



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

May 15, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 09

Featured Community

MARIST BROTHERS LAKE SEBU COMMUNITY

Philippines

The Brothers' community in Lake Sebu is composed of Brothers Rustico Lumbo (Community Leader/Ministry Head), Jick de Leon (Community Treasurer), and Hilario Sevilla. Br. Larry is still recovering from a stroke. He has Ruben assisting him in his physical activities like doing household chores and gardening. Br. Jick facilitates retreats and recollections upon requests. He is also involved in the Parish GKK and Youth activities. He extends his assistance to the Sta. Cruz Mission School and Marmylone Elementary School, particularly with the Indigenous Learning School at T'nuos. Br. Rustico's primary involvements include running of the MASMC and taking care of the Brothers' community needs.



Some Highlights of our community activities:

- Two missionary novices on their Apostolic Community Exposure Program and one postulant from the Marist District of Asia had their immersion experience in our community. The novices, Damy and Roger from East Timor, stayed with us from August 2022 to October 2022. While Shohel, the Postulant from Bangladesh, stayed with us only for two weeks.
- Community vacation in Iligan City from October 31 to November 2, 2022. It was an opportunity for Br. Rustico to be with his family and also to visit the graves of his deceased parents. Br. Larry was happy for the chance to visit Bacusanon, his former assignment, on our way back home.
- Christmas celebration with our regular employees and on-call workers was meaningfully held. Br. Jick facilitated the fun-filled parlor games, making all who joined the event happy and grateful for the "manito / manita" gift exchanges and also Christmas treats received from the administration of MASMC.



WORKING ON THE PROPOSED ONE ASIA PROVINCE FOR THE VITALITY, VIABILITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF MARIST LIFE AND MISSION IN THE REGION (April 14-May 7, 2023)

After the annual Marist Asia Conference (MAC) meeting which was participated by Br. Josep Maria Soteras, the Link General Councilor for Asia Region, Provincials and Vice-Provincials of Asia Region, Ms. Elma Rafil (Philippines) and Mr. Jude Fernando (Sri Lanka) of Laity Asia and Br. Ador Santiago (Director of MAPAC) last April 11-13 at MAPAC, the work towards the Proposed One Asia Province started by visiting communities in the Marist District of Asia. The first place visited was in Vietnam.



To understand fully the Marist Life and Mission at MDA-Vietnam, Br. Josep Maria Soteras, Br. Allan J. de Castro, and Br. Canisio Willrich visited the three communities in Vietnam, namely Marist Brothers' Student and Candidate House in Go Vap, Saigon, Vietnam, on April 14, Marist Brothers' Ministry with Undocumented Migrants in Tan Chau, Vietnam on April 15 and Marist Brothers' Pre-Novitiate House in Cu Chi, Vietnam on April 16. They also met the District Council of MDA and participated the Marist Vietnam Recollection and Assembly last April 17-23 at Vung Tau, Our Lady of Phuoc Hai Cistercian Monastery.



After their MDA-Vietnam visit, they moved to East Asia Province- China Sector Communities. From April 24 to May 7, they visited Champagnat Community in Singapore and the following places in Malaysia: St. Joseph Internal School in Kuching, Sarawak; Catholic High School Sibui; Marist Community Kota Kinabalu in Sabah; Catholic High School in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur. From Malaysia, they visited two schools in Hong Kong, namely, St. Francis Xavier College in Kowloon and St. Francis Xavier School in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong.



Important questions were posted to Brothers and Lay Marists during the visits. They were as follows: "What is God's Mission promoting in Asia?" "What is emerging related to God's Mission here?" "How do you think God is calling us to collaborate in his Mission for Asia in the coming years?"

Ongoing consultations are being carried through to discern what's the best direction for the proposed One Asia.



MARIST ASIA CONFERENCE MEETING IN MAPAC

On April 11-13 took place the meeting of the Marist Asia Conference/Council (MAC) in MAPAC, Philippines. After more than four years, the members were able to meet again face to face. New members joined MAC which is composed of the Administrative Unit leaders and deputy leaders, the rector of MAPAC, and two lay people, Elma Rafil (Philippines) and Jude Preeman (Sri-Lanka) and Br. Josep Maria Soterias, representing the General Council.

It was a time to know each other and to share the meaningful experiences/learnings of the past years. The participants had the opportunity to have an overview of the life and mission of the 3 Administrative units in Asia, which gave them a better picture of the Marist presence and mission in Asia.

