



# EAST ASIA

# MARIST LIFE Newsletter

October 31, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 20

## KOTA KINABALU COMMUNITY MALAYSIA

*By Br Andrew Chan, FMS*

This community is the only community in Sabah, Malaysia. It is on Borneo Island, which is near to the southern part of the Philippines. There are only 2 members in this community ie Br John Tan Wee Eng and Br Andrew Chan CS.

The inception of this community was on 25 May 2015. Br John Tan WE and Br Andrew Chan CS are the third group assigned to this community.

The community was started by Br Thomas Chin HM, Br Demosthenes Calabria, and Br Tony Choi Illnam in the Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu. Our community residence is situated in Kingfisher Park, a residential area. It is near to the St. Simon Education Complex, which has a nursery, kindergarten, primary and secondary sections. The Archbishop invited the Brothers to teach in this private school, which is the only private school owned by the Archdiocese.

The Brothers occupy the main building. The extended section is used by 3 young local male teachers and workers from St. Simon Education Complex.

Br John Tan WE came to Sabah in 2020. He is talented and able to teach different subjects in the secondary section (Maktab Nasional) to students who have different backgrounds. The medium of instruction in the school is English, and textbooks are in English, but he needs to use Bahasa Melayu or Mandarin Chinese to make the students understand. This year, he is also tasked to teach Religious studies – Christianity. Some nights, he gives Maths or History tuition to migrant students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he also gave Chinese Mandarin lessons to adults. In his free time, he makes recycled bags for sale in the Bazaars.

Br Andrew is involved in a little centre, St Simon Tuition Centre, which caters to adolescents who have learning difficulties. Most of the students came from the Special Education Programme at SRS DSF, the private primary school of the Archdiocese.

Besides learning the languages BM and English, Math, and Science, they also learn some living skills such as sweeping the floor, wiping the windows, and preparing some simple meals.

Last March, some parents took the initiative to train the old students to make a simple dessert (Logan Tofu Pudding). The puddings are sold to teachers, parents, and schools. Last 28th September, this small group participated in the selling of puddings in the bazaar organized by the Church of Immaculate Mary.



*With the la Salle Brothers and their friends.*

*28 October 2023. DLSB Butitin,  
Nabawan, Family Day*



Besides the work in the school and centre, during the Season of Advent, our community also involves in the mini project of Solidarity by visiting the poor in the rural areas with our local lay Marist.

In the Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu, there is a Religious Council (CoR) which consists of 8 religious congregations, i.e.,

- Nuns of the Discalced Carmelite Order (OCD)
- Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (FSIC)
- The Daughters of St Paul (FSP)
- Good Shepherd Sisters (RGS)
- Order of Friars Minor (OFM)
- Clerical Society of the Most Holy Trinity (SST)
- Brothers of St Gabriel (SG)
- Marist Brothers (FMS)

From time to time, we meet and organize activities such as the World Day of Consecrated Life Celebration ( 2 February) and Outreach programs to rural chapels.

Program of World Day for Consecrated Life 2023

Activity#1: Talk / Reflection/ Prayer

Date: 28 January 2023 (SAT)

Venue: Galilee Hall, Stella Maris, Tanjung Aru, KK

Time: 09:00 - 13:00hr

Speaker: Friar Derrick, OFM

RM15 per participant for lunch.

Activity#2: Mass Celebration

Date: 02 Feb 2023 (THU)

Venue: St Michael's Church, Penampang

Time: 10:00hr

On 4th July 2023, the Council was invited by Archbishop John Wong to join with all the diocesan priests for a mass and followed by a buffet dinner at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

### *Photos of various activities:*



Meeting at the Retreat House of FSIC at Kiulu



Monfort Day at St Paul's Chapel, Kinarut



Meeting with Archbishop John Wong at CDC, Penampang



Staff of SSTC and PPKI of SRS DSF in a staff development day



*Photos of various activities:*



Council of Religious visited the Carmelite Monastery of Kota Kinabalu.



28 October 2023. DLSB Butitin, Nabawan, Family Day



Staff and special students at the 2023 CMI Bazaar, Bukit Padang.



