



EAST ASIA

MARIST LIFE

Newsletter

November 30, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 22

GENERAL HOUSE COMMUNITY Rome, Italy

Buon giorno, tutti.

Literally translated as “good day, all”, it is among the more common greetings in Italian. Br. Niño Pizarro and yours truly send you this greeting from the General House here in the Eternal City.

Now, we are two Filipinos here, and yes, the only ones from Asia, in the general administration. I arrived in January 2020, just before the pandemic, while Niño arrived in July this year. I am now in my fourth year as co-director of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, while Niño has just begun his role as the co-director of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization. As of this writing, Br. Niño is in Salamanca, Spain, learning Spanish. I will talk about these secretariats further on.

The General House is in the southern part of Rome, and it is about 12 kilometers from St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Two communities of brothers live here. The General Council Community is composed of 10 brothers – the Superior General and his Council, plus the Secretary-General and the Econome General. Meanwhile, the General House Community, to which we belong, is composed of 17 members from 7 countries: 15 Brothers and 2 student priests, who serve as chaplains.

In our community, sometimes referred to as the 3rd floor community because we live on the 3rd floor, are the brothers who work in the secretariats and the different services or departments, and 1 brother who is studying in the university, plus the priests as I have mentioned above. Our community animator is Br. Patrick McNamara from the United States.

The General House is both a residence and a workplace. 25 lay people come to work every day, in the different offices and the maintenance services. The offices are mostly on the 2nd floor, while the General Council can be found on the 1st floor. On the ground floor are the reception, the meeting rooms, and the dining halls. The main chapel stands apart and is very prominent when one approaches the house.

There is a western wing that we call Hermitage, which serves to accommodate visitors and those who come for programs and international meetings. Take note that during the year, there are different ongoing formation programs that take place in Rome; some here at the General House, others in another house in Manziana, about 50 km from here.

The Secretariat of Brothers Today (<https://champagnat.org/en/marist-institute/general-administration/secretariat-brothers-today/>) is in-charge of everything related to vocations, initial and ongoing formation as well as the community and spiritual life of the brothers. We connect with and, if possible, visit the formation houses, the formators, the formands, and the vocation animators. We are also responsible for organizing the different programs of ongoing formation. Br. Angel Medina is the director.

On the other hand, the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization (<https://champagnat.org/en/marist-institute/general-administration/secretariat-for-education-and-evangelization/>) deals with the Marist mission. It engages in activities related to formal and non-formal education, social works and works of insertion, and evangelization projects. It connects and collaborates with and visits the different schools around the Marist world. One of the big events the secretariat is preparing for now is the Marist Mission Assembly 2024 (MIMA III). Br. Jose Sanchez is the director.





The above photos were taken when we went for recollection to develop our Community Life Project last September 22-24, 2023, at the Retreat Center of the Soure Apostole del Sacro Cuore (Apostolic Sisters of the Sacred Heart) in Silvi Marina (Italia).

In the group photo are (from left; the country and province are also indicated) Michael Sexton (Australia/Star of the Sea), Fr. Juan Alejandro Hernandez (Mexico), Patrick McNamara (US), Angel Diego Otaola (Spain/Mediterranea), Javier Echeverry (Colombia/Norandina), Antonio Martinez (Spain/L'Hermitage), Guillermo Villareal (Mexico Occidental), Jose Sanchez (Mexico Central), Jesus Alberto Rodriguez (Spain/Compostela), Niño Pizarro (Philippines/East Asia), Xavi Barcelo (Spain/L'Hermitage), Lindley Sionosa (Philippines/East Asia), and Valdicer Fachi (Brasil Sur-Amazonia). Not in the photo are: Ataíde Jose de Lima (Brasil Centro Norte), Gregorio Linacero (Spain/Central America), Angel Medina (Spain/Cruz del Sur), and Fr. Luis Alfredo Serna (Colombia).



