



EAST ASIA

# MARIST LIFE

## Newsletter

December 15, 2023 Volume 02, Issue No. 23

*Dear Marists of Champagnat,*

*Fraternal greetings to all!*

*May we connect wholeheartedly with the gift of peace that Jesus brings us this Christmas 2023.*

*Let us be reminded of John 14:27, which says:  
Peace I leave with you; the peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives do I give it to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled; be not afraid.*



*In so many situations that we live in today's world, we need to embrace this gift of peace and encourage everyone to be artisans of peace in our communities, families, and ministries,*

*Allow me to mention last year's Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Message:*

*"We must let our experience of the crisis change our hearts. We must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community and open our minds and hearts to the universal human fraternity. We are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must promote actions that enhance peace, join in caring for our common home, and battle the virus of inequality. Only by responding generously to these situations, with altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice, and peace."*

*May prayer be that during this Christmas, with Mary our Good Mother, we welcome Jesus and His peace in the depths of our hearts, and with Marcellin, our Founder, may we live with passion the mission of making Him known and loved.*

*Have a blessed Christmas*

*Allan fan*  
**Br. Allan, FMS**



# MARIST BROTHERS DADIANGAS COMMUNITY

*General Santos City, Philippines*

Christmas Greetings from the brothers of the Dadiangas community!

Here is the list of the current members of the community, their School ministry, and their Community assignment:

1. Br. Manuel V. de Leon, University President and Community Gardener
2. Br. Ernie G. Sentina, Elementary and High School Director and Community Bursar
3. Br. Cristino M. Sta. Ana, Teacher in College, Community Leader
4. Br. Rubel Nokrek, a student of the Education Department and Community Member
5. Br. Pedro, a student of the Education Department and Community Member
6. Brother Steve, a student of the Engineering & Technology Department and Community Member
7. Brother Edgar R. Cerailes, Director of Volunteers for the East Asia Province and Community Member

The Marist Brothers Dadiangas Community's dream statement can be summarized by the following words:  
"Strive to become a good Marist Brother."



December 9, 2023:  
An evening at the NDDU Alumni Homecoming, Batch 1973 with Bro. Manuel De Leon, FMS held at NDDU Main Campus Open Field.

December 7:  
Photo ops after the Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception: with Main Presider and Homilist-Fr. David Sanchez, SM, (4th from right), the Marist Fathers Novices, Sr. Sela, SMSM, the two OND Sisters, the two Diocesan Priests - Fr. Eugene (former NDDU Chaplain) and Fr. Joemer (current NDDU Chaplain); and the Marist Brothers: Bros. Rubel (far left), Manny (3rd from right) and Pedro (4th from left).



December 12:  
Photo ops during Br. Cris Sta. Ana's birthday celebration.

# Sweet Endings To A New Beginning MAPAC Scholastics Sending-off Ceremony

Last December 8, together with the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception, the MAPAC held the sending-off ceremony for second-year Scholastics. This marks the end of the one-year program that started in January of this year. The celebration started around 4:30 PM with a picture taking of the whole MAPAC community of the formation year 2023. It was followed by an Eucharistic Mass celebration celebrated by Fr. Paul Feitas, the Canossian priest. After the mass is the beginning of sending off rites by blessings of the candle, certificates, and cross. Br. Dominador Santiago, FMS, MAPAC Rector, gave the certificates to the eleven scholastics. Prayer was followed while the candle was lit, and the symbolic cross was given by each staff member's brother, who represents the administrative units of scholastics in MAPAC. Br. Jone Seduadua, FMS for Star of the Sea province, Br. Joe Walton for Marist District of Asia and Br. Dominador Santiago is the FMS for East Asia Province.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by dinner, where everyone enjoyed the celebration. The eleven scholastics that have ended their Scholastic formation are Br. Thanh Van Trinh, Br. Ly Nguyen Van, Br. Topu Mondol (Marist District of Asia), Br. Clementino Xavier, Br. Filomeno Mendoca, Br. Salvador Ferreira, Br. Julio Brites, Br. Dionesio Martins, Br. Juvencio Hanjam Nia, Br. Karalo Ratuyada (Star of the Sea province) & Br. Melchor Nowelle Solinap Jr., (East Asia Province).

