



# EAST ASIA

# MARIST LIFE Newsletter

July 31, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 14

*Featured Community*

## MARIST BROTHERS CHAMPAGNAT HOUSE COMMUNITY

15 Flower Road 549404, SINGAPORE

### Champagnat House Feast Day Celebration, Singapore

The Champagnat House Community celebrated the Champagnat Feast Day on 6 June 2023. It was the first time that we had celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel before and after the Pandemic. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Joseph Kace from the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The celebration was attended by the Brothers, Mr. Yap, Catholic Kindergarten Board Members, Principal, Teachers, and Staff. The Brothers' friends from IHM were also present. There were about 30 persons attended the Feast Day Mass celebration. After the Holy Eucharist, we had fellowship and lunch together as a Marist Family.

### Visit to South Cotabato, Philippines

From the 10 June 2023 until 1 July 2023, Br. Elmer went home for his Family visitation. Ms. Edna Ng, the CK Principal, and Ms. Marie Rose Ng, CK Consultant, joined Br. Elmer in the Philippines from 10-17 June 2023. We stayed in St. Joseph Community in Lagao, General Santos City, for two nights and another two nights in Lake Sebu Community. The two had an opportunity to meet the Brothers in Lagao, Dadiangas, and Lake Sebu. They also visited the NDDU Main Campus and Espina Campus, as well as the NDMU Main campus. They had a great time in South Cotabato, Philippines, in spite of flight delays and hassle.

### 75th Anniversary of the Marist Brothers' Presence

Br. Elmer attended the launching of the 75th Anniversary of the Marist Brothers' presence in the Philippines and had an opportunity to visit the Brothers Community in Mindanao. He visited Lagao Community, Dadiangas, Kidapawan, Cotabato, Lake Sebu and Marbel Community. He also visited Buda, and unfortunately, he never met Br. Ed Mallorca, who had just left a day before Br. Elmer's arrival. Br. Elmer had a great time with his family and met the Brothers in the community in Mindanao. He is hoping that next time he is able to visit Palawan, Jolo and Marikina Community.



The Brothers in the Champagnat House Community

Br. Thomas Chin, Br. Jayjay Escudro and Br. Elmer Jandic

## 2nd Death Anniversary of Br. Joseph Dufresse Chang, FMS

On 4 July 2023, Br. Elmer together with Old Boys of late Br. Joseph Dufresse Chang, offered prayers in the niches of Br. Joseph Dufresse Chang at IHM Columbarium to commemorate his 2nd Death Anniversary. We also offered mass intentions of the repose of his souls. The Brothers in the community were very thankful to Mr. Yang and other Old Boys of Catholic High School for their time spent in spite of their hectic schedule to commemorate Br. Joseph Dufresse 2nd Death Anniversary.



## Volunteer works - Charity Program, Paterson Lions Club

On 9 July 2023, Br. Elmer volunteered for the yearly charity distribution and selling of goods of Paterson Lions Club Singapore at Kovan Hub Singapore. The elderly people are the beneficiaries of goods that come from the different Old Folk Homes in Singapore. There were about 2,000 elderly people who benefited from the Charity Program of Paterson Lions Club Singapore. The volunteer works that Br. Elmer rendered to Paterson Lions Club, especially among elderly people was a life-changing experience.

## Overseas Community Experience, Br Jay Jay Escudro

The Champagnat House Community welcomed Br. Jay Jay Escudro, one of the Young Brothers from the Philippines. He arrived last 14 July 2023 for his community experience in Singapore. Br. Jay Jay will stay with us until 9 August 2023. During his stay here, he helps Br. Elmer at the Catholic Kindergarten in taking care of the children during their outdoor activities and dismissal time. He also helped out in the Racial Harmony Day celebration on 21 July 2023 by facilitating games for the Pre Nursery, Nursery and Playgroup children. In conjunction with Singapore's 58th National Day (9th August), CK will be having their Sports Day on 8th August and Br Jay Jay is currently busy helping with the preparations.



## 58th Founding Anniversary of Maris Stella High School.

On 20 July 2023, Br. Elmer and Br. Jay Jay attended the Mass in Maris Stella High School Elementary Section and helped out in the distribution of Holy Communion to Catholic students.

