



# EAST ASIA

# MARIST LIFE

# Newsletter

September 30, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 18

## THE CHUNGJU-JECHEON COMMUNITY

SOUTH KOREA

Our community is called the “CJ” community because we use the initials of the two places where our Brothers of this community work, Chungju and Jechon.... besides, “CJ” reminds us what the Center and Goal of our community is: Jesus Christ.

Our communities in Korea underwent a major reorganization this year. Originally, there were 5 communities in Korea: two in Seoul, one in Ansan, one in Jechon, and another in Chungju, but the number of Brothers in each community was rather low. We wanted to reinforce mutual fraternity and support and thus revitalize community life, Br. Provincial and his Council decided to put together some of the communities to strengthen them.

This has certainly represented a challenge because it meant putting together groups of Brothers working in different apostolates and, in our case, in two different places. As a result, we now have only 3 communities: the community of Seoul (the Sector Community), the Ansan community (where our elderly and sick Brothers live), and this “CJ” community with its residence in Jechon.

We are still living in a period of readjustment, 'reinventing' ways of living as a community within the complex and diverse circumstances in which the members of each community live and work. This has demanded a lot of flexibility, effort, and, more than anything else, goodwill and the desire to make this project work.





In our CJ community, there are 4 members: Br. Dominico Ryu, Br. Domingo Lee, Br. Timothy Song and Br. Anthony Choi. Br. Tony, at the moment, is taking care of his mother, so we remain only three Brothers in the community for the time being.

Br. Domingo Lee, the Director of the "Truly Good Home", the residence for some 30 severely handicapped friends which is located on the outskirts of the city of Chungju, practically stays in that place during the week and on weekends he joins the rest of the community in Jechon.

On September 21st some people from the Dokdong Village, together with the staff of the 'Truly Good Home', prepared our house for the celebration of "Harvest Day" (a very important feast in Korea, similar to the American 'Thanksgiving Day') spent some hours cleaning the house of our residents so that we could have a nice celebration on the day of "Chusok" that this year falls on September 29th. It was a joyful day for everybody and, therefore, we all mentioned that it would be a good idea to do this periodically. We are grateful to the people of this area (Dokdong Village) for their generosity and kindness.

Br. Timothy Song oversees the Retreat House we have in the mountain near the city of Jechon and, together with Br. Dominico Ryu runs the retreat house, takes care of the facility, and does some agricultural work on the land that we own there.

Among the activities that take place in this Retreat House of Jechon is an interesting gathering of Godparents and their God children who get together once or twice a year to mutually encourage themselves to live their faith in a more vital and meaningful way. The group belongs to the Parish of Kwang Myon of the Diocese of Suwon and has been going on for 10 years already. You can see this group in the first photo below. Their last meeting in our retreat house was last Aug 19-20.

On September 19, Br. Anselmo Kim Dong Ryol, working in Vietnam as a temporary member of the Marist District of Asia (MDA), came to our community to spend a few days with us during his family visit. On the 20th, as you can see in the second photograph, we had lunch together and spent a very fraternal time before Br. Anselmo returned to the community in Seoul.

We ask for your prayers so that our apostolates are blessed by the Lord and be a source of happiness and blessings for the people we encounter, work with, or support our work.

And remember the words of that young, extraordinary Italian boy who was beatified almost three years ago: "We are all born 'an original,' but many die as a photocopy". Let's make true our originality, responding with passion and enthusiasm to what the Lord is asking of each one of us.





# Provincial Council Meeting in Kobe Community, Japan and Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Br. Joseph Yoshida, FMS

Kobe, Japan— Last September 15, the Marist Brothers International School welcomed three members of the Marist East Asia Provincial Council. In the morning, they visited the lower school classes. Together with Br. Allen Timola and Mr. Mark Pilgrim, they entered the classrooms of Grades 1 to 5 and the students asked them curious questions like “Who started the Marist Brothers?” or “What’s your favorite country?” They also had time to talk to the MBIS Head of School, Mr. Shawn Hutchinson, about school matters and the possible future connections with the Brothers and Marist lay in the US Province, which had a long history with the school. In the afternoon, they visited the PTA meeting and introduced themselves to the parents. Thank you Grades 1 to 5 students and homeroom teachers for your warm welcome to your classrooms.



