

»»» MAPAC NEWS «««

EDITION #2

DECEMBER 2023



Dear Marists of Champagnat, Greetings from Marikina. Welcome to our by-annual newsletter to share our life here at MAPAC. The First Semester of the Academic Year started in August and now we have come to the end of the semester. The first Group of Brothers who started the MAPAC program in January this year are ready to finish their one year of formation and time to say goodbye and get back to their own provinces. It's hard to believe a year has flown by.



EDITORIAL

Br. Joseph Ly

We wish them God's blessings in their future ministry and their further studies. This Newsletter is our humble effort to tell the story of these Brothers in pictures.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with joy, peace, and love. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your heart and guide you through the new year.

**COUNTING BLESSINGS, YEARNING FOR HOPE, LONGING FOR PEACE AND PONDERING
LOVE ONCE MORE!**



Dear Marists,

Greetings of a very meaningful advent season from Marist Asia Pacific Center!

Now that we are nearing the end of our first year since we reopened MAPAC, we can look back feeling grateful for many things God has blessed us.

We have been blessed with the presence of our 20 young Brothers and 5 staff coming from different parts of the world, all of whom have contributed to the making of our community life colorful and meaningful. Indeed, we have become one global charismatic family here in our scholasticate.

We count it a blessing receiving visitors during this second semester: Br. Tony Caddy who is currently assigned in East Timor, Br. Paul Kane from Australia, The participants of the Vocation Promoters program (From Rome, Bangladesh, Vietnam, East Timor, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Philippines), The members of the Marist Asia Pacific Board, and the students and staff of Newman College and Sacred Heart College in Australia.

Our lay staff (Jun, Jeff, Marilou, and Catherine) are “angels in our midst”. We recognize their kindness in helping us take care of our property, their sustaining us with good food and their energizing presence making us all enjoy their company during break time, mealtime, and sports events.

Our laity partners are a blessing, too. We thank our lay teachers Ma’am Christine and Racel for the English classes they conduct, Ma’am Marjorie for teaching us Music, Jess for computer, Jun and Henry for driving us, Jason for our voice lessons, and Ken for teaching Guitar.

Gratitude is always a memory of the heart. So, in our hearts today, we keep these blessings of the year and may these encourage us more to be grateful and trusting on God’s continuing providence.

I would like to wish our second year Brothers a safe travel back in your respective homes. Bon Voyage to all of you! It is my fervent hope that your experience in MAPAC prepared you well for the next chapter of your vocational journey. Continue on and be always assured that in our prayers, we remain your companions in your journey.

In this moment of Advent’s “holy waiting”, may we find our hearts open to yearn for hope, long for peace, ponder deeply the birth of love so that once more, we celebrate with joy once more the many blessings to come our way!

God bless us all!

Br. Dominador N. Santiago

I. LIFE AT MAPAC

1. Recollections of Francois and Lorenzo Fraternities:



In order to deepen their communion with God and to take time off from their day-to-day activities all the fraternities of MAPAC had their semester recollections. Francois Fraternity had their recollection at the Retreat House of the Sisters of Divine Zeal at the Marikina river bank. La Valla Fraternity too had their recollection at the same place. Lorenzo Fraternity had their recollection at a Retreat house in Antipolo.



2. OUTINGS AT ENCHANTED KINGDOM:



Both Francois and Lorenzo Fraternities had their one-day outing to the City of Tagaytay a place of scenic beauty with Taal volcano and the lake. In the afternoon they proceeded to the Enchanted Kingdom an amusement park with many fun activities to enjoy. Brothers enjoyed all the rides, especially the scary roller coaster ride.



3. LORENZO FEAST DAY



Lorenzo Fraternity celebrated its Patronal Feast on the 29th of September. St. Lorenzo Ruiz is the first Filipino saint and a lay missionary who suffered violent martyrdom for his faith in Japan. The Celebration consists of a Prayer service and a presentation on the life of St. Lorenzo Ruis followed by social and dinner.



4. MEAL OUTS

Fraternity Bursars are creative and innovative in saving money to provide more fun experiences for the brothers of the fraternities. One way they enjoy is going out for dinners with their savings. Both Francois and Lorenzo fraternities have gone out for dinners a few times during the semester.



5. FAREWELL TO BR. ROGERIO

After a serious process of discernment with the help of his accompanitors, Br. Roger decided to return back to his family in East Timor. We are thankful for the presence of Br. Roger at MAPAC even it was for a short period.



“People cannot discover new oceans unless they have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

You the first group of Brothers to leave the new MAPAC. There is so much that I wished to share with you but the enemy, “time” has prevented me from doing so. Here are some thought I leave for you.

The title is an encouragement for you to leave with confidence, where you can experience new places, ideas, and people, as you are ready after a long period of formation. As you know I am a keen gardener so I will use the analogy of the garden to help you with your future in the community, prayer, and apostolic life.