Together, the eleven scholastics share their life, knowledge, and dreams and grow together as they nourish their Marist Brother life in post-novitiate formation. Most of the scholastics will be leaving the MAPAC from December 14 to 17 and will be back in their administrative units, respectively. Together as one Marist, let us continue to pray for them, and may our good Mother Mary and St. Marcellin Champagnat continue to guide them as they continue their journey.



*Br. Melchor Nowelle Solinap from East Asia received the certificate.*



# MARIST PASUNDAYAG

**KORONADAL CITY** — The Marist East Asia Provincial Superior Br. Allan J. de Castro, FMS, accentuates the importance of incorporating Marist Values in competitions during the opening program of Marist Pasundayag, December 8, at Notre Dame of Marbel University.

In his message, he highlighted the seven core Marist values inspired by the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat. He encouraged the participants to build "homes of light" by upholding these virtues.

In an exclusive interview, Br. Allan also shared the activities lined up this school year for the development of the whole Marist community. As Marist schools celebrate their 75 years of existence in the Philippines, the Marist administration, together with the participation of youth leaders and Directors of Student Affairs, planned events that hone the skills of Marists.

One of these events as part of the 75-year celebration was the Marist Youth Formation Program at Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, last October, which aimed to gather all Marist Leaders and boost their leadership skills while upholding Marist values.

He also shared the upcoming activities of the Marist administration, including the Marist Forum for Ecology to be facilitated by the Marist Ecology Ministry, the Marist Youth Festival, the Marist Meet, and the Marist Brothers Jubilee.

Furthermore, Br. Allan also shared that this year-long event includes the closing of the 75 years of Notre Dame, which will be held at Notre Dame of Marbel University. According to him, the closing includes the redirection of Marist formation, which will be a roadmap for another 75 years of service at Marist schools.

Br. Allan also emphasized his speech using the acronym FLIPS— Family Spirit, Love of Work, In the Way of Mary, and Presence of Simplicity. He called for Marist participants to uphold these essential Marist values during competition and celebrate our being as followers of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

"At the end of the day, we are family. One way or another, we all knew one another," he said.

Marist Pasundayag is an annual activity held to give Marist students from different Marist schools in the region a venue to compete and showcase their prowess in different areas.



# MARIST PASUNDAYAG

1948-2023 is 75 years since the first four Marist Brothers arrived in the Philippines through the invitation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Yesterday, all four Marist schools from Cotabato, Kidapawan, Dadiangas ( General Santos City), and Marbel ( Koronadal City) decided to hold a PASUNDAYAG, meaning presentations, exhibitions, and performances in thanksgiving for Marist personnel at NDMU. NDMU is considered a “trailblazer”. First Marist school to produce hollow blocks to build a school, first to open a college, first to go co-educational, first to get PAASCU accreditation, the first Marist university, the first to produce two bishops and a Cardinal, the first to introduce a para-teacher program that eventually became an Accelerated Teachers Training Program for Cultural Communities, the first to produce a Valedictorian in the Philippines Military Academy, to produce 2 TOYM Awardees, to appoint a laywoman President, to be given a Papal Award ( Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice) for Br. Willy and Dr. Magallanes, the first to open a law school that produced 9 lawyers out of 11 takers made the university ranked 4th Best Performing school in their category, etc. I was never assigned to NDMU but I was a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for at least 25 years. Last night they were declared the overall champion, with NDDU as the first runner-up, NDKC as the second runner-up, and NDCotabato as the third runner-up. NDMU dominated the sports and socio-cultural competitions, NDDU the Academic Competitions although NDKC won the Quiz Bowl. NDDU was the champion in debate after edging NDMU in a split decision of the adjudicators. It was a day of fun, sweating, gasping for breath for some (walang hangin), NDKC won the vocal solo, NDDU won the vocal duet, and NDMU won the folk dance and dance sports. NDDU and NDKC shared championships in badminton and pickleball for men and women. NDKC was the champion in volleyball for women. If I were to give awards to ND Cotabato, they are the most cohesive, highly spirited, sportsmanship, etc. considering they are only a high school department competing against two universities and a college. They were first runner-up in Vocal Solo. I enjoyed the events. I was there for Mass and the opening program where Br. Allan, the Provincial, gave an inspiring message and reiterated Br. Ernesto’s message of making our institutions Homes of Light, joined the parade and watched how NDDU Volleyball Women Team fought hard against NDMU but lost. In between, I managed to join the Zoom meeting of the Finance Committee of CEAP and got toured by Bro. Pat to the new Campus Ministry and Catechetical Center building, witnessed the championship round of the debate between NDMU and NDDU on the motion whether the break-up of Daniel and Kathryn was good for the Filipino people. Our team won the Best Speaker and Best Debater Awards. I fully enjoyed the socio-cultural competitions, especially Br. Jepoy joining the dance sports. Thank you NDMU for the generous hosting. It was well organized and I am happy and proud to write about the first Marist Pasundayag for personnel. Arrived home in Gensan at 10 pm with Dr. Rogen Doronila as my driver and Mr. Adonis Hornoz as my companion. Had a good night’s rest and preparing for another exciting day with the Grand Alumni Homecoming starting this afternoon until evening when our Batch NDL ‘73 will be honored as Golden Jubilarians by Batch ‘98.