Br. Allan, the Provincial, together with his siblings, also arrived in the community. On 21 July 2023, Br. Allan, Br. Paul, together with Brothers in the community Br. Elmer, Br. Thomas and Br. Jay Jay attended the Mass at MSHS Secondary Section. At 3:00 PM, the Brothers in the community joined Br. Allan in Maris Stella High School, 58th Founding Anniversary programme. Br. Allan was the Guest of Honor. He delivered his speech by emphasizing and honoring the contributions of the Pioneering Brothers to the Marist Education in Singapore.

Br. Allan, Br. Paul and Br. Thomas also helped out in the awarding of the MOE Service Award and Honors Awards to the teachers and students. Br. Jay Jay and Br. Elmer also learned and was inspired by the Principal Reports, Student Speeches, and Brother Provincial messages. The students showcased their gifts and talents through a variety of performances which the Brothers thoroughly enjoyed.



### 10th Provincial Council Meeting

From 1-4 August 2023, the 10th Provincial Council meeting in Champagnat House Community, Singapore.



公教幼稚园  
CATHOLIC KINDERGARTEN

Catholic Kindergarten

📍 15 Flower Road, Singapore 549404

☎ +65 6283 3821

✉ [contact@catholickdg.com.sg](mailto:contact@catholickdg.com.sg)



LISBON, 26 - 31 JULY  
INTERNATIONAL GATHERING  
OF MARIST YOUTH

INTOTHEDEEP: BELIEVE

[champagnat.org/en/intothedeep-believe/](http://champagnat.org/en/intothedeep-believe/)

The first day of the International Gathering of Marist Youth, July 27, was dedicated to the theme of faith, animated by the Marist Brothers. "On the one hand, it is a very easy topic, because faith is a gift. On the other hand, living the faith is a great challenge, because there are more and more things that go against it," stressed Brother Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General of the Marists of Champagnat.

This day was preceded by the official inauguration of the event, which took place on the evening of Wednesday, July 26. The opening was marked by the reading of the text from Luke 5, when Jesus invites the Apostle Peter to cast the net to the other side. This Gospel passage inspires the meeting, motivating the young people to put out "Into The Deep".

Thursday began with Mass. After, at the beginning of the work, Brother José Sánchez, Director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization and member of the commission that prepared the meeting, thanked everyone for their presence and introduced the participants. He also introduced Brother Máximo Blanco, Provincial host of the meeting, and the director of the Marist College of Carcavelos, Prof. Félix Lopes.

The hymn of the meeting, written by Brother Fábio Oliveira, who died recently, was presented. It is a call to encounter. The refrain goes like this: **"Let us go in haste to the encounter! It is the Lord who sends us. We are the Church going out, we are the embrace of love"**. The "embrace of love" is Mary's embrace of Elizabeth, an embrace that communicates authentic life and joy.

Brother Ernesto then took the floor to motivate the participants to deepen their understanding of the theme of the day, which was "to believe". He invited the young people to reflect on how Mary can inspire them in their journey of faith, especially moved by the will of Our Lady, after the Annunciation, to go out quickly to meet Elizabeth, in an attitude of service.

At the end of the morning's work, the participants were divided into small communities, which will be a fraternal space for dialogue and growth during the meeting.

In the afternoon, the four Marist Brothers General Councilors, who are participating in the meeting, accompanied the young people in the process of discernment and deepening of faith. Brothers Josep Maria Soteras and Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, proposed to the young people a discernment of the reality that they have had to live in recent times, highlighting situations that challenge them, such as pandemics, the ecological question and wars. How do these situations affect faith? How can we see God in these negative realities? How can we believe that He is there? These are some of the provocations that emerged from the reflection and were the basis for the meditations in the small communities, which were then shared with the whole group through drawings that these communities presented.

Brothers Oscar Vicario and Ben Consigli presented the theme of interiority. Brother Ben showed the connection between interiority and faith, believing. Believing has to do with trust, trust in God. He does not expect everyone to be perfect, but he wants trust. Brother Oscar used the image of connection to explain the essence of life: living connected is the true life, which should mean intense moments of fullness, often marked by moments of relationship. It is about living connected to the essential.

The reflection on interiority led to the concrete experience of silence, of the encounter with God, realized individually and in small communities.