A Sunday breakfast with young men, Mr Mozes and Mr Hilary



Students with learning difficulties of SSTC



Participants from Sabah to attend the MRA at Plentong, MAJODI, Johor





# SECOND EDITION OF THE FORMATION PROGRAM ON SERVANT AND PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP

The face-to-face phase of the second edition of the Formation Program on Servant and Prophetic Leadership took place in the Philippines at Notre Dame of Marbel University, Koronadal City, from 23 October to 3 November. There were 30 participants, Brothers and Lay Marists, from 19 countries (America, Asia and Africa). Present in the host place were Brothers from the General Administration who accompanied the program - Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, Vicar General, Ben Consigli, General Councilor, and Goyo Linacero as Project Manager of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration.

Congratulations to NDMU community for hosting the said gathering!





# SERVANT AND PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP

NOTRE DAME OF MARBEL UNIVERSITY  
City of Koronadal, South Cotabato  
Philippines



## DAILY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 3, 2023





# Marist Schools Attend 2023 CEAP Convention in Cebu, Philippines

*“The 2023 CEAP national convention was held on October 17-20, 2023 at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel.”*

*A total of 82 Catholic educational institutions from the different regions of the Philippines received plaques of recognition for being considered this year's Jubilarians, during the third and last day of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) National Convention 2023 at the Waterfront Hotel on Friday, October 20.*

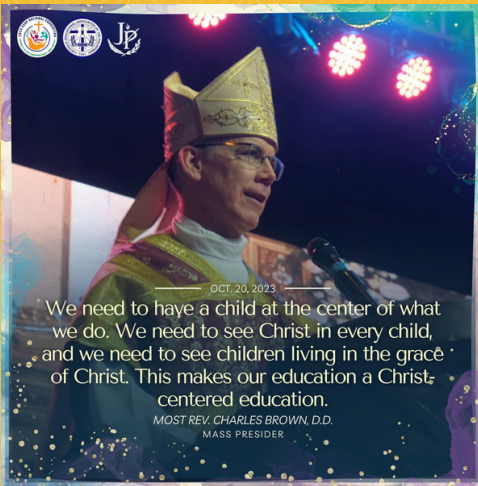
*Founded in 1941, CEAP is the national association of Catholic education institutions in the Philippines. To date, it has an approximate number of 1,500 member schools nationwide.*

*This year's theme, “Pilgrims of Hope: Exploring Pathways to Synodality,” gathered more than 3,400 delegates from all over the Philippines, encouraging participants to build connections and exchange insights into the current and future landscape of Catholic education.*

*Various delegates, superintendents, and school heads participated in several discussions and conversations during the four-day event. The CEAP Board of Trustees also recognized universities that celebrated their 25th, 50th, 75th, and 100th founding anniversaries.*

*The event ended with a eucharistic celebration presided over by the Most Reverend Fr. Charles Brown, D.D., the Papal Nuncio to the Philippines. Most Rev. Brown reminded the Catholic schools to see Christ in every child and to pave the way for a Christ-centered education.*

*This 2023, four CEAP schools are celebrating their 100th foundation year; 55 schools are in their 75th year; four schools are in their 50th year; and 19 schools are in their 25th year. Included in the 75th year was our first Marist School in the country, Notre Dame of Cotabato, Incorporated.*



OCT. 20, 2023  
We need to have a child at the center of what we do. We need to see Christ in every child, and we need to see children living in the grace of Christ. This makes our education a Christ-centered education.  
MOST REV. CHARLES BROWN, D.D.  
MASS PRESIDER



*Congratulations to Notre Dame of Cotabato, Inc. for receiving a Plaque of Recognition for 75 Years during the 2023 CEAP Convention in Cebu.*





# NDKC BUILDS A TWO-STOREY BUILDING FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL





# Photo News

October 17:  
Br. Pat visited Marcellin Hall, Mount St Michael, USA. He met Brothers Alfred George, James Adams, and Paul Meuten.

October 16-17:  
Br. Allan visited Br. Dem at ND Hermitage



October 16:  
Ms. Mary Wei, the sister of the late Br. Bosco Wei, our affiliated member, is leaving for Beijing on the 11th of October. Alumni and friends of the Marists organized a Birthday and farewell party on the 8th of October to thank her for her dedication to helping the Brothers community in Hong Kong.

October 15-17:  
A three-day training on Research for the personnel and Campus leadership for the student leaders of ND Jolo Kasulutan High School by Dr. Wilter Friaes.