Mr. Diugar Enrique Madera, Br. Niño Pizarro, and Br. Jose Sanchez of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization.



Br. Angel Medina and Br. Lindley Sionosa of the Secretariat of Brothers Today.



After the Mass to celebrate the birthday of Mary, September 8, 2023. Aside from the General Council and the General House communities, also in the photo were the brothers of the Amanecer Program (3rd Age, Spanish-Portuguese language), the team of the Formators Course 2024 and the brothers who attended the Tutti Fratelli Formation Program 2023.

Some photos of the General House



With Abraham Kang last August.



Br. Niño and Br. Jose with the Link Councilors of the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, Br. Ben Consigli and Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez (Vicar General).



Br. Angel and Lindley with the Link Councilors of the Secretariat of Brothers Today, Br. Oscar Martin (4th from left) and Br Joao Carlos do Prado (5th from left). This was a meeting with the team who will animate the Formators Course 2024, Br. Michel Razafimandimby (2nd from left), Br. Cesar Rojas (3rd from left) and Br. Juan Castro (1st from right).



Marist Youth Cultivate Global Unity in "Sowing Seeds of Hope" Online Gathering

In a remarkable display of global solidarity and care for our common home, over 70 Marist youth and educators from Guatemala, United States of America, and the Philippines gathered in the virtual meeting titled Sowing Seeds of Hope: A Marist Global Youth Gathering on Ecology. This event aimed to exchange and promote best practices in sustainability while fostering a shared commitment to safeguarding our common home among Marist youth worldwide.

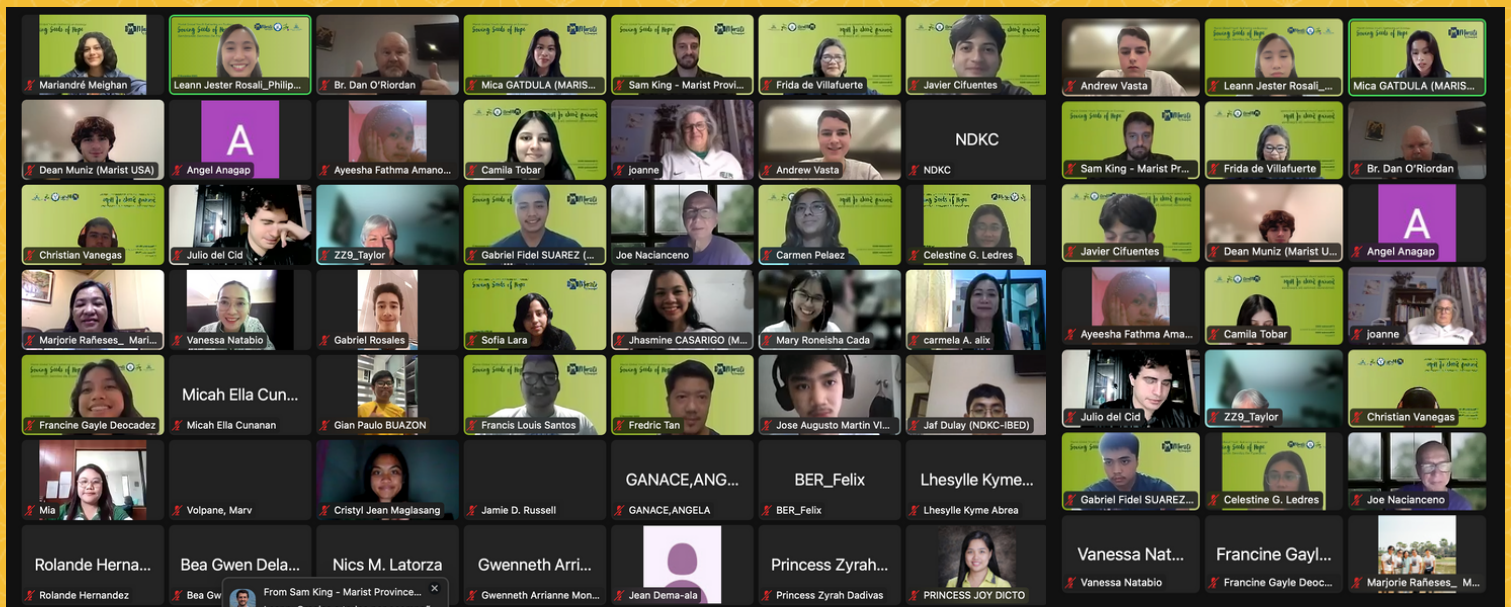
Held last November 18 (Philippine time), the online gathering witnessed an inspiring convergence of young minds, driven by a collective passion for addressing pressing environmental challenges. Six teams of student leaders from five distinguished institutions - Notre Dame of Marbel University - IBED (PHL), Marist School Marikina (PHL), Liceo Guatemala (GUA), Christopher Columbus High School (USA), and Saint Joseph Regional High School (USA) - representing diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences, presented to the meeting explored innovative solutions and strategies towards a more sustainable future. These projects ranged from school-based initiatives on ecology to comprehensive research on environmental, social, and health issues impacting their communities. Also in attendance at the gathering were student leaders from Philippine Marist schools, namely, Notre Dame of Dadiangas University - IBED, Notre Dame of Kidapawan College - IBED, and Notre Dame of Cotabato, Inc, Notre Dame of Marbel University - IBED and Marist School Marikina.