The next day, a Saturday, they held their Provincial Council meeting with Br. Manny de Leon and Br. Jacobo Song joining them through Zoom online.

On September 17, Sunday, the Council members witnessed the Diamond Jubilee anniversary celebration of Br. Joseph Yoshida. He made his first profession in 1963 and is celebrating his 60th year as a brother. The mass was presided over by a Filipino Vincentian priest, Fr. Amado “Thirdie” Caballero.

Photos during the Diamond Jubilee celebration



In between their visit’s main objectives, the three visitors enjoyed eating Japanese foods such as takoyaki and ramen and enjoyed visiting tourist attraction spots in Kobe and Osaka.

Thank you, Council members for visiting the Kobe community.





# NDMU AQUATIC CENTER OPENS

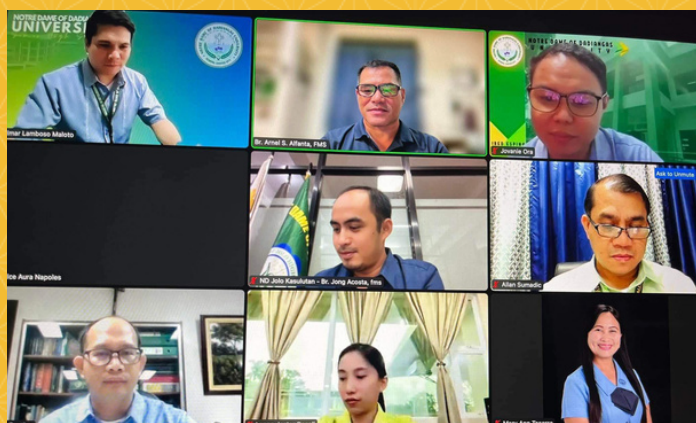
Are you ready to dive, Marista?

*Water flows in the scriptures, and in all aspects, it means eternal life.*

On September 23, 2023, the Blessing of the NDMU Aquatic Center took place at the IBED campus where administrators, contractors, faculty and staff, student leaders, and visitors took part. The activity commenced with a para liturgy before the ribbon cutting, which signifies the new anticipated beginning for the NDMU community. The Aquatic Center, an indoor swimming pool spanning 25 meters with 6 lanes, has complete amenities for swimmers, such as locker rooms, shower rooms, bleachers, and a function hall. It is truly an amazing addition to provide an accessible and state-of-the-art facility for the students of NDMU to learn and enjoy. May this new space be a blessing for everyone who enters its doors and serves its purpose.



Sept. 21: Basic Education meeting on Marist Global Network activities



September 23: Br. Manuel de Leon, a member of the Champagnat Global Advisory Committee attended the online meeting last September 23. The advisory committee has been diligently shaping the 2023-25 roadmap, discussing Champagnat Global Week, and planning the March 2025 face-to-face meeting.



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



# Visitors from the Marist Brothers USA Province

The brothers from the USA Province will be joining in the celebration of the 75 years of Marist Presence in the Philippines. Part of the celebration is the Golden Jubilee (50 Years) of Br. Rene A. Reyes, FMS, as a Marist Brother, that will be held on October 7.

**1. BR. JAMES MCKNIGHT, FMS**

Arrival: September 23 (Saturday)  
in General Santos City, Philippines  
Departure: October 9 (Monday) for USA



**2. BR. DANIEL O'RIODAN, FMS**

(Provincial of USA Province)  
Arrival: October 5 (Thursday)  
in General Santos City, Philippines  
Departure: October 8 (Saturday) for USA



The **Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM)** had their General Chapter held in Rome on September 21, 2023. Their new leadership team was composed of the following:

- Sr Cristina Giustozzi (Congregational Leader - Italian and on the last Council),
- Sr Denise McMahon (Councillor - Australian missioned in Fiji),
- Sr Aubierge Amoussou (Councillor - Benin, missioned in France),
- Sr Pelenatita Kieoma Finau (Councillor - Tongan, missioned in Peru)



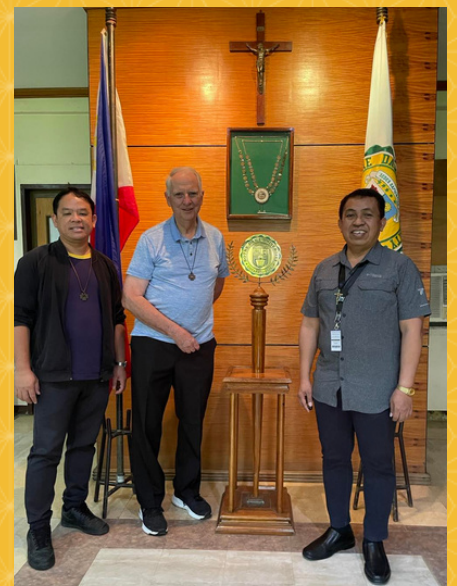


# PHOTOS DURING BR. JAMES MCKNIGHT'S VISIT IN THE PHILIPPINES





# More photos during Br. James' visit in the Philippines





# More photos during Br. James' visit in the Philippines





# Photo News

September 16:

Malaysia celebrated its National Day as a country.

(Malaysia Day (Malay: Hari Malaysia) is a public holiday held on 16 September every year to commemorate the establishment of the Malaysian Federation on that date in 1963. This event saw Malaya, North Borneo (which was renamed Sabah), Sarawak, and Singapore unite into a single state.)



September 15-16:

NDKC hosted the NDEA General Assembly for SY 2023-2024.



September 16:

St. Joseph Community Happy Hour and Despedida of community driver, Jerwin Mangubat.



September 16:

Fr. Ramil from Vicariate of Jolo visited Br. Pius and the Brothers at St. Joseph Community.



# Photo News

September 21:  
Former Marist Brother Reno Velasco visited Saint Joseph Community, Lagao, General Santos City, Philippines.



Sept. 19:  
Marist Brothers attended the 75th Birthday of former brother Antonio Vicente.



September 22:  
Br. Allan visited Fourviere Formation House Community.



September 21-23:  
Br. Robert Teoh of Kuching Community, made an exploratory trip to Kalimantan, Indonesia, to furnace a relationship with church and schools in the area.



September 23:  
The Marist Youth Ministry core group met at the Marist Province Center for Formation Module Development.





# Photo News

September 26:  
Exit conference with Valdez Abad and Company Auditing firm in Davao City.



September 30:  
Br. Romar Dave Rano attended Mass at Meongdong Cathedral, Seoul, Korea.



September 22:  
Br. Frank Salcedo started his 3rd Age Renewal Program in Italy.



September 28-30:  
Br. Allan visited Cotabato Community



September 29:  
Online monthly formation meeting on Provincial Chapter Calls. Topic was on Non-violent Communication.



September 29:  
Photo taken in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia during the event: St. Joseph's Family of Schools Story of Ours Performance. Br. Robert Teoh with the School Heads, Board Members and Dr. Sim.



# WALKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Transforming Lives Through Shared Commitment



*In the heart of every volunteer lies a desire to make a difference, to touch lives, and to bring about positive change. For Marist volunteers, this journey is not one they undertake alone. It is a path that is enriched, guided, and made even more meaningful through the transformative power of accompaniment.*

Accompaniment, in the context of Marist volunteering, is more than just a word; it's a profound commitment to support, guide, and be a steadfast companion to those who dedicate their time and energy to serve in marginalized or underserved communities. This unique approach recognizes the importance of both the volunteer and the communities they serve, creating bonds that foster lasting connections and sustainable change.