October 20:  
Marist School Batch 84 visited Marcellin Homes

October 20:  
The MPC Personnel visited Notre Dame of Cotabato Business Office.





# Photo News

October 20:  
 Congratulations to Br. Manny de Leon as CEAP Trustee at Large.



October 21:  
 Br.Allan visited Br.Ador and Br.Nowelle at MAPAC...



October 29:  
 Noynoy has completed formalities for his stay in Singapore by obtaining his S-pass, which allows him to stay for two years. He just left Champagnat House last November 3 back to Sydney and will come back in early January 2024.



October 28:  
 Br. Allan facilitated the Meeting of Chinese Brothers from two Administrative Units, East Asia and MDA



October 26:  
 Kuching Community with the Focolare visitors during the Year 9 Perkata Exposure Closing Program.



October 29:  
 Marist Benefactor Mass and Blessing of new vehicle at Chung-ju Marist Pleasant House





# Prayer To be A True Branch On The Vine

*A prayer adapted by Br. Rene A. Reyes during his Golden Jubilee Celebration as a Marist Brother on October 7.*



Lord, Jesus, let us realize that every action of ours no matter how small or how secular enables us to be in touch with You. Let our interest lie in created things - but only in absolute dependence upon your presence in them. Let us pursue You and You alone through the reality of created things. Let this be our prayer - to become closer to you by becoming more human.

Let us become a true branch on the vine that is You, a branch that bears much fruit. Let us accept You in our lives in the way it pleases You to come into them: as Truth, to be spoken; as life, to be lived; as light, to be shared; as Love, to be followed; as Joy, to be given; as Peace, to be spread about; as Sacrifice, to be offered among people. Amen.

## Marist Province Center Staff Weekend Recollection

The Marist Province Center Staff had their first-weekend recollection this year at Marian Beach Resort in Barangay Tulan, Glan, Sarangani Province, on October 27-28. On the afternoon of October 27, they started with individual sharing, followed by the Holy Eucharist, presided by Fr. Count Rosebelt. They had a great time relaxing and unwinding, reflecting, recharging, sharing spiritual nourishment, and bonding.





# MARIST ECOLOGY MINISTRY UPDATE

## *Something to look forward to from Marist Ecology Ministry*

### **“USA-East Asia Ecology Collaboration Meeting”**

The ecology ministries of East Asia and the US have been meeting to plan for an online meeting of students from both provinces on November 10, 2023. The meeting is meant to be part of the commemoration of the 75th year of the Marist Brothers' Presence in the Philippines. Marist students from Guatemala have expressed their interest in joining the meeting. Selected students will share their environmental projects to fight the ecological crisis. The meeting will hopefully result in a concrete project for both provinces.

### **“Laudato Deum Meeting”**

The Ecology Ministry has scheduled an online meeting on December 7, 2023, to disseminate Pope Francis' new apostolic exhortation, *Laudato Deum*. The meeting will present the highlights and challenges of the document on the climate crisis. Brothers and lay of the Province will be invited to attend.



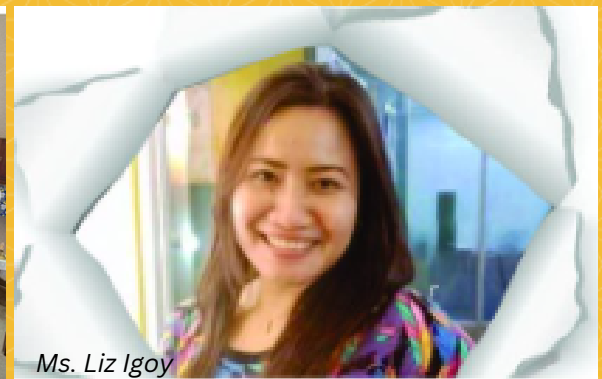
FMS Champagnat

We are happy to announce the opening of the Lavalla200> Community of Malawi, belonging to the Africa Region, on October 21, 2023.

The Community will be formed by 4 people from 4 different countries:

Maggie Virginia Gundo, from the Southern Africa Province, from Malawi; Br. Dieudonné Byenda, from the PACE Province, from Rwanda; Br. Frédéric Nadji Ngarsandje, from the Province of West Africa, from Chad; and Maria Liezel Igoy (Liz), from the East Asia Province, from Philippines. Liz will join the Community in December.