To conclude the first day of the meeting, the hosts organized a typical Portuguese feast, an "arraial", with an open-air dinner and the animation of a folkloric group that presented Portuguese dance traditions.

The second day of the meeting will be animated by the Marist Sisters and will have the theme "Adore".



Br. Abraham Kang and Mr. Wilter Friaes from East Asia Province participated in the Marist Youth International Gathering.

# Photo News



**July 21:**  
*65th Foundation Anniversary of Maris Stella High School – Singapore. Two alumni, Koh Yong Pheng, Benedict and Quek Choo Inn, took the present Marists of Champagnat on a nostalgic journey, reflecting on the school's modest origins and the valuable lessons they learned as young Marists. Their stories emphasize the significance of staying true to the Marist Spirit while embracing growth and progress.*

**July 21:** *Br. Allan attended the 65th Foundation Anniversary of Maris Stella High School as Guest of Honor*



**July 25:** *Br. Engel Java reported to the Kuching Community and paid a courtesy visit to His grace Archbishop Simon Poh.*

# Photo News

July 29: Two (2) MAREX Gatherings convened at the same time. One was the Marex Mindanao group, and the other was the Marex Manila group, hosted by Bro. Armando Billones Mana-ay.



MAREX MANILA GROUP



MAREX MINDANAO GROUP



July 31: arrival of Br Niño in Rome to begin his role as Assistant Director of Secretariat of Evangelization and Education



Last July 29-30, Fifty-five participated in the Seminar Workshop on the advocacy against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children. Participants came from the 15 NDEA member schools in Kidapawan and Midsayap areas.

# MARIST LAY FORMATION FACILITATORS' TRAINING

Last July 17-19, Thirty-two (32) participants coming from the different Marist institutions in the Philippine Sector gathered for training on facilitating laity formation at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu. The said training was spearheaded by the office of the Laity Desk and in coordination with the Laity Committee, Philippine Sector.

The 3-day training was meant to provide participants with basic facilitating skills in conducting lay formation sessions; share resources valuable as a reference for content in the formation input, and dry-run prepared simple formation modules to be given feedback and recommendations for improvements by the mentors and participants themselves.

Indeed, the said training was, for most of the participants, confidence building and inspiring eagerness to lead in the Marist formation of the laity. After the training, participants will be involved in the organization and conduct of lay formation programs in their respective schools. A follow-up of participants and continuing mentoring during the year is expected to ensure that formation facilitators' skills are developed, and the Marist content further deepened.



# SHARING ON MARIST LIFE WITH MDA LAITY



Around 20 laity on a “come and see” session was in zoom, listening to a sharing on Marist lay life last July 20. The 3-hour event was convened by Br. Ishmael Valls, FMS as part of his program of introducing Marist among the laity in the Marist District of Asia. The sharing spoken in English by Ms. Agnes Reyes was translated into the local language to make it more understandable. The District Superior, Br. Canisio Willrich, FMS said in a note: “...the Marist Spirit keeps growing!”. Indeed, it was hope-giving to see and experience eagerness among the participants. We hope and pray that the seeds of Marist life sown in the land of MDA will grow and flourish in time.

# NURTURING MARIST LIFE: FORMATION OF PERSONNEL AT ND KASULUTAN, JOLO

Our Marist mission school Notre Dame of Jolo Kasulutan High School in Jolo has 28 Catholics and a majority of 48 Muslim personnel. Last July 25-26, a two-day sharing on Marist life was conducted and was facilitated by Ms. Mary June Gonzales of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Ms. Ermida Ismael, Campus Minister of the school, and Ms. Agnes Reyes, Laity Desk Coordinator of the East Asia Province. At the onset, it was a challenge to imagine a sharing of Marist life with a predominantly Muslim community. But relying on the Spirit's creative lead, participants, and facilitators as well, have experienced the wealth of the Marist traditions articulated in the lived experience of those present in the session. Ms. Mary June pointed out the richness of Islam's regard of Jesus and



Mary and the deep values shared by both Christians and Muslim. The session has become a space for inter-faith sharing, meaningfully appreciated by those who attended. Br. Dionesio Acosta, FMS, Director of Notre Dame of Kasulutan and Br. Aljon Yonder, FMS, gave encouraging support and both envision that more and more, Marist life will grow and be shared, respectful of faith expressions in the community and valuing further what it means to have a "family spirit", a meaningful communion amidst diversity.