On September 27, 2023, another chapter in the inspiring story of Marist accompaniment unfolded. Khim, a dedicated volunteer, was joined by her esteemed mentor, Mrs. Ophie Marcelino, a dedicated Marist Volunteer, along with Grace Dalde, Khim's co-teacher and another devoted Marist Volunteer at NDMU-IBED, and Bro. Edgar, the Volunteer Program Coordinator of East Asia Province. Together, they embarked on a journey of shared experiences and profound insights.

The session commenced with Grace Dalde sharing the latest updates and events at NDMU-IBED, ensuring Khim remained connected with her educational community. Khim, in turn, opened her heart, revealing the challenges she had overcome while working with students facing mental health concerns. Her involvement in Marist Learning Zone, Story Factory, and the Aborigines Community of Sydney, Australia, had left an indelible mark on her journey.

Bro. Edgar added a broader perspective, shedding light on developments within the East Asia Province and the Institute. He announced the upcoming International Marist Volunteers Day on December 5, 2023, seeking suggestions for activities that would make a lasting impact.

As the conversation flowed, the topic shifted to Khim's social media presence and her remarkable story on Facebook. This led to a more intimate one-on-one accompaniment session between Khim and Mrs. Ophie Marcelino.

After their session, Mrs. Marcelino shared her thoughts with Bro. Edgar, expressing the profound connection they had forged. She remarked on Khim's happiness and their fruitful discussion about mentor-mentee relationships. Mrs. Marcelino emphasized the positive influence of Khim's social media posts, inspired by her experiences in volunteer work and mission activities.

Mrs. Marcelino stressed the two-way nature of their accompaniment—a journey where both mentor and mentee learn and grow together. She felt fulfilled and inspired, a testament to the beauty of this volunteer work.

In her conversations with Khim, Mrs. Marcelino continually emphasized the potential for Khim to be an inspiration to others through her social media platform. By sharing her memorable encounters with children and youth, Khim could become a beacon of positivity, touching lives far and wide.

Ultimately, this journey of accompaniment is guided by a higher force—the spirit that directs them to respond to Jesus' call and participate in His mission. In this shared journey, they are always cognizant of His divine presence, their one and only companion.

To God be the glory, for it is through accompaniment that Marist volunteers find not only a purpose but also a profound sense of fulfillment and inspiration to keep making a difference in the world.







## Invitation of CYBER GUARDIAN PH (CGPH) through the Children and Youth Protection Desk of the Province:

As one of CyberGuardianPh (CGPH) Partners, we are very pleased to invite the Marist East Asia Province and celebrate this year's children's month with the usual CyberGuardiansPH Annual National Youth Leadership Summit on Safer Cyberspace, but this time, in partnership with the City Government of Pasig. This will be held on NOVEMBER 25-26, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with 200 targeted number of participants—Pasig City venue to follow.

We have allocated three (3) seats per organization. We hope that your representatives can register on this Summit link: <https://bit.ly/3rdNYLSPagsibol>. We shall send you an email confirmation with the event program details after registration.

This year's theme, PAGESIBOL is a product of last year's DALUYAN, which was about "Empowering the Youth Through Cybersecurity and the Community." PAGESIBOL will showcase some of the structures and mechanisms CGPH is piloting in Pasig to sustain its cybercafe homes and cybercafe schools program anchored on youth empowerment and community engagement. The proposed creation of the Cyber Youth Council in schools as one of the tools for co-creating cybercafe schools will also be presented.

We also wish to invite your youth organization and its network to join CyberExpress, CGPH's annual competition, to raise awareness of cyber threats against children and the young and how they can participate in co-creating safer cyberspace.

Please click on the link attached to this email for mechanics and registration. The deadline for registration is on September 28, 2023, while the deadline for submission of entries is on October 28, 2023.

We look forward to seeing the creative and powerful works of art of all youth participants. For confirmation, questions, and other information, you can contact us through this email at [cgph@cyberguardiansph.org](mailto:cgph@cyberguardiansph.org). We shall release the Summit details through our event webpage. We hope to see you in the Summit on November 25-26, 2023, at a Pasig venue (details to follow) with FB live streaming.