One of the main tasks of the meeting was to review the Marist Asia Strategic Plan for 2023-2025, adjusting it to the context in which the Marists live today, focusing on the needs of the Region. Three committees were established: Marist Life, Mission, and Marist Services. The teams will help to coordinate common activities of the region for the coming years.

The MAC members had a moment online with Br. Farancis, from Pakistan (link for Mission in Asia), to listen to his experience and suggestions on how best to promote the Marist mission in Asia. A second moment online was with Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI, who proposed a training program on Project Management and Fundraising for the Asia region.

The last day was focused on the Asia Plan. Br. Josep Maria facilitated dynamics to share ideas, feelings, and reflections about the reconfiguration of the Asia Region. A calendar was proposed for some leaders to visit the region, which will help to know better the reality to listen to the brothers and laity about their perception of Marist life and mission in Asia.

The Scholastics from MAPAC had also the opportunity to express their ideas about this topic. "The fraternal spirit was inspiring us to continue our journey, looking beyond our own Administrative Units and taking steps towards greater vitality and co-responsibility of the Marist family in Asia," concluded Br. Canisio Willrich, leader of the Marist District of Asia.

(Source: www.champagnat.org:<https://champagnat.org/en/marist-asia-conference-meeting-in-mapac/>)



TWO ST. JOSEPH'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS 'TOP IN MALAYSIA' FOR CAMBRIDGE IGCSE, ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY LEVEL

KUCHING, May 11: Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) has recognized two St Joseph's International School (SJIS) students as 'Top in Malaysia' for their exceptional performance on the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level.

According to a press release from SJIS, Carmen Kuek Ning was awarded 'Top in Malaysia for Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies,' and Lydia Ting Jen Ning was awarded 'Top in Malaysia for Cambridge AS Level Business.'



Kuek (centre) in a photo call with CAIE Malaysia and Brunei country director Nig Kim Huat (left) and teacher-in-charge Susan Thian.

"The results are a testament to the dedication and perseverance of our students, and we wish them the best of luck as they move on to the next phase of their lives," it said.

Students and Staff at SJIS are ecstatic about the 2022 Oct series IGCSE and A-level students' stellar performance.

Both AS-Level and IGCSE syllabi are assessed by Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE), part of the University of Cambridge in the UK.

"Our students at SJIS deserve our sincere congratulations for their outstanding performance on the Cambridge IGCSE/AS October/November series exam," per the press release.

Meanwhile, the SJIS principal said in the press release that SJIS has consistently produced high achievers in the various Cambridge Exams.

"This is mainly because we have capable and dedicated teachers to guide and coach our students. Congratulations to the students as well as their teachers," he added.

Cambridge's global education programs and qualifications are designed with students in mind and are based on cutting-edge research in education.

SJIS is also a gateway for students wishing to continue a top-class education in Germany. To satisfy the language requirement for study in Germany, students will take German classes at SJIS alongside their A-Level studies.

Germany has become a popular place for international students worldwide to attend college or university. One of the main reasons is that German public universities offer high-quality education with low or no tuition fees and outstanding teaching and research.

"Two SJIS students, Alexander Liew Zi Yi (currently in Germany) and Isaac Lee Kai Jie (going after his A-Level exams) are participating in the A-Level German pathway program thanks to collaborating with German Educare," SJIS highlighted.

Registration for the A-Level June intake is now open. Visit <https://sites.google.com/stjosephkuching.edu.my/a-level> for more information about the program.

St Joseph's International School is also having an Open Day to students and parents for the Cambridge A-Level and A-Level German Pathway programs on Saturday, May 27, 2023.

— Dayak Daily

BROTHER PROVINCIAL'S VISIT TO CHINA SECTOR COMMUNITIES

May 3 - 5, 2023
Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Community

May 1 - 3:
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia



May 5 - 7:
Hong Kong Community



May 7:
Albert House Community



May 11-13:
The Provincial Council met for their 8th meeting at Brothers' Residence, Marist School, Marikina City.



MY SABBATICAL RENEWAL EXPERIENCE

By: *Br. Norbert Mwila, FMS, Province of Southern Africa*

The East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI) in Manila, Philippines, conducted a Sabbatical program from the 13th of January 2023 to the 5th of May 2023.

The 18 participants, Priests, and Religious, came from 12 countries from Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. I was privileged to participate in the Sabbatical renewal experience at the end of my second term as Provincial of Southern Africa.

We had much in common as we listened to one another while sharing our stories and experiences. We were all engaged with busy schedules prior to the Sabbatical. Mostly in positions of leadership in the Parishes, Provincial Administration, and other Social ministries under the care of the Church.