On behalf of Brother Emmanuel Mwanalirenji-Gunduloni, Provincial of Reference, we thank the Africa Region and the Southern Africa Province for their welcome and support for the opening of the Community (Br. Valdicer Fachi, Director Cmi) [#MaristsOfChampagnat](#)



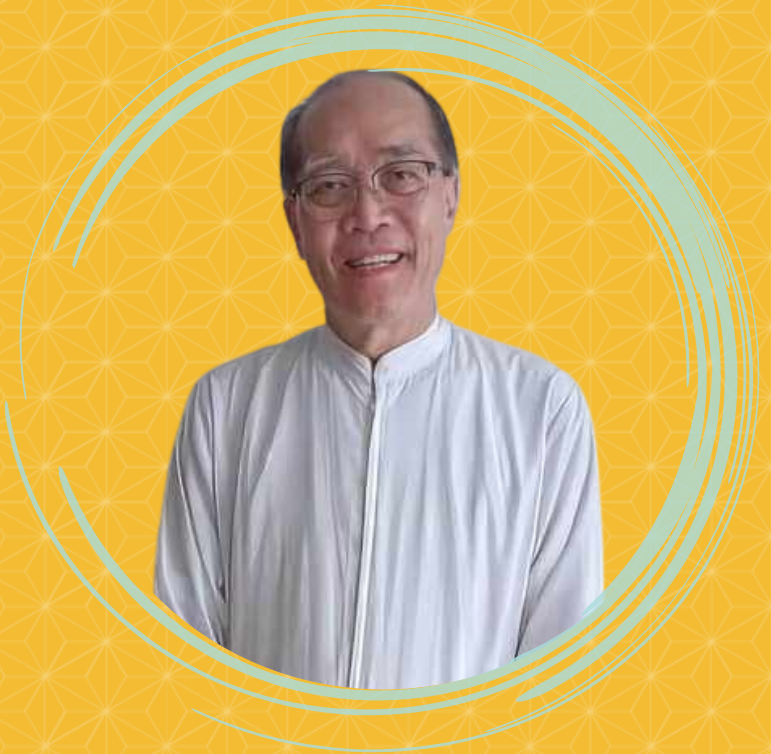
Ms. Liz Igoy



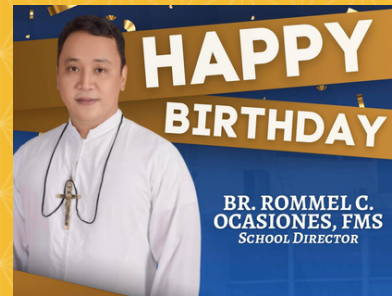
# Announcement:

The Golden Jubilee of Bro. Paul Saw will be held on Nov 26, 2023, at the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the elderly Cheras Home. The celebration will begin at 10 O'clock with the Sunday Mass, followed by a simple Lunch with the home residents.

The Provincial and his council will be present at this celebration.



# Birthday Celebrations





# Glimpses of the Past

## THE BIRTH OF THE EAST ASIA PROVINCE IN RETROSPECT

The following article is the message of Br. Manuel de Leon as the then Provincial of the Philippine Province as published in the AMIHAN NEWSLETTER, October 2006-January 2007 issue, pages 2-6.

As we usher in the new year, we face the reality that a new province will be created in this part of the Marist world by 2007. The idea of re-structuralization is something familiar in the consciousness of the Brothers. It has been a topic of reflection and discernment in the previous two General Chapters and the subsequent regional gatherings in Hong, Manila, Tudella, and Seoul. Besides, we have been involved in at least two consultations. These were the VITALITY SURVEY and DISCERNMENT ON THE PREFERRED FUTURE for the Marist presence in Asia.

A number of Administrative Units in the Institute have already undergone restructuralization. And based on the report during the General Conference in Sri Lanka, the results have been encouraging despite the many challenges.

Just to let you know, the re-structuring process is NOT a fusion of some Administrative Units into another existing Administrative Unit. Instead, it is the union of existing Administrative Units to create a new province. The heart of re-structuralization is to bring about VITALITY in our life and mission, particularly in Asia. I would like to point out the three levels of preparation that need to be done, namely Spiritual, Psychological, and Juridical.