*-Br. Manuel V. de Leon, FMS*





### What is it?

The event is a five-day academic conference that will cover topics in Marist history, spirituality, education, formation, leadership, and generally on Marist mission and life. It is to be held over five days in Rome and be known as the "Marist Symposium".

The Symposium is being organised by the Institute's International Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission, with the support of Brother Superior General and his Council, with the purpose of nurturing the historical, spiritual and charismatic richness of our Institute.



[champagnat.org/en/marist-symposium/](http://champagnat.org/en/marist-symposium/)

### Marist Symposium at Marist Brothers General House, Rome December 4 - 8, 2023

The Marist Symposium 2023 "Sources and Streams" commenced on Monday, 4th December at the General House in Rome. This five-day academic event, organized by the Institute's International Marist Spiritual Patrimony Commission, with the support of Brother Superior General and his Council, had the purpose of nurturing the historical, spiritual and charismatic richness of our Institute, covered topics in Marist history, spirituality, education, formation, leadership, and generally on Marist mission and life.

To cover these topics, there were 12 total number of Presentations given by distinguished Marist writers and researchers. In addition, there were also 6 other concurrent sessions given to participants according to their specific interests. As the participants are so diverse, translations to English, Spanish, Portuguese and French were utilized. All those presentations will be made available soon at our website, [www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org) in four official languages of the Institute.

There were more than a hundred participants coming from different parts of the Marist world including 3 Marist Fathers and 1 Marist Sister. Of this number, only 2 are coming from East-Asia Province, Mr. Wai Nam Stanley Spes Ku of Hongkong and Br. Demosthenes Calabria, representing the Philippines and as a member of the Patrimony Commission. In the opening session, Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, invited the participants "to listen to the voice of the Spirit, to its calls, personally and as an Institute, to live Marist life and mission with more passion, and to continue to generate and care for Marist life."

On Friday, 8th December Brother Michael Green gave the concluding speech, in which he summarized the journey that had taken place and indicated the next steps. He began by emphasizing the success of the meeting, thanks to "what" and "who": what was felt, presented, the ideas, the research; and also thanks to "who" participated, the time spent together, getting to know each other. He then recalled the aims of the symposium and how they had been achieved.

Br. Michael also announced the intention of the Patrimony Commission to hold the second symposium in 2025 at Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage. For this event, he stressed that the new generation that is researching the Marist charism must emerge. He also wanted women to be heard, since the majority of people involved in the Marist mission are women. He also asked what new research needs to be done at the Marist level.