## A TESTIMONY ON SHARING MARIST LIFE

*(Mary June Gonzales)*

Although I am from Mindanao myself, Jolo, Sulu was just a thought for me. It was always just a question of what it looks like and what is life like there.

I was invited to the Marist Brothers' high school, Notre Dame of Jolo Kasulutan (NDJK), to share about my experience as a Lay Marist of Champagnat. I discovered many things and learned more than I probably was able to share with the Lay Marist Partners there. I witnessed first hand that in Notre Dame of Jolo Kasulutan Catholics and Muslims together as one community, promote and live the Marist values of Family Spirit (really strong), simplicity, joy, love of work and most especially the love and concern for students not only in NDJK but also those in communities who need help or assistance.

My experience in Jolo is beyond describing. Jolo is such an island paradise blessed with so much beauty and people who are vibrant, warm, joyful and full of pride of their culture. I am very proud and deeply appreciative of my Marist Family in Jolo.

I can only imagine and be grateful for the brave spirit of the pioneering Marist Brothers in Jolo. I also salute the sense of mission, pride and joy of the young brothers who continue to provide Jolo a Marist Education. May God bless you and may Mother Mary and St. Marcellin always inspire and accompany you.





# MARIST ECOLOGY MINISTRY

This year, we see extreme weather conditions in different parts of the world, including the Philippines: flooding, forest fires, tornadoes, strong typhoons, heat waves, etc. In short, we are now in a climate emergency.

The Marist East Asia Province is a signatory of the “Declaration of Climate Emergency” that was sent to Malacañang Palace on Earth Day, April 22, 2023. The declaration urged the government to “place front and center the necessary climate adaptation and mitigation policies and programs including the mobilization of resources necessary for the country’s survival.”

As we prepare for the new school year 2023-2024, Mr. Jose Nacienceno, our chairman of the Marist Ecology Ministry, will visit our schools in August to disseminate the contents of the declaration and the Province’s commitments to respond to the climate emergency. He will also discuss the activities of the Ecology Ministry.



# MARIST VOLUNTEER DESK

## Invitation

Calling all Marist souls to unite! 🌍 Embrace the spirit of service and join us as Marist volunteers in the heart of Asia. Together, let's make a difference where it's needed most. 💙

#MaristVolunteers #AsiaMission #UrgentCallForHelp #MakingADifference

NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY
COUNTRY: Thailand CITY: Samphran
NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY: La Valla Home
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: The students are all Myanmar children who have not been able to attend regular schools in Thailand due to various reasons. We provide them with appropriate educational opportunities.
DESCRIPTION OF THE VOLUNTEER'S MISSION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with English teachers in English lessons</li> <li>- Children and youth activities</li> <li>- Art, Dance, Music</li> </ul>
PREFERENCE: MAN (✓) WOMAN: (✓) Either gender is fine.
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE COMMUNITY: English
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE PROJECT: Burmese and English (there are always teachers and brothers who can communicate in English)
PREFERABLE AGE OF THE VOLUNTEER: 20's or 30's
REFERENCE STARTING DATE: May HOW LONG: 1 year
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religious diversity should be respected. Because the students at the MLC are all Buddhists.</li> <li>- Students are divided into classes that range in age from 5 or 6 years old to 16 years old.</li> <li>- As of June 2023, the MLC has a total of 220 students who are children of Myanmar immigrants or refugees. Most of them speak only Burmese.</li> </ul>
HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS CAN YOU RECEIVE? 1 or 2

NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY
COUNTRY: India CITY: Talit
NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY: Talit
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: Providing a variety of after-school educational opportunities for poor tribal boys who stay in the hostel.
DESCRIPTION OF THE VOLUNTEER'S MISSION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teach English, Mathematics</li> <li>- Healthcare education (sports, youth activities, etc.)</li> <li>- Music, Arts, Health care matters</li> </ul>
PREFERENCE: MAN (✓) WOMAN: (✓) Either gender is fine.
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE COMMUNITY: English
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE PROJECT: Bangla and English (the hostel boys could communicate in English)
PREFERABLE AGE OF THE VOLUNTEER: 20s or 30s
REFERENCE STARTING DATE: November HOW LONG: 1 year
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Female volunteers should pay attention to her dress code.</li> <li>- Volunteers should adapt to the local climate. The weather is good in November, December, and January. After that, it's 35-41 degrees, until October.</li> </ul>
HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS CAN YOU RECEIVE? 3

NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY
COUNTRY: Cambodia CITY: Pailin
NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY: Pailin
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: The Marist Education Center and the hostel provide a variety of educational opportunities for the children and youth in our care.
DESCRIPTION OF THE VOLUNTEER'S MISSION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Language training (English, French, Korean, Japanese, etc.)</li> <li>- Physical education (Volleyball, soccer, Taekwondo, dance, etc.)</li> <li>- Art and/or Music</li> </ul>
PREFERENCE: MAN (✓) WOMAN: (✓) Either gender is fine.
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE COMMUNITY: English
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE PROJECT: Khmer and English (there are always teachers and volunteers who can communicate in English)
PREFERABLE AGE OF THE VOLUNTEER: 20's or 30's
REFERENCE STARTING DATE: December (Because the semester starts on December)
HOW LONG: 1 year (Because we would like volunteer to carry out lessons at least 6 months)
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Missionary visa for volunteer can be obtained with the help of the La Valla school in Phnom Penh. The Pailin community brothers will help volunteer for the visa process.</li> <li>- Marist youth groups from other countries often have volunteering experiences for some days in between July – August or December – January.</li> </ul>
HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS CAN YOU RECEIVE? 1 or 2

NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY
COUNTRY: Bangladesh CITY: Sylhet
NAME OF THE HOST COMMUNITY: Giasnagor
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: Most of the students are children of parents who work in the tea garden, and we provide them with educational opportunities.
DESCRIPTION OF THE VOLUNTEER'S MISSION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with English teachers in English lessons</li> <li>- Physical education (soccer, basketball, volleyball, swimming, etc.)</li> <li>- Coaching computer programs, such as MS Words, Excel.</li> <li>- Youth activities</li> <li>- Music, Arts, Health care matters</li> </ul>
PREFERENCE: MAN (✓) WOMAN: (✓) Either gender is fine.
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE COMMUNITY: English
SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE PROJECT: Bangla and English (some teachers and students could communicate in English)
PREFERABLE AGE OF THE VOLUNTEER: 20s or 30s
REFERENCE STARTING DATE: August HOW LONG: 1 year
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteers should adapt to the local climate. Summer in Bangladesh runs from March to June, and July to October is the rainy season.</li> <li>- Volunteers need to be open to cultural differences and diversity.</li> </ul>
HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS CAN YOU RECEIVE? 1 or 2

# Congratulations to the Graduates

The Brothers who finished their Master's Degree this school year 2023-2024:

- Brothers John Emil I. Alada, Jick J. de Leon, Jeffrey R. Guino-o and Aljon I. Yonder at Adamson University – MA Theology Major in Pastoral Ministry
- Brothers Albert A. Muñoz and Adrian Mana-ay at Holy Cross College of Davao – MA Theology Major in Religious Education
- Brother Jonnel M. Sisneros at Australian College of Applied Professions (ACAP) - Master of Counselling and Psychotherapy



Br. John Emil I. Alada, FMS



Br. Jick J. de Leon, FMS



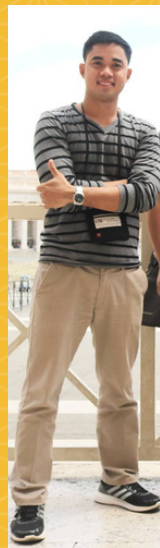
Br. Jeffrey R. Guino-o, FMS



Br. Aljon I. Yonder, FMS



Br. Albert A. Muñoz, FMS



Br. Adrian Mana-ay, FMS



Br. Jonnel M. Sisneros, FMS



"The man behind the idea of studying. Thanks, Br. Ador for pushing us to study and checking whether we pass our subjects"

- Br. Emil



# Glimpses of the Past

## THE SHORT STORY OF THE MARIST BROTHERS IN CHINA

By Spes Stanley Ku<sup>1</sup>

This article is a reprint from MARIST NOTEBOOKS, #38, May 2020, pages 61-82.