**The Marist Brothers  
East Asia Province**

## Golden Jubilee Celebration of

**BR. RENE A. REYES, FMS**  
1973 - 2023  
(Diocese of Marbel)

Theme: *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*  
-Psalm 34

OCTOBER 07, 2023 | 9:30 AM  
Notre Dame of Marbel University  
College Gymnasium  
City of Koronadal

Main Presider: Fr. Salvador Leyso  
University Chaplain

*Congratulations!*

**NOTRE DAME OF KIDAPAWAN COLLEGE**  
FOR BEING GRANTED BY PAASCU  
**5-YEAR  
RE-ACCREDITATION**  
FOR

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LIBERAL ARTS  
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Notre Dame of Kidapawan College <https://ndkc.edu.ph/>

#NDKCLEADS



# Invitation from the CYPD to our Marist Protection Officers

Are you curious about Child Rights Protection and Promotion?

Exciting news! Our course, "Institutional Mechanism Towards Child Rights Protection and Promotion," is two weeks away, opening on October 9, 2023. Ideal for child rights advocates! Tag friends who'd love this.

To enroll, follow these easy steps:

1. Fill out this registration form: <https://url.upou.edu.ph/upoumodel-signup>.
2. Take note that an email containing your login credentials will only be sent on THURSDAYS of every week. The cut-off for each week is 4 PM, Wednesdays. Requests received after the cut-off will be sent to the following week.
3. Upon receiving the email, sign in to your new MODeL account.
4. You will be asked to change your password. Create a strong password that you don't use for any other websites.
5. Browse our website homepage and select the course you want to enroll in.

**2 WEEKS LEFT**  
MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES (MOOC)  
**9 Oct-10 Nov 2023**

- **Institutional Mechanism Towards Child Rights Protection and Promotion**

This MOOC focuses on various mechanisms, systems, structures, and strategies to promote and protect child rights, with the aim of institutionalizing these efforts.

<https://model.upou.edu.ph> | [model@upou.edu.ph](mailto:model@upou.edu.ph) | [fb.com/upoumodel](https://fb.com/upoumodel)

For more information, please feel free to engage with our chatbot, "Open," available on our website at [model.upou.edu.ph](https://model.upou.edu.ph)

## Birthday Celebrations



Br. Danny M. Sevilla on September 22 at Marist Province Center



Br. Pat S. Corpus on September 23 at NDMU



# Glimpses of the Past

## MARIST PHILIPPINE PROVINCE NEWS OF 40 YEARS AGO

(The following article is a reprint from THE MARIST NEWSLETTER of the Philippine Province, June 6, 1983 issue, page 7.)

### DROUGHT

This was felt strongly in southern Mindanao where most of the Philippine crops are grown. Without rain for four months, South Cotabato was parched and constantly in danger of fires. Marbel was steaming hot, and the Dadiangas area lived up to its rep as a "dust country" where cleaning is necessary twice a day. North Cotabato is without water, and the fire of Mt. Apo (the Philippines' highest peak) made it almost impossible for planes to land in the Cotabato and Davao areas.

### BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS

Marikina's prep building is going up with Br-Paul Meuten's strict supervision. The building proves to be a necessity to meet the congestion problem of the elementary department of Marist School and to comply with the requirements of PAASCU.

Marbel's NDMC is renovating the RSTC building to make it a multi-purpose edifice that can also be a chapel. The building is constructed to look like a chapel. If necessary, this can also be transformed into a convention hall. Br. Gilbert Bogacia supervises the construction which will be ready by July.

Marist Aspirancy House construction will soon start with its First Phase (as approved by the Council), consisting of the study hall, kitchen and dining room, library/typing room, master's and chaplain's offices, and reception room. Meanwhile, the dormitory will stay as is until sufficient funds are raised by the Province for Phase II construction. Br. Crispin, with the help of the architect and suggestions of some Brothers, made it possible for speedy approval of the Council due to the needs presented and a very well-designed building project which can also benefit the Brothers for retreat us and ongoing formation program.