Finally, Brother Michael, on behalf of the Patrimony Commission, thanked the many people who had collaborated in making the event a success. The symposium ended with the festive Mass of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, celebrated by the Superior General of the Marist Fathers, Father John Larsen. After the Mass, everyone was invited to a festive lunch.





## BR. ERNESTO SÁNCHEZ PARTICIPATES IN THE JOINT UISG – USG MEETING ON SYNODALITY

"In many areas, it is important to move soon to get closer to the current generations and promote evangelical values," mentioned Brother Ernesto Sánchez, Superior General, during the joint meeting of the unions of superiors general (USG and UISG), held in Sacrofano (Rome), from November 22 to 24, with the theme "Synodality: A Renewed Call to the Prophecy of Hope." The event had the participation of more than 250 Superiors and General Superiors.

Some delegates of the Superiors General who participated in the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October shared their experiences on Synodality. Together with Brother Ernesto Sánchez (Superior General of the Institute of the Marist Brothers), also shared their reflections Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ; Sister Patricia Murray, IBVM; Br. Mark Hilton, SC; Sister Mary Barron, OLA; Fr. Mauro Giuseppe Lepori, O. Cist.; Sister Maria Nirmalini, A.C.

When speaking about the content aspects of the Synod, Brother Ernesto mentioned: After living the experience of this Synod Assembly, I feel that I have better connected with the diversity of leadership service roles in the Church. It has been impressive the simple and fraternal relationship that we have experienced together during that month. I think we need to delve deeper into the topic of our personal and common testimony, our lifestyle, within a social context in which we live with great challenges. In many areas, it is important to move soon to get closer to the current generations and promote evangelical values. I am excited by the doors that are opening in this synodal process. There is a positive movement, although there is no shortage of critics and opponents, don't let that discourage us. And, at the same time, personally experience the process of inner listening to the Spirit, that will move us to a continuous personal conversion, without which it will be difficult to take steps forward." ([Download the complete document of Br. Ernesto](#))

Later, Sr. Elizabeth Mary Davis, RSM, Fr. Tesfaye Tadese, MCCJ and Sr. Elysée Izerimana, SDN Op. spoke about the challenges of Consecrated Life. On the second day of the meeting, the participants met with Pope Francis. And in the afternoon, before concluding, the participants heard testimonies from two Superiors General: The Sister Miriam Altenhofen, SSpS, Superior General of the Servants of the Holy Spirit, and Fr. Miguel Márquez, OCD, Superior General of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, who valued "the role of Mary and the importance of trusting in her role as Mother".

# REVISITATION OF MARIST MISSION IN PALAWAN

The team of Brother and Lay Marists who revisited the Marist Palawan Mission after 23 years last November 27 to December 3, 2023, was composed by Mr. Danilo Sabino, Br. Cristino Sta. Ana, Mr. Carmelo H. Enriquez together with his wife Mrs. Edwina P. Enriquez.



November 28, 2023: Bishop Socrates C. Mesionad, MSP, DD being interviewed by the Marist Brothers' Palawan Revisitation Team





# Photo News

December 6, 2023:  
Korea-Japan Sector - Community Fellowship  
and Recreation of Ansan Community ( In  
photo: Bros. Igi and Simon

December 10:  
Catholic High School Sibuyan visiting Taiwan Schools  
of bench marking



December 9-10:  
Bros Damaso and Abraham gave  
retreat to Young Adults at Marist  
Education Center



December 12:  
Kimjang Day at Marist Educational  
Center with Seoul Community and  
Marist Mission Partners.



December 12:  
Bro. Jacobo visits Kobe  
Community



December 11:  
Br. Manny De Leon attend the CEAP Board Meeting in Manila



December 10:  
Br. Mark Robert  
Laurea of Marist  
School Marikina and  
Br. Dionesio Acosta  
of ND Jolo Kasulutan  
attended the FAFE  
Gala Night at SMX  
Convention Center,  
Pasay, Metro Manila.