### Third of the Five Series

### THE EXODUS

As it was no longer possible to manage any of our schools, the Brothers had no choice but to consider abandoning their work and to go to other lands. We learn in the Bible, Paul and Barnabas fled to the cities of Lystra and Derbe in Lyconia and the surrounding territory. There they preached the Good News. Following the examples of Paul and Barnabas, then the Superiors planned to withdraw the Brothers from the schools in northern China, and the postulants in the formation houses to send them overseas where there was still freedom to operate schools and to spread the Good News. Some expatriate Brothers from Europe who had gone to Europe earlier for long deserved home leave and who were ready to come back were advised not to do so. Then the old and retired were advised to return to the land they had come from. Some had never had a holiday since they bid farewell to their home regions. A few years later, a few of the expatriate Brothers were deported under all sorts of pretexts, while a couple of others who were heads of school or who had special skill had to apply for an exit permit in order to leave. Thus, many European missionaries who had been in China for years found their way back to Europe. Among those expatriate Brothers who had left China there was a number who had been working in Shanghai or Tientsin English schools, and they were all able to teach in the English language. So, most of these opted to stay in Hong Kong and a few others chose to go to Japan.

On the other hand, the Chinese Brothers who left the mainland were sent to such countries like Malaysia, Borneo, Indonesia and Singapore where ethnically Chinese communities formed a large part of the population.

### NOVITIATE IN MACAU

On 9 March 1949, Br. Gerard Ho and Br. Marie Claudius Hui, both natives of Canton Province and who had Cantonese as their mother tongue, were sent to Macau where Cantonese is spoken. At first, they worked around in Shiqi and Macau as auxiliaries to a certain Jesuit priest, (Fr. Teng Yi Ming who later was appointed the Archbishop of Canton) either teach in his school or to give young children catechism lessons, and the kinds of work suited to the Brothers vocation. They were also commissioned to approach the Bishop of Macau to explore the possibilities of having a novitiate there and to find places for postulants, novices and young Brothers who were to leave the mainland. The two Brothers were warmly welcomed by Bishop Ramalho, S.J. who kindly agreed to let the Brothers use the summer house of the seminarians as their novitiate house. The house was built on the Ilha Verde peninsular, and it served as the summer villa for the seminarians.

On 30 April 1949 Br. Gerard Ho sent a telegram to the Provincial Superior who was still in Shanghai informing him that an agreement had been obtained from the Bishop of Macau to settle our novitiate in the Diocese.

On 6 May 1949 Br. Ange-Marie Lapp, a missionary in Shanghai travelled to Hong Kong. He was appointed Visitor in charge of the sector outside of China, which included Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the South East Asian countries of Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. He was to find places for Brothers to stay and look for employment for them. If possible, he was to secure a foothold for the Marist Brothers in Hong Kong or anywhere in South East Asia.

Brother Ange-Marie's first undertaking was to set up the novitiate household at the Ilha Verde country house as almost immediately the first batch of novices began arriving in Macau in May and June 1949. The Brothers would use the house as the Marist Formation center until 1953, witnessing three ceremonies of the taking of the habit and four first professions. Between August 1949 and August 1952, twenty-eight young men took their habit and thirty-eight their first vows in Macau.

As soon as the young novices had completed their novitiate in Macau, steps had to be taken for them to obtain the necessary diplomas so they could teach in the new schools. In early 1949, contact was made with Br. Thomas Austin, Provincial of the US Province, for sending young Brothers overseas to Marist College in Poughkeepsie. The quick answer came: "Send as many as you like, and we will take care of their needs and their studies. The Australian Province also came to the Brothers' assistance. Undertaking the training of nine scholastics, in addition to the splendid help it was already rendering to the Brothers in distress in Rabaul in the island-province of New Britain in Papua New Guinea. Two Brothers were taken in for university studies by the British Province, one to Dublin, Ireland, and another in Dundee, Scotland. Brother Paul Clet who completed his novitiate in 1949 was sent to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to study English.