Key to the discussions were the urgent issues surrounding climate change, biodiversity preservation, challenges in achieving sustainable development, and the imperative to protect our environment. The gathering aimed to empower youth to catalyze change within their schools and communities, highlighting their pivotal role in championing and implementing sustainable practices.

During the event, Br. Daniel O'Riordan, FMS, Provincial of the Marist Brothers USA, delivered an inspiring message, drawing upon the visionary spirit of St. Marcellin and his belief in the power of young people to respond to the needs of their time. Emphasizing the timeless relevance of St. Marcellin's dream, Br. Dan underscored the importance of collective action and unity in addressing environmental challenges. His words resonated deeply, echoing the significance of the online gathering as a beacon of hope.

Reflecting on the meeting, participants Celestine Ledres from the Philippines and Mariandre Meighan Quezada from Guatemala expressed hope that this collaboration would mark the beginning of increased networking and cooperation among Marist youth. Meighan shared, "The principal thing is to be connected. The network and the contacts we made are a great opportunity for us to reach out to other people as well as get ideas of how we can help each other. This is encouraging us to promote sustainable practices."

Initially conceptualized by the Marist Ecology Ministry of the provinces of East Asia and the USA to commemorate the 75 years of the Marist Brothers' presence in the Philippines, the project expanded its scope when Guatemala expressed a keen interest in contributing to addressing issues relating to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. This gathering signifies the inaugural step in fostering ongoing collaboration among Marist youth and schools worldwide, planting the initial seeds of hope for a future where environmental stewardship becomes a realization of St. Marcellin's dream.



Br. Paul Saw @ 50 Years as a Marist Brother

26-November-2023

Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the elderly Cheras Home,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



聖母昆仲會
蘇發聯修士
發願金慶

50th Anniversary of
Religious Profession of
Bro. Paul Saw, FMS
Marist Brother
26. 11. 2023

"God will provide" Gen 22:8
"天主自會看顧" 創 22:8



Br. Paul Saw renewed his Vows.

Congratulations!





BEYOND BORDERS Liz Igoy's Journey of Heart, Growth, and Giving in Pailin, Cambodia

Debriefing the Heart of a Marist Volunteer

In the heart of Pailin, Cambodia, where the sun paints the landscape with warmth and the spirit of community weaves through every conversation, Liz Igoy found more than just an opportunity to volunteer. She discovered a transformative experience that reshaped her perspectives, tested her limits, and left an indelible mark on the lives she touched.