# Saint Francis Xavier School Tsuen Wan, N.T, Hong Kong Celebrates 60th Year Foundation Anniversary



# More photos during the 60th Year Celebration of SFXS



# Inspiring Tales Down Under

Join Kimberly A. Camiring for an Exclusive Sharing Session on Her Marist Volunteer Journey in Mt. Drutt, Sydney, Australia!



*Introducing Kimberly A. Camiring, an esteemed and dedicated faculty member hailing from Notre Dame of Marbel University – IBED. Kimberly's commitment to education is matched only by her passion for service. Having devoted herself to the transformative Marist Volunteer program in Lavalla>200 Mt. Drutt Community, Sydney, Australia, Kimberly is taking a well-deserved one-month vacation. During this period, she is eager to share her remarkable journey and the invaluable experiences gained from a year of heartfelt commitment. Join us for an exclusive sharing session with Kimberly as she unveils the tales of her inspiring Marist Volunteer adventure, offering insights into cultural exchange, community collaboration, and the profound impact of overcoming challenges. This session promises to be a unique opportunity to learn, connect, and be inspired by the compassionate journey of an educator dedicated to making a positive difference in the world.*

## Unveiling the Heartfelt Stories of a Dedicated Filipina Marist Volunteer

### Key Highlights:

- **Journey of a Filipina Lavalla>200 Marist Volunteer:** Walk through Kimberly's incredible journey as she recounts her experiences, challenges, and moments of triumph.
- **About Lavalla>200 Marist Volunteer Program:** Gain insights into the transformative Lavalla>200 program, its mission, and the values that drive impactful global service.
- **Introduction to Mt. Drutt, Sydney, Australia:** Immerse yourself in the cultural tapestry of Mt. Drutt, experiencing the unique dynamics of this vibrant community through Kimberly's eyes.
- **Motivation to Volunteer:** Discover the personal motivations that led Kimberly to embark on this meaningful journey and the deep connection to Notre Dame of Marbel University – IBED's mission.
- **Cultural Exchange and Challenges:** Hear stories of cultural exchange, learnings from challenges faced, and the powerful impact of overcoming cultural barriers.
- **Collaborating with the Local Community:** Explore Kimberly's collaborations with local organizations such as Marist Learning Zone, Story Factory, and Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation, enriching lives within the community.
- **Impact on Students and Colleagues:** Witness the positive impact Kimberly has made on students and colleagues in Mt. Drutt, as she shares heartwarming success stories.
- **Lessons Learned:** Delve into the valuable lessons Kimberly has learned during her volunteer experience, both personally and professionally.
- **Overcoming Cultural Barriers:** Learn about the strategies employed to overcome cultural barriers and the importance of open communication and cultural sensitivity.
- **Future Opportunities and Recommendations:** Explore future collaboration prospects and recommendations for aspiring volunteers, gaining insights from Kimberly's perspective.
- **Q&A Session:** Engage in an interactive Q&A session, where Kimberly invites your questions and reflections, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas.

*"In the tapestry of volunteering, every thread of impact, every stitch of growth, and every connection woven echoes the mission of service. Sometimes, the most profound moments are found in the unprepared spaces of our journey."*



**MARIST VOLUNTEERS**  
Cultural Pilgrims of Hope  
Transforming Lives, Empowering Communities

**Be a part of this unique opportunity to learn, connect, and be inspired by Kimberly's incredible journey! Secure your spot now for an enlightening session with Kimberly! Don't miss this chance to be inspired and learn from a truly transformative journey of service and cultural exchange.**

Available for Sharing: between February 1 – 15, 2024 Contact Information: Bro. Edgar R. Ceriales, F.M.S. (0999 308 5532)



[champagnat.org/en/international-volunteering-day-2023/](http://champagnat.org/en/international-volunteering-day-2023/)

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING DAY – 2023

International Volunteering Day, instituted by the UN in 1985, is commemorated internationally on December 5. It is a day to recognize volunteers and promote the spirit of volunteering at local, national, and international levels, with the aim of making the spirit of solidarity, peace, and development present throughout the world.