Some of the young Brothers were designated to further their studies in Chinese. They were sent to study at Chu-Hai College, a private establishment in Hong Kong whose diplomas bore the stamps of the Ministry of Education, Taiwan. The diplomas awarded by Chu-Hai College were recognized by both Singapore and the Federation of Malaya to warrant the holder to teach in Chinese secondary schools.

As it was impossible to send all the young Brothers to study overseas, and even for those stated to leave for Poughkeepsie or Sydney, there was a need for a scholasticate where they could be trained until all the arrangements for their departures were completed. In September 1950, a scholasticate was set up temporarily at a rented house in Liha Verde, which proved to be unsuitable for studying as it was dark and located in a small lane frequented by noisy hawkers. Bishop Ramalho again came to the rescue of the Brothers, offering a vacant Carmelite convent that the Brothers could share with the Jesuit Fathers. The residence on Colina da Guia (Beacon Hill), named Villa Flora, had light, air and space.

As supply of novices from China had effectively stopped by 1951, there was a drive to start local recruitment in the schools where the Brothers were newly attached. A few students were being prepared in Hong Kong and Singapore for the juniorates that the Brothers were planning to open in those two cities. In 1953, a rich Chinese Catholic offered his country house in Singapore to the Brothers and the St. Paul Juniorate was opened, with nine juniors. With so few juniors, there was no need to run special classes for the new recruits so the juniors followed the regular courses at St. Martin's College (renamed St. Francis Xavier's) Hong Kong and Catholic High School in Singapore. In 1955, the Province bought a piece of property on Flower Road in Singapore and construction of the building was completed in 1957. It was large enough to accommodate a Juniorate, the Provincial House and the residence of the Brothers.

In Hong Kong, towards the end of 1954, as many as ten Juniors were living in the Brothers' residence in Kowloon while continuing their studies at St. Martin's College. Eventually, a house was found on Stafford Road and the juniors were moved there with two Brothers to supervise their formation. Some got as far as the novitiate and even up to taking their perpetual vows but, distracted by temptations and possibly influenced by their pecuniary-minded families, most left the congregation, to the great sorrow of the Brothers.

In the summer of 1953, with the scholastics dispersed and gone to Australia, the US, or Europe, and with only two postulants left, it was decided to close the novitiate and to leave Macau where the Brothers had enjoyed the hospitality of Bishop Ramalho since May 1949. The two remaining postulants were asked to continue their novitiate at St. Paul House in Singapore, where they took the habit on 15 September 1953. One of them made his first vows the next year.

**To be continued.**

*<sup>1</sup>Marist ex-student of St. Francis Xavier's College, Hong Kong and author of the book, 'Dawn of the Word in Silence, The Adventure of the Marist Brothers in Asia', (2017).*





## Provincial's Schedule

*July 30 to Sept. 7, 2023*

**July 30-August 4:**  
Provincial Council Meeting number 10 at Champagnat House, Singapore

**August 5-6:**  
Visit to Marist School Marikina for some concerns

**August 7: NDKC BOT**

**August 8: Marian Hills BOT**

**August 9: NDDU BOT**

**August 10: NDMU BOT**

**August 11: MEC Meeting at Marbel**

**August 12: Perpetual Profession of Br. Aljon I. Yonder and Br. Cyril M. Sumugat**

**August 19:**  
Marist School Marikina COPR and BOT; Sagip Ka BOT

**August 20-24 - Community Visit - Palawan**

**August 3 -September 7:**  
Penang, Malaysia, for China Sector Assembly and 60th year of Br. Joachim as FMS



*July 31:*  
*Br. Roy R. Deita*

*August 02:*  
*Br. Dominique Rhyou (Kwan-ho)*

*August 09:*  
*Br. Jeff Rhey R. Antiquisa.*

*August 10:*  
*Br. Manuel P. Uluan*

*August 16:*  
*Br. Aljon J. Yonder*

## *Prayer Intentions:*

- For Pope Francis, may he always have the strength and wisdom to lead the people of God.
- For our government officials, may they have pure intentions in governing the people.
- For the victims of natural calamities, may their lives be protected.
- For the young, may they live meaningfully, upholding values to live for.
- For those who are traveling, may they be protected from all harm.
- For all birthday celebrants for this month, may they feel the abundance of God's providence in their lives.