The merging of the 2 high schools is now in its second phase where the Dadiangas boys in first and second years are absorbed by Lagao. Br. Crispin, Lagao's new principal is at the helm of this difficult transition for both schools: Miss Antic and the two Dadiangas Brothers with Br. Manny Uluan's ubiquitous presence will continue with the existence of Dadiangas High with only third and fourth years.

### OPERATION HEADSTART (OHS)

Cotabato, Dadiangas, Marbel, and Malaybalay gathered together their elementary graders to update classroom learning. Emphasis is on the sixth graders to prepare them for high school instruction. Most of the participants come from poor and low-income families. Funding comes from NDEA (Notre Dame Educational Association) and counterparts from the school and some civic clubs. Some OHS Programs include catechism instructions by way of "May Devotion".

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

There were two Council Meetings held this summer. One was held during the Holy Week for the Provincial and his Council to assess the Provincial Plan and to discuss future activities to ensure more effective meetings that will minimize rushes and last-minute requests. This was aptly called a "reflection meeting." The other meeting was held after the Vow ceremony on May 20th where the Aspirancy House project was thoroughly discussed and the mission support analyzed. A decision on the latter was not reached. The lawyers and accountants have to meet with Br. Econome to analyze all possibilities for effective Provincial Funding.

### VOW DISPENSATION

Rome has dispensed Bro. Angel Bertomo of his vows. He is presently teaching at Ateneo de Davao.

### Updates:

The **Marist Aspirancy House** has been renovated to become the present St. Joseph Community, a home for our elderly Brothers. The dormitory section has been demolished, and a new 12-room one-story building was erected. The old recreation hall, the offices, and the dining room have been renovated to become St. Joseph Community's recreation room, dining room, and two guest rooms. Brother Provincial is a member of this community. The former Provincial House/Lagao House is now the Fourviere Pre-Novitiate Formation Center. Br. Danny Sevilla, the Provincial Econome, and Br. Lloyd Gamboa, the Vocation Promoter, together with the two college students/aspirants are the occupants of the house. The former Fourviere House in Camias Extension Street is up for rent. The Gen. Santos Doctors Hospital seems to be interested in renting our 14-room two-story building since it is right across its new (under construction) five-story extension building.





# Provincial's Schedule

*October 1 to 31, 2023*

**October 1-3:**  
Kidapawan Community Visitation

**October 4-7:**  
To accompany Br. Dan O'Riodan, FMS, Provincial of USA, visiting communities, school and non-school ministries, and formation houses in the Philippines

**October 7:**  
50th Year Celebration of Br. Rene as a FMS at NDMU

**October 8-18:**  
Hermitage, France - Gathering of Marist Bursars

**October 19-22:**  
Community Visit to Marikina

**October 23-25:**  
Marbel Community Visitation

**October 23:**  
Opening of the Marist International Leadership Forum at NDMU

**October 26:**  
NDKC Senior High Building Ground-Breaking

**October 27-28:**  
Marist Province Center Staff Recollection (Sagip Ka and Business Office)

**October 30-31:**  
St. Joseph Community Visitation



*October 07:*  
*Br. John Yang Zhenxiang*

*October 09:*  
*Br. Rene A. Reyes*

*October 09:*  
*Br. John Oh (Seon-Keun)*

*October 12:*  
*Br. Anselmo Kim (Dong-ryeol)*

*October 14:*  
*Br. Laurence Park (Kwang-joon)*

*October 15:*  
*Br. Rommel C. Ocasiones*

## *Prayer Intentions:*

- For the repose of the soul of Edgar Surmillon, a former Marist Scholastic.
- For fast recovery of Br. Edgar Ceriales.
- For healing of those who have been diagnosed with other illnesses.
- For giving abundant measures of grace to missionaries around the world.
- For more vocation to the religious life.
- For our schools/universities, students, teachers, administrators and alumni.
- For the good health and safety of all the Marist Brothers in the world. For inner joy and spiritual growth.
- For peace and unity.
- For all the birthday celebrants and their personal intentions.