For this year's [International Volunteering Day](#), according to the United Nations, recognizes the power of collective action: if everyone volunteered, the world would be a better place. **If everyone did it...**

"Volunteering is a tremendous renewable resource for solving social, educational, economic and environmental problems around the world. As the world faces growing challenges, volunteers are often the first to help. Volunteers are at the forefront in crises and emergencies, often in very difficult and urgent situations".

We wish to thank all the volunteers who donate their time, energies, skills, and abilities to help and be of service to others in different and multiple areas: education for all, a clean environment and good health, inclusive and peaceful societies, and much more.

Thank you because as [Marist Volunteers](#) you offer, with openness and simplicity, your availability at the local or global level, beyond geographical or provincial boundaries; you recognize that the world is continually changing and you face today's challenges; you abandon the culture of "ego" and promote the culture of "echoes", you try to placate the scandal of indifference and social inequalities; you are agents of change, bridge builders, messengers of peace, you strive to transform life and our environment; you are not afraid to take risks to reach out to the peripheries, in defence of the poorest and most vulnerable.

Thank you Volunteer for your commitment, for your actions and initiatives of educational, social and community interest, which are carried out in a collaborative and selfless way. Thank you for your donated life that comes from the heart and a service of solidarity that respects the rights and collaborates in the empowerment and inclusion of so many children and young people.

## MARIST EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL (MEC) EVALUATORS' TRAINING NDMU, Koronadal City December 12-13, 2023



The participants with their certificates

*MEC Announcement:*

Schedule of Marist Institutional Christmas Celebrations:

December 15: Notre Dame of Cotabato  
 December 16: Notre Dame of Jolo Kasulutan High School,  
 Notre Dame of Kidapawan College  
 Notre Dame of Dadiangas University

December 20: Notre Dame of Marbel University  
 Marist School, Marikina

*Merry Christmas*

**M Maristi**  
*di Champagnat*  
 EAST ASIA PROVINCE

YOU'RE INVITED  
 TO A WEBINAR ON

*Skills in Ministering  
 to Young People*

as part of the continuing reflection on the Statements  
 of the 6th Provincial Chapter of the East Asia Province

DECEMBER 22, 2023 | 7:00 P.M.  
 PHILIPPINE TIME

Meeting ID: 829 4027 6699  
 Passcode: 177890

## Birthday Celebrations



December 10:  
 Advance Birthday  
 Celebration of Br. Paul  
 Won and Community  
 meal out in Korea.



December 15: Br. Cris Sta. Ana's birthday  
 in Dadiangas Community.



December 3: Br. Jong Acosta birthday at NDJolo.

# Rest In Peace Brother Alfred George, FMS

**Brother Alfred George, FMS**  
**(Robert Ouellette)**  
**May 20, 1929 – December 4, 2023**

Brother Alfred George died peacefully on December 4, 2023 at the Champagnat Hall Residence of the Marist Brothers, Bronx, New York. He was 94 years old and in his 76<sup>th</sup> year of Marist religious life. He was born in Berlin, New Hampshire, on May 20, 1929, the son of the late George and Rose Lavigne Ouellette.

Brother Alfred entered the Juniorate of the Marist Brothers at St. Joseph's in Tyngsboro in 1943. He began his novitiate at St. Ann's Hermitage in Poughkeepsie, NY in 1946, received the Habit in 1947 and pronounced first vows in 1948. He returned to St. Joseph's in Tyngsboro after profession where he served as a cook and then went to the Marist Brothers Scholasticate in Poughkeepsie where he completed a BA in History in 1952. His first teaching assignment was at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, WV. He professed final vows in 1953 and then was assigned as a teacher at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx in 1954.