Introduction and General Reflection:

Liz Igoy's journey as a Marist volunteer in Pailin unfolded as a mosaic of astonishment and heartwarming connections. "It was astonishing and heartwarming," she shares, her eyes gleaming with the vivid memories of her time in Cambodia. Through her lens, the experience was more than just a volunteer stint; it was an immersion into the rich tapestry of Cambodian culture, an exploration of resilience amidst hardship, and the forging of friendships that would last a lifetime.

Her initial expectations, outlined with a heartfelt optimism, mirrored the reality she encountered.

From aiding local teachers and collaborating with the Brothers' community to connecting with fellow volunteers and engaging with the locals, Liz's journey seamlessly aligned with her aspirations. Yet, it went beyond mere alignment—she took charge in the learning center, taught English, learned the local language, and actively participated in church activities and community initiatives.

In her exploration of Cambodia's landmarks like Angkor Wat, Liz not only witnessed the grandeur but also confronted the harsh reality of poverty, grounding her experience in a profound understanding of the country's diverse facets.

Roles and Responsibilities: Navigating Challenges with Grace

As a volunteer, Liz's roles were diverse, ranging from assisting the Director of the Marist Education Center (MEC) to teaching English to public school students. However, challenges were inevitable. The language barrier presented hurdles in communication with students and locals alike. Liz's response was proactive—she attended Khmer classes and sought translation assistance, showcasing a commitment to overcoming obstacles.

The emotional stress, compounded by the intense heat, prompted Liz to practice self-care and seek solace in conversations with friends. Her adaptability and resilience shone through as she navigated the nuances of the education system and teaching styles, further reinforcing her dedication to the cause.

Learning and Growth: A Journey of Personal Evolution

In reflecting on her personal growth, Liz emphasizes her developed acceptance, openness to diverse cultures, and a heightened understanding of others' circumstances. The experience bestowed upon her a profound appreciation for life's nuances, fostering adaptability, and nurturing her ability to forge meaningful interpersonal relationships.

New skills and knowledge became integral facets of Liz's journey. She emerged self-reliant, armed with cultural and historical insights, and intimately acquainted with the hopes and dreams of Cambodian youth, particularly her students.

Interaction with Others: Bridges of Friendship and Gratitude

Liz's relationships with fellow volunteers, Brothers, and the community were marked by warmth and gratitude. Positive interactions, shared stories, prayers, and communal meals formed the fabric of her social connections. Despite encountering initial hesitation from some community members, Liz's encouragement served as a bridge, fostering openness to new approaches.

from some politeness and fostering openness to

Impact and Contribution: Seeds of Hope and Value

For Liz, the impact of her volunteer work extended beyond the tangible. By providing fun educational activities, she believes she contributed to the well-being and potential of the community. Her presence, kindness, and friendliness, she hopes, instilled a sense of hope and value among the people she served.

In the educational realm, Liz left an enduring mark by aiding MEC teachers, motivating students, and conducting additional English classes. Spiritually, her openness about her faith resulted in a student expressing a desire to become Catholic—a testament to the profound impact of personal connections forged during volunteer service.





BEYOND BORDERS Liz Igoy's Journey of Heart, Growth, and Giving in Pailin, Cambodia

Debriefing the Heart of a Marist Volunteer — page 2

Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness: Embracing Differences with Respect

Navigating cultural differences proved essential in a community where Buddhism was predominant. Liz's respect for local beliefs and dedication to understanding their practices facilitated a harmonious integration. Adapting to the rural lifestyle of Pailin, devoid of modern amenities, became an exercise in appreciation for simplicity—a lesson that transcended the physical landscape.

The experience broadened Liz's cultural sensitivity, making her more perceptive to global realities. Her intrigue and eagerness to understand diverse cultures reflect a commitment to ongoing learning and appreciation for different perspectives.