We were like the disciples who, after telling Jesus all they did and taught, Jesus said to them: "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." Mk 6:31

This is a wonderful picture of the concern, gentleness, and wisdom of Jesus that taking some time off from one's busy life to rest and have a renewal experience is an opportune moment, favorable and inevitable.

The Sabbatical program is designed to provide a holistic space for persons who are in transition or in need of a change of pace from their busy lives of ministry, allowing time for rest, reflection, renewal, and to re-create with fellow pastoral ministers in an Asian cross-cultural ecclesial context.

The week-long modules, personal reflections, group sharing, and other activities addressed our need to listen more attentively to ourselves and to the Lord as we slowed down to rest and experience personal renewal.

The spiritual exercises of daily personal prayer, the Eucharist, regular spiritual accompaniment, and the Ignatian Silent Retreat helped us to get closer and deepen our relationship with the Lord whom we are called to find in all things.

As participants, we were led to rediscover the richness of one's being and appreciate more profoundly the graciousness and beauty of God's creative love to be prepared to re-engage in the mission of the Church with greater generosity and compassion.

Additionally, it was fascinating that, in a short time, we fostered a spirit of intercultural communication in a cross-cultural setting. We experienced the power of love and unity as a family and celebrated our diversity. Following the Sabbatical, we have created new relationships and maintained regular contact via WhatsApp.

We left EAPI with grateful hearts and appreciation. Our needs and expectations were met as we had time for rest with a renewal experience and feel more at peace at the end of the Sabbatical and are ready to take up either the new or old assignments in ministry that await us.

We are indebted to the workers, support staff, team, and the Jesuit Community of EAPI for their ability to facilitate our stay and the renewal experience.

(Note: The Marist East Asia Province welcomes Br. Norbert Mwila, FMS. He will study at the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Graduate School after his renewal program at the East Asian Pastoral Institute, Ateneo de Manila, Philippines.)



Photo News

May 5, 2023:

Korea-Japan Sector: On May 5, the Conference of male religious organized an outing. Since it was raining, we gathered first in the convent of the Carmelites who organized the day. In the afternoon, we went out with our raincoats to visit a nearby palace. Around 60 religious of 20 different congregations spent a nice day. Br. Jacobo and myself (Br. Vianney), were among the older ones in the group. It was encouraging to see many young religious men around.



May 5, 2023:
Brothers celebrating
Br. Domingo Lee's
birthday.

The Brothers of the Jechon house supported the retreatants of the Mepo Parish.



*Br. Edilberto R. Mallorca was visited by
Br. Fred Salubre in March.*



Last May 8, Ms. Elma Rafil and Ms. Agnes Reyes met with Mrs. Reena N. Selma, the Center Head of the Home for the Girls and Women in San Felipe, Tantangan, to explore possibilities of outreach to be conducted by the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family-Memorare Community. The intention was to know more of the needs of the girls which could be addressed during planned visits.

CMMF CONDUCTS OUTREACH TO HOME FOR THE GIRLS

Last May 13, the members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family-Memorare Community, organized a program and outreach activities for the Home for the Girls in Tantangan, South Cotabato. Joined by volunteer students and friends, the group had prayers, fun games, and fellowship snacks which nurtured friendship bonding among the girls. The 33 residents of the Home for the Girls of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region 12 are mostly victims of abuses experienced from their respective homes and communities. CMMF reaches out to them with the intention of providing a connection and assuring them of love and concern for their situation. The event was meaningful to both the girls and those CMMF members who came for them.



May 13, 2023 (Hong Kong Community):
Eleven (11) of St. Francis Xavier College (SFXC) students received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Parish of Our Lady of China.



The Logo and Prayer of 75th Year Anniversary of the Marist Presence in the Philippines



*Creator of the Universe,
Open our eyes to the wonders of your majesty
and the mystery of your Love
pulsing through all creation.*

*For the 75th years of our presence in the
Philippines, we are grateful for all we come
through. Open our hearts to embrace more
fervently the path of discipleship prepared for us
through the passion, death and resurrection of
your Son, Jesus the Christ. May we never
let the fire in our hearts go out.*

