2023

April 1:
The arrival of Br. Josep Maria Soteras, FMS, our Link General Councilor for Asia, who will animate the Province Retreat from April 2-9.

April 2-9:
East Asia Province Retreat

April 11-14:
Strategic Planning of Marist Asia Conference at MAPAC, Marikina City, Philippines

April 15-24:
Visit to Marist Communities at Marist District of Asia as part of the dialogue for the proposed ONE ASIA PROVINCE

April 25 – May 10:
Community Visits to CHINA SECTOR

March 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL 04:
BR. ALBERT A. MUÑOZ

APRIL 9
BR. ANTHONY CHENG (CHIN YEONG)

APRIL 10
BR. EDGAR R. CERIALES

APRIL 13
BR. RUSTICO LUMBO

Prayer Intentions:

- Br. Manny Uluan (St. Joseph Community) who was admitted to the General Santos City Doctors' Hospital due to low oxygen levels. He is still at the hospital at the moment due to pneumonia.
- Br. Dem Calabria (ND Hermitage) who was hospitalized last week in France due to a high fever. He is now back in the community for recovery.
- For enlightenment and inspiration in the process of defining the priorities of our Province.
- For issues of peace and justice and for the resolution of conflicts.
- For the health and well-being of our elderly and sick brothers, Marist laity, and friends.
- For the protection of those vulnerable children and the youth who are at risk.
- For healing of families broken by relationship crisis.
- For our birthday celebrants, God's choicest blessings be their inspiration in living life to the fullest.