Challenges and Solutions: A Symphony of Resilience

Liz faced challenges on multiple fronts—physical exhaustion due to the weather, emotional stress, communication uncertainties, and difficulty expressing her needs. Her solutions reflected a symphony of resilience: hydration and indoor respite for physical fatigue, seeking advice for emotional stress, and persistent communication efforts despite uncertainties.

Uncertain and unprepared moments, such as teaching a class with diverse student demographics, saw Liz experimenting with strategies, showcasing adaptability, and a commitment to delivering quality education.

Feedback and Suggestions: A Beacon of Appreciation and Insight

In offering feedback to the Marist Institute, Liz expressed profound gratitude for the significant and impactful volunteer program. Her kudos echo the resonance of a journey well-supported. However, her insightful suggestions call for more extensive training in language, culture, and security, continuous feedback and evaluation, and increased opportunities for personal and professional growth—a beacon guiding future volunteers.

Personal Highlights: A Canvas of Firsts and Lasting Goodbyes

Liz's journey in Pailin is punctuated by memorable moments—the first days, the last days, and every day in between. The first encounters with the community, the teachers, and the students were the strokes that painted the canvas of her experience. The last day, marked by a recognition ceremony, farewells, and emotional student performances, stands out as a testament to the impact forged during her service.

Particular accomplishments, such as the Recognition Day, where the collective success of learners was celebrated, remain etched in Liz's memory as a profoundly rewarding experience.

Future Involvement: A Continuation of Heartfelt Service

The question of future involvement receives an unequivocal "Definitely" from Liz. Her joy in being with the children and youth, coupled with her enjoyment of community life, sets the stage for continued contributions. Liz

anticipates that this experience will refine her understanding of community needs and reinforce the tangible results of her voluntary work.

Moving forward, Liz envisions a heightened commitment to self-reflection, open to feedback, and a more profound engagement with the communities she serves. Her volunteer experiences, she believes, will shape a more informed and impactful approach to future endeavors.

In the tapestry of Liz Igoy's journey as a Marist volunteer in Pailin, Cambodia, every thread tells a story of growth, connection, and the enduring spirit of giving. Her narrative transcends geographical boundaries, leaving an inspirational legacy that echoes the profound impact one individual can have on a community and, conversely, the transformative power of embracing a world beyond one's own. As Liz looks back on her time in Pailin, her story becomes a beacon, illuminating the path for those who aspire to embark on their own journeys of heart, growth, and giving.



CYPD

Marist Youth David Lumba Attends the Third National Youth Summit On Cyberspace

November 27, 2023

In this year's National Youth Leadership Summit on Safer Cyberspace hosted by CGPH Incorporated, I was fortunate enough to be a guest speaker for the voice of "doubt and fear" among young people—a huge thanks to Tita Chi-chi Sangil for trusting me on this.

It honestly still feels like a dream. I would never have imagined being able to speak in front of a big audience in a theatre, not in my school. I would've said: "Celebrate the little things," but nothing about the event was little—it was beyond great. Giving a 15-minute talk was a challenge, primarily because you wouldn't know how to stretch your statement without "dragging" it and, in like manner, without making it sound boring. However, hearing many audience members comment, "Your words moved me," reaffirms to me that it was probably worth listening to.

I ended the message with a reference to St. Therese, "Spend your heaven by doing good on Earth." I challenge you to love.—something very close to my heart. When you love something, you fight for it. When you love the advocacy, you stay with it. Do not defend truth and justice while worshipping lies and injustices.

-David Lumba



Photo News

November 14-16:
Br. Allan visited Jolo Community

November 21:
Br. Ray Arthur of MAPAC visited
St. Joseph Community



November 27: Community life Sharing and
Monthly Meeting of Seoul Community held
at Marist Educational Center.



November 17-18:
Philippine Sector Community Leaders
Meeting at Marist Province Center



November 28:
Handover of the Catholic Youth Center Port
Dickson Solar PV System Project.



November 27:
Meeting of China Sector Finance committee at
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



November 17:
21 Students from St. Joseph International School received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Many thanks to Br. John Emil Alada and his team for their hard work.