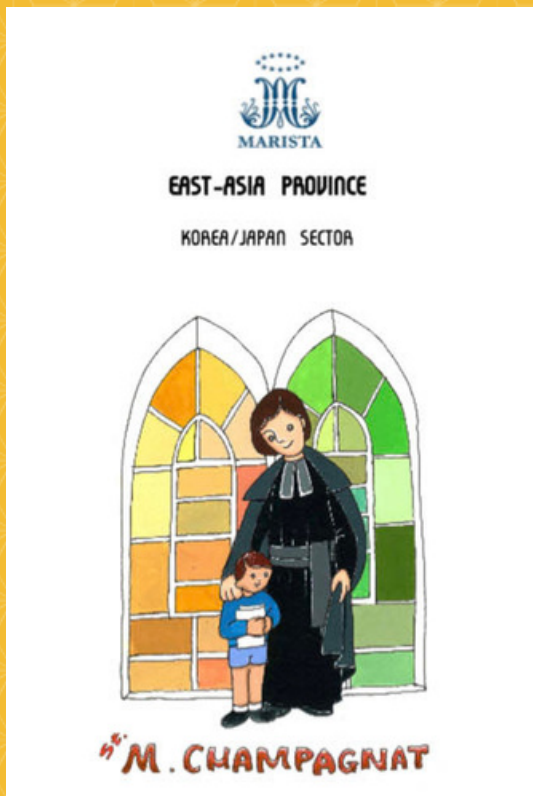
*Infuse us with the gifts of your Spirit that we
may be faithful in living our vocation as
Marists of Champagnat in the Philippines, as
in the past, in the present, and as we journey
together in faith towards a future full of hope.*

*Release in us a new energy for mission modeled
on that of Mary, who look out to the horizon
with hope and went out in haste carrying the
Word of Life to the World.*

Amen.

Information

JUNE 6, 2023 Perpetual Profession



Br. ABRAHAM KANG MIN WOO, FMS
who will make his Perpetual Profession

Celebrant : Bishop Job Koo Yo Bee
Date : June 6, 2023, at 11 a.m.
Place : Parish of Song San Dong



Glimpse of the Province

Marist Brother Marks 25th Year of His Religious Life

POSTED ON MAY 4, 2017, THURSDAY AT 1:08 AM SARAWAK

SIBU: Sibu Catholic High School principal Marist Brother Anthony Tay celebrated the 25th anniversary of his religious life as a Marist Brother at Sacred Heart Cathedral recently.

More than 1,000 people including students, well-wishers and friends attended the thanksgiving Mass at the cathedral. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop of Sibu Right Reverend Joseph Hii. The mass was also celebrated to mark the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Marist Brothers.

Tay, 49, who hails from Malacca went for training as a Marist Brother in the Philippines in 1990. In May 1, 1992, he was professed as a Marist Brother and was first posted to St Francis Xavier College in Hong Kong in June, 1995. He served there until end of July 1998. He was then posted to Sibu Catholic High School in Aug 3, 1993 and has served at the school until today. According to him, when he was posted to Sibu in 1998, he felt a bit sad to be transferred to a smaller town. "I got used to the big city and suddenly had to come to a smaller town, but after 19 years here, I found that Sibu is a very friendly town indeed," he said.

He said he decided to become a Marist brother to help young people, especially those with poor results. He wanted to give hope and guide them to a brighter future.

Marist Brothers Congregation was founded by Saint Marcellin Champagnat, a priest from France with the goal of educating young people, especially those most neglected.

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2017/05/04/marist-brother-marks-25th-year-of-ordination/#:~:text=HOME,those%20most%20neglected.>



Br. Tay (second row, fourth right) in a group photo with his family, priests, the Marist Brothers and friends.



Provincial's Schedule

May 15 to May 31, 2023

May 15:

FAMI Meeting in Makati City

May 16:

Meeting with Alexian Brothers Congregation and Br. Ed Mallorca in Buda

May 17:

Meeting with Bishop Noel Pedregosa of the Diocese of Malaybalay

May 18-31:

Marist Province Center, Lagao, General Santos City

June 1-15:

Korea-Japan Sector - Community Visit

June 6:

Perpetual Profession of Br. Abraham Kang, FMS in Seoul, Korea.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 17:

Br. Jo-An C. Legaste

May 24:

Br. Damaso Chun YOUNG-keun)

May 25:

Br. Ted Fernandez, FMS

May 26:

Br. Cyril M. Sumugat

Prayer Intentions:

- For our Pope and all our religious leaders, may they find God's nourishing blessings in their role as servant leaders in our Church.
- For our government leaders, may they continue to perform their functions with integrity in uplifting the lives of the poor.
- For all of us, may we continue our commitment to caring for our common home.
- For the youth, may they find guidance in discerning God's call for them.
- For those who died in the grace of our Lord: Br. Jean Pierre Destombes of the Hermitage Community in France, and John Matthew Laurea, nephew of Br. Mark Laurea, FMS.
- For Br. Melchor Nowelle Solinap for his healing and fast recovery.