In 1955, Brother Alfred left the States to serve in the missions of the Philippines. Over the course of his years there he worked as a teacher, director, and principal in a number of Marist schools in Jolo, Marikina, and Cotobato to name a few. In 1962 he made his second novitiate renewal in Fribourg, Switzerland and pronounced the Vow of Stability. He returned to the Philippines for another 10 years, during which time he received an MA in Education from the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. He was then sent for studies at the Center Champagnat at the Marist Brothers General House in Rome, Italy. After completing the course, upon his return, he served in formation in the Philippines as Director of Aspirants and Director of Scholastics. In 1982 he went to the States to St. Mary's High School in Manhasset, NY where he worked with the handicapped. He went back to the Philippines in 1984 for 5 years working in Campus Ministry at ND-Kidapawan College. In 1989 he returned to the States and worked as Attendance Officer at Roselle Catholic High School in Roselle, NJ for several years. He also raised significant funds for our Marist Missions by speaking at churches all across the country for over 20 summers. He retired to the Champagnat Hall community in 2017.

A true New Englander and avid Red Sox fan, Brother Alfred was a kind, outgoing and happy individual who spread that feeling wherever he went. He will be greatly missed. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, Alfred and George, and four sisters, Rose, Florence, Edna and Jeanine. He is survived by his sister Madeleine McCarthy, 3 generations of nieces and nephews and his Marist Brothers.

*Oh, what consolation we have, when about to appear before God, to remember that we have lived in the favor of Mary, and in her own Society. – St. Marcellin Champagnat*

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the **Marist Brothers Missions**, c/o Marist Brothers Province Center, 70-20 Juno Street, Forest Hills, NY 12429



Photos taken during the Funeral service.

# Glimpses of the Past

## MAPAC IN ASIA-OCEANIA: FORESIGHT AND COURAGE TO OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

**This article is actually a tribute to the late Br. Charles Howard, (1926-2012) 10th Superior General of the Marist Brothers, as published in the FMS MESSAGE, Year XXVI, No. 42, September 2012, pp. 77-79.**

It was one hot summer in May of 1977; we were teaching catechism to the children at the nearby village when I got the chance to have a conversation with Br. Chares. We sat down under the tree and, at the same time, looked at the children playing in the field. These children were on their summer holiday break from the public school. To keep them busy during their vacation from school, some Brothers organized the "Flores de Mayo," where children gathered in the nearby chapel to have devotion to the Blessed Mother and, at the same time, told them Bible stories and taught them basic prayers.

He was then a newly elected Councilor General visiting the Philippines. Since it was our first meeting, he asked me about my family background and my life as a young Brother. He impressed me as a very approachable, kind, and very much interested in young people. While doing the interview (accompaniment was not yet in vogue during that period), he would make some observations about the children "horsing" around.

In 1985, he was elected Superior General. As Superior General, his visits to the Philippines became more frequent. He gave a retreat and facilitated a Province Chapter in 1988. It was in this particular gathering of Brothers when Br. Renato Cruz was installed Provincial while still serving as a member of the General Council.

During his term as Superior General, he had the foresight and the courage to open two International Post Novitiate Formation Houses in Nairobi, Kenya, and Marikina, Metro Manila, Philippines. Out of these two Houses of Formation, I can only speak about the Marist Asian Center (MAC), which later on became the Marist Asia-Pacific Center (MAPAC).

I was President of Marist School, Marikina, from 1988 until 2003. During the early years of my term as the head of the school, I was a witness to Brothers from the General Administration, including Br. Charles coming to Manila. I did not know what was happening then. One day, we were told that we needed to look for a house outside of the school campus because the Brothers' residence would be converted into a formation house for Brothers coming out of the Novitiate in Tamontaka, Cotabato City. At that time, there were Brothers from India and Sri Lanka who had their novitiate formation in the Philippines. A few years later, Brothers from Pakistan, Malaysia, and South Korea joined.

In 1994, after the present building and facilities had been completed, the Superiors from the Pacific or Oceania decided to send their young Brothers from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu. At present, MAPAC has opened its doors to other religious congregations for their formation, including Sisters from Vietnam. Incidentally, a Brother from mainland China belonging to East Asia Province is an incoming third-year scholastic. In two years' time, brothers from the Mission Ad Gentes Sector will be joining MAPAC for their post-vitiate formation.

To ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Center's programs, the MAPAC Board, composed of the Superiors of the Provinces and District, with the Vicar-General representing the General Administration, is authorized to supervise and monitor the operations of the Center directly. The Full Board and the Executive Board meet twice a year in Manila. During these meetings, programs are evaluated, and the members of the staff and students are consulted to address immediate and long-term concerns.