November 30:
Cover page of the book in memory of late Bro Joseph Dufrese, FMS. The book is Edited by Alumni of Singapore Catholic High School.



November 27:
Br. Manny D. had his meeting with Director Alan Filoteo and actor Rolly Inocencio after a two-day location filming of the infomercial for Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation.



November 26:
The Provincial Council attended the 50th Year Anniversary of Br. Paul Saw in Malaysia except for Br. Manny D was not able to travel to Malaysia.



November 19: Community meal out and birthday celebration of Bro. Dave in Korea.



November 25:
Seoul Community organized program as well as "meet and greet" activities for young people.



MEC UPDATES

Be Ready for PASUNDAGAN 2023 Maristas!

Marist East Asia Province

MARIST PASUNDAYAG 2023

Theme: "Never Let the Fire in Your Heart Go Out"

Academic Events for Tertiary & Sports and Socio-Cultural for Personnel

December 8-9, 2023 | Hosted by Notre Dame of Marbel University



5:30 PM to 7:00 PM Socio-Cultural Competitions (Personnel Category)
(Venue: NDMU Gymnasium)

Opening Prayer NDMU Tambuli Singers
National Anthem NDMU Tambuli Singers and Marist Symphonic Band
NDMU Hymn NDMU Tambuli Singers and Marist Symphonic Band

Entrance and Grand Production Number of all participating teams for Socio-Cultural Events

Opening Remarks Dr. Andres O. Magallanes Jr.
Administrative Vice President, NDMU

Presentation of the board of judges for the vocal solo and vocal duet
Contest proper:
-Vocal Solo
-Vocal Duet
Giving of Certificates for the judges of Vocal Solo and Duet

Presentation of the board of judges for Folk Dance and Team Ballroom
Contest proper:
-Folk Dance
-Team Ballroom

Giving of Certificates for the board of judges

7:00 PM to 7:30PM Awarding

Dinner and Fellowship
Prayer before meal

To be led by: Mr. Lester Tugade
CMRE Coordinator, College Department

Host: Dr. Jun Y. Badie
Director, NDMU QUAPS

Day 0 Dec. 7 Expected Arrival of the Participants (Tertiary level and Personnel)
6:00PM to 10:00 PM Rehearsal/Blocking for Socio-cultural Events-
Personnel Category (NDMU Gym)

Day 1 Dec. 8

8:00 AM to 9:20 AM Mass (Venue: NDMU Gymnasium)
9:20 AM to 10:00 AM Opening Program

Entrance/Parade of the different delegates:

- oNotre of Cotabato
- oNotre Dame of Kidapawan College
- oNotre Dame of Dadiangas University
- oNotre Dame of Marbel University

Opening Prayer NDMU Tambuli Singers
National Anthem NDMU Tambuli Singers and Marist Symphonic Band
NDMU Hymn NDMU Tambuli Singers
Opening Salvo NDMU Performing Arts Group

Welcome Message Br. Paterno S. Corpus, FMS
University President
Notre Dame of Marbel University

Oath of Sportsmanship Mr. Jethro Carl Arandallo, MAED
Sports Coordinator, NDMU

Message from the Provincial Br. Allan De Castro, FMS
Superior, Marist East Asia Province

Ceremonial Kick Mr. Rene Pineda, MAED
Sports Coordinator, NDMU IBED Elem and JHS

Declaration of the Opening Br. Arnel S. Alfanta, FMS
Chairperson
Marist Education Council (MEC)

10:00 AM to 12:00 NN General Rehearsal of the participants for the socio-cultural
competitions-Personnel category- Venue: BRC Hall Lobby

Host: Mr. John C. Tongco
Ms. Kimberly P. Sison

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM- Simultaneous Sports Competition

10:30 AM- Start of the Games

PLAYING VENUES:

- Basketball Men - IBEd Gym
- Volleyball Men - IBEd Gym
- Volleyball Women - College Gym
- Badminton-College Gym
- Table Tennis - College Gym
- Pickleball - College Gym

Academic Events- Tertiary Level (Venue: Br. Renato Cruz Hall)

10:30 AM to 12:00NN Academic Competition

Program

- Opening Prayer
- National Anthem
- NDMU Hymn
- Presentation of the General Guidelines
- Presentation of the Quiz Master
Quiz Master: Dr. Ma. Magdalena F. Cobrador
Dean, College of Education
NDMU

- Contest Proper
- Declaration of the winners
- Giving certificates to the consultants and quiz master

Host: Mr. Aldrin C. Juanico, MA
NDMU Faculty

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Story Telling Competition (Venue: BRC Hall)

Program

- Reading of the Contest Mechanics for the Story Telling
- Presentation of the Judges
- Contest Proper
- Giving of Certificates for the judges

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM Asian Parliamentary Debate- First Round (BRC dining Hall)
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM Asian Parliamentary Debate- Second Round (BRC main hall)
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Asian Parliamentary Debate- Championship (BRC main hall)

- Declaration of the winners
- Giving of Certificates for the adjudicators

4:30 PM to 5:00 PM Awarding

- Awarding of certificates for the participants and coaches
- Awarding of medals for the winners in the different competitions

Host: Mr. Kenneth Dave C. Dalimbang
NDMU Faculty

Invitation from Marist Ecology Ministry

A FORUM ON

Laudate Deum


THE URGENCY AND CHALLENGES
OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

7:15 P.M., Thursday, December 7, 2023

Resource Speaker:

JOHN DIN
NATIONAL COORDINATOR, LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT--PHILIPPINES

Meeting ID: 89537651260
Passcode: 576865



ORGANIZED BY THE ECOLOGY MINISTRY
MARIST EAST ASIA PROVINCE

MEC Announcement:

1. In-person training of MEC Evaluators is on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at Notre Dame of Marbel University, Koronadal City.
2. Schedule of MEC Visit for Academic Year for SY 2023-2024
 - Notre Dame of Cotabato - February 12-13, 2024
 - Notre Dame of Kidapawan College - March 19-20, 2024
 - Notre Dame of Dadiangas University - April 24-25, 2024

China Sector STATISTICS

MARIST SCHOOLS / CENTERS STATISTICS								
NAME OF SCHOOL / CENTERS			2023-2024					
			PERSONNEL (Brothers & Lays)			STUDENT / BENEFICIARIES		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
8	Catholic High School	Sibu, Malaysia	19	48	67	512	441	953
9	Catholic High School	Petaling Jaya, Malaysia	30	130	160	1,264	1,556	2,820
10	Catholic Kidergarten	Singapore	2	37	39	162	177	339
11	Maris Stella High School	Singapore	78	139	217	2,869		2,869
12	St. Francis Xavier's School	Hong Kong	41	48	89	662		662
13	St. Francis Xavier's College	Hong Kong	46	39	85	693		693
14	St. Joseph International School	Kuching, Malaysia	16	34	50	186	184	370
15	Maktab Nasional School	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia	11	22	33	156	112	268
16	St. Simon Center	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia	1	4	5	14	8	22
	Sub-total		244	501	745	6,518	2,478	8,996

Glimpses of the Past

BRIEF HISTORY OF NOTRE DAME BOYS' DEPARTMENT

The following article is found in the 25th Anniversary Souvenir Program of the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo (1948-1973) and was recorded by Ms. Terry G. Mondares, in May 7, 2023. This was forwarded to me by the Br. Aljon Yonder, FMS.