We are also reminded that the Brothers, lay partners, and the Bishops are informed of every development. Other essential aspects of re-structuralization are the values of internationality and interculturality. We must focus on more than just our concerns in our localities and territories. We must expand our concerns with other Marist Communities and Administrative Units in the Region to share resources through networking and linkages.

Last December 18-21, 2006, in Seoul, Korea, during the Extended General Council Meeting, where the Superior General and his Council met with Provincials and their Councils in Asia, the following were agreed upon:

1. The new Province composed of the Provinces of China and the Philippines and the District of Korea will undergo re-structuralization in 2007. Part of the process is the election of the Provincial, which will have two rounds of consultation. The first round of consultation is from January to mid-February. The second (based on the shortlist of six (6) names will be between March and April. By May, the Superior General will announce the appointment of the new Provincial
2. The election of the Chapter delegates will transpire between May and September. How the Chapter delegates will be elected will depend on the recommendations of the Provincial Councils, subject to the approval of Rome. The Philippines is entitled to 12 delegates. How these 12 delegates will be chosen will be presented during consultation with the Brothers at the most appropriate time.
3. The Provincial Chapter has been decided to take place in the Philippines on the first week of December. There is no specific decision as to the venue of the Chapter. This will depend on the recommendation of the Preparatory Commission, which is authorized to do the necessary preparations for this historic gathering.
4. The installation of the provincial and the election of the Council will happen during the Chapter. The official name of the Province and the location of the Provincial House will be the subject of discussion during the Chapter.

The creation of a new Province composed of different Administrative Units coming from other countries, cultures, and political systems will be an excellent challenge for the leadership and the Brothers. It will have some implications regarding the pastoral care and the organizational structures. It will also have some effects on the relationship with the mission partners. Adjustments have to be made. There is always a need to change the paradigm of how we do things. It is widening our tents to be open to possibilities according to God's will. Going for re-structuralization will be a giant leap of faith. We cannot be sure of the future. But if we have faith and trust in God and each other, nothing is impossible.

Some significant events in relation to re-structuralization:

- November – December 2006 – A Survey of the Preferred Future of the Region of Asia. The Brothers were made to choose whether to have one Province or two Provinces for Asia.
- January 2006 – General Council Plenary in Rome where the Superior General and his Council decided that there would be two new provinces for Asia by 2007. (One being the South Asia Province composed of Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan)
- April 2006 - Brothers Assembly in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. Br. Manny, Provincial, officially announced the decision of the Superior General that by 2007, a new Province composed of the Philippines, China, and Korea would be created.
- May 2007 – Appointment of the new Provincial. (Br. Manny was the appointed first Provincial of the Province of East Asia.)





## Provincial's Schedule

*November 3 - 22, 2023*

**November 3:**  
**Closing Ceremony of Marist International Leadership Program at NDMU**

**November 3-4:**  
**MAPAC Board Meeting**

**November 6-10:**  
**Marist Schools Board Meetings**

**November 14-17:**  
**Jolo Community Visitation**

**November 17-19:**  
**Community Leaders' Meeting in Lagao**

**November 20-22:**  
**Lake Sebu Community Visitation**



*November 01:*  
*Br. John Tan Wee Eng*

*November 02:*  
*Br. John Emil J. Alada*

*November 04:*  
*Ms. Mary Wei Ling Ru*  
*(Affiliate Member)*

*November 19:*  
*Br. Armand B. Mana-ay*  
*Br. Romar Dave S. Rano*

## *Prayer Intentions:*

- For the eternal repose of the souls of the late Ariston Paterno, NDC Finance Officer, and the late Gretta Conejar, a faculty member of NDC. Our condolences and prayers.
- For our beloved sick, dying, and grieving, and for the souls of our departed brothers and lay Marists.
- For the growth of our Marist vocations that more brothers and lay may come to share with us the gift of the Marist charism for mission.
- For our school administrators, personnel, students and alumni.
- For Marist missions, may it continue to find its relevance in this challenging time.
- For a spirit of hope in our world that those children and the young who find themselves in darkness, depression, or addiction be awakened by a renewed awareness of God's transforming love and mercy.
- For the intentions of the birthday celebrants.