How to plant a “Community, Apostolic and prayer” garden

First:

Plant five rows of peas:

1. Presence
2. Preparation
3. Perseverance
4. Promptness
5. Prayer

Next:

Plant three rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash criticism
3. Squash indifference

Then:

Plane four rows of lettuce:

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal.
2. Let us be true to our obligations.
3. Let us be faithful to duty.
4. Let us love one another.

No garden is complete without turnips:

1. Turn up for prayers and mass.
2. Turn up for meetings.
3. Turnup with a smile.
4. Turn up with new ideas.
5. Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

To the brothers leaving MAPAC, I pray that God will bless you, Mary guide you and St Joseph care for you as he cared for Jesus. May the Holy Spirit give you wisdom to discern what is good and what is right.

Go well.



7. The Graduation and Missioning Ceremony for the Second Years Brothers.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated on the 8th December with Mass celebrated by Fr. Paulo. After the communion, the first group of scholastics who completed one year of post-novitiate formation program received the certificate of completion. The certificates were awarded by Bro. Dominador Santiago the Rector of MAPAC. It was followed by the missioning ceremony. The scholastics were presented with a missioning cross as a symbolic gesture. Br. Joseph Walton, Bro. Jone Seduadua and Bro. Dominador Santiago presented the Mission Crosses to the brothers from the Marist District of Asia, Star of the Sea Province, and East Asia Province respectively.



8. MAPAC Sport Day (12th December, 2023)



II. STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES:

1. classes .



During the First Semester (August to December) of the MAPAC program, the young brothers followed the following courses

| 1 st Year Brothers | 2 nd Year Brothers |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Courses at MAPAC | |
| Marist Youth Ministry | Guidance & Counseling |
| Catechism | Public speaking |
| Marist Leadership | Spirituality |
| English (Basic & Advance) | Catechism |
| Marist Documents | Marist Leadership |
| | English (Basic & Advance) |
| | Psychology |
| | Public Speaking |
| Courses at IFRS | |
| Introduction to OT | Psalms & Wisdom Literature |

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Psalms & Wisdom Literature | Catechetics 1 |
| Catechetics 1 | |
| Skill Development | |
| Guitar playing | |
| Key board playing | |
| Introduction to Computer Hardware | |
| Basic Accounting | |
| Driving | |

2. IFRS SPORT FEST



III. VOWS RENEWAL.



1. Eleven of our Second brothers had their first renewal of vows on the 9th of October. As a preparation for vow renewal, the Brothers had a three-day recollection at the Jesuit retreat house, Novaliches. Bro. Joseph Walton animated the recollection. The following Brothers made their renewal of vows.

- a. Br. Dionisio (East Timor)
- b. Br. Julio (East Timor)
- c. Br. Juvencio (East Timor)
- d. Br. Clement (East Timor)
- e. Br. Filomino (East Timor)
- f. Br. Salvador (East Timor)
- g. Br. Karalo (Fiji)
- h. Br. Ly (Vietnam)
- i. Br. Thanh (Vietnam)
- j. Br. Nowelle (Philippine)
- k. Br. Topu (Bangladesh)



IV. VOCATION ANIMATION PROGRAM



The “Brother Today” Commission organized a meeting of Vocation Animators from the Asia and Pacific region from 9th to 14th October at MAPAC. All the student brothers of MAPAC together with Bro. Ador took part in the meeting. MAPAC hosted the meeting for the Brothers Today commission and the Alfano fraternity was the temporary home for the brothers who attended the meeting. The Brothers were able to form a wonderful community in Alfano during their stay.



V. MAPAC BOARD MEETING AND VISIT OF THE AU LEADERS



1. MAPAC Board meeting was held from 3rd to 4th November, with the physical presence of all the members after a lapse of 3 years. It was a profitable time for the Provincial superiors to meet with their young brothers. The Board members had meaningful discussions and meetings with young brothers and the MAPAC staff members. We are thankful for the presence of the AU leaders at MAPAC.

VI. OUR VISITORS

- a. Bro. Real, from the International Novitiate in Tudella – Sri Lanka, visited MAPAC in August and spend few days with us on his way to attend a Focolare Movement Retreat from 21st to 25th August, at Tagaytay together with Bro. Joseph Walton. Br. Real was able to catch up with his former novices.
- b. Br. Paul Kane pass through MAPAC on his way back to Australia after a retreat at Cebu. It was a great time for him to meet with the Brothers from East Timor.
- c. Students of Sacred Heart College: The Grade Eleven students of Sacred Heart College visited the Philippines for their Immersion program. MAPAC was their base. There were 14 students and three teachers together with Bro. Des Howard, the organizer of the Immersion program. The students and the teachers occupied the Alfano Fraternity. Last day of their stay in MAPAC the students took part in manual work cleaning the property.