In 1958, the late Bishop Francis J. McSorley, OMI, DD, requested the Marist Brothers of the Schools in Cotabato, to take over the Notre Dame school in Jolo. The Marist Brothers liked the Bishop's proposal to provide a school building program, as he had done in Cotabato (Marbel, Lagao, Dadiangas, and Kidapawan). This school also became the first administered by the Brothers, which they did not own. The attitude of the late Bishop towards the Marist Brothers.... was "anything for the Brothers." His policy of giving carte blanche was proven when he entrusted the building program of the present Boys Department to Br. Alfred George, FMS in 1961. The plan was to have the school in Gandasuli, about a kilometer away from the town. A convent was built above the school, and the school building was made to be functional and ideally set up for easy supervision.

When the Marist Brothers, took over the school in 1959, they set up a military-like discipline that floored the whole town. Br. Bernard Curtin, FMS, formerly known as Br. Herman Edwin ruled Notre Dame with an iron hand together with Br. Agustin Cabrera, FMS.

The Dominican Sisters (OP-Siena) were on the faculty. (It was a co-ed system.) Br. Bernard made a valuable contribution to putting Notre Dame pride among the students as he would insist on saying, "Win we must...we'll hold thy name..." With this drive, Notre Dame of Jolo excelled in many athletic and academic events in several local competitions. He also encouraged the catholic students to attend Mass frequently and to participate in catholic action programs. Ten conversions rewarded this religious influence during his time, and more Chinese pagans took instructions to become Catholics. With those imprints, Br. Bernard had contributed a lot to Notre Dame of Jolo.

Br. Alfred followed Br. Bernard as Director and Principal of the Boys Department. If Br. Bernard is known for his discipline and order, Br. Alfred shows his charisma by his entertaining quality as he extended it by purchasing musical instruments for the band. The band was part of the Bishop's generous contribution to the Brothers. There were innumerable incidents worth remembering during Br. Alfred's time. To this day, the band is still the main attraction for the town people in any parade and procession. In 1962, the school (became a boys' department with the Marist Brothers and a girls' department with the OP-Siena Sisters).

Br. Damian Teston, FMS, was Director and Principal of Notre Dame Boys Department in 1964. Towards the end of his administration, an ecumenical religious curriculum was established among Moslems, Catholics, and Protestants. The Moslem students were given the privilege of saying the prayers with the Christians at assembly and alternately during change of class periods. On Fridays, they were required to bring their mats or carpets to school for their noon services.

During the term of Br. Bonaventure, the Notre Dame Administration in 1967-1970, the Brothers teaching part-time at the Notre Dame of Jolo College and started the "Mr. Notre Dame" popularity contest, a fundraising gimmick that solved a lot of the school's financial problems.

Br. Alfred had his second time around in 1970. The Brothers' residence became an ideal place for the "Curcillo and students' Encounters."

In 1972, Br. Michael O'Keefe, FMS, took over and present worked on Academic Excellence in the school in recent "Boys and Girls Week" competitions. The school gained first and second places in athletics, academics, and cultural competitions. # # #

Provincial's Schedule



December 1 - January 7, 2024

December 1-7:
60th Year of Saint Francis Xavier College
(SFXC), Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong

December 20:
East Asia Provincial Assembly - ONLINE

December 28-January 7:
Korea-Japan Sector Assembly in Seoul, Korea

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 2:

Br. Dionesio D. Acosta, Jr.
Br. Robert Teoh T Khiang

December 03:

Br. Eugene Pius R. Tajo

December 05:

Br. Tick J. de Leon

December 08:

Br. Norbert Wang Zhen Yong

December 09:

Br. Hilario C. Sevilla

December 11:

Mr. Enrique Gayda (Affiliate Member)

December 13:

Br. Paul (Keun-ho) Won

December 15:

Br. Cristino M. Sta. Ana

Prayer Intentions:

- For our beloved sick brothers and lay Marists.
- 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 increased vocations to Marist life, brotherhood, and that of the laity. For our beloved sick, dying, and grieving, and for the souls of our departed brothers and lay Marists.
- Victims of natural calamities that they may find generous support to help them with their needs.
- For the youth and adults who are silently suffering mental difficulties and discomfort.
- For the intentions of the birthday celebrants.