Br. Wenceslao Calimpon was personally invited by Br. Charles came back to the Philippines after three years of missionary work in Papua New Guinea to become the first Rector of the Center. He was assisted by Br. Alfredo Herrera from the District of Korea, while Br. Columbanus Pratt, a classmate of Br. Charles was responsible for the building construction.

Among the Brothers who served as Rectors were Br. Wenceslao Calimpon, Br. Alfredo Herrera, Br. Carl Tapp, Br. Paterno Corpus, Br. Jeff Crowe and Br. Desmond Howard. The present Rector is Br. Peter Rodney. After more than 20 years of existence, MAC or MAPAC has graduated Brothers who are now holding key positions in the different Provinces and District. For two terms, two of its graduates have served the Center as members of the Formation Staff. They are Br. John Hazelman and Br. Roshan Silva. To replace one of them is Br. Lindley Sionosa. Both had their formation at MAPAC.

Br. Charles did not only leave a mark on the establishment of MAPAC. Before MAPAC existed, he traveled to China to meet with our brothers, who remained faithful and loyal to the Congregation and the Church amidst the difficulties of isolation and persecution under the communist regime. He even tried to recruit one candidate who went to the Novitiate but left. Br. Charles may be gone, but his memory lives. He will be remembered forever and his legacy in the minds and hearts of people, the lives he has touched can only inspire us to do our share of making a difference great or small.

- by Br. Manuel de Leon, fms



# Provincial's Schedule



*December 16 - January 7, 2024*

**December 16-27:  
Marist Province Center, Lagao,  
General Santos City**

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

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



*December 20:*

*Br. Thomas Chin (Hon Man)*

*December 23:*

*Br. Elmer E. Jandic*

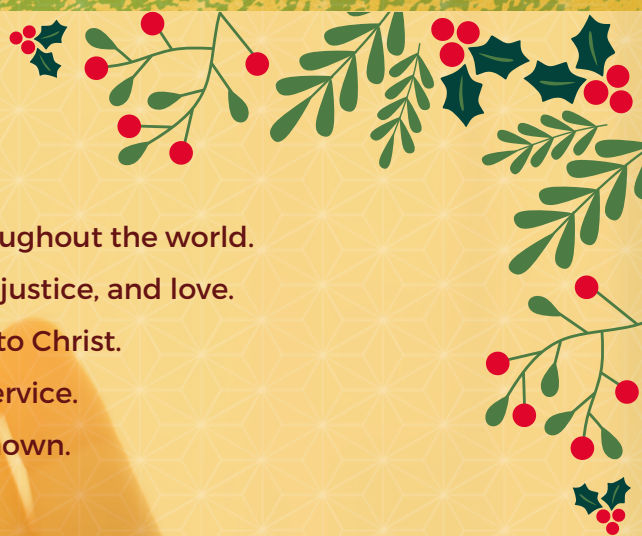
*December 25:*

*Mr. Anthony Poon Yuen Yui  
(Affiliate Member)*

*December 27:*

*Br. Jacobo Song (Chul-seob)*

## Prayer Intentions:



- For the ongoing growth and vitality of the Church throughout the world.
- For religious communities to be instruments of peace, justice, and love.
- For the deepening of personal faith and commitment to Christ.
- For courage and strength to live a life of witness and service.
- For guidance and discernment in making God's will known.
- For protection from spiritual attacks and temptations.
- For perseverance in times of difficulty and doubt.
- For wisdom and grace in responding to the needs of the world.
- For a deeper understanding of scripture and church teachings.
- For unity and collaboration among different religious communities.
- For grateful hearts that recognize the true gift of Christmas - the birth of Christ and the love He brings to the world.
- For joy that overcomes hardships and illuminates the lives of those who might be struggling.
- For a spirit of generosity that inspires the sharing of blessings with those in need.
- For open hearts that receive the wonder and peace that Christmas holds.
- For the intentions of the birthday celebrants.