



NEWSLETTER

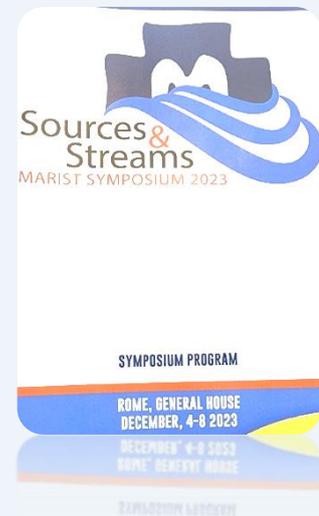
Marist District of Asia

JANUARY 2024

Editorial – Anton Cong Nguyen

Marist Symposium 2023: Celebrating the Spirituality and Heritage of the Marists

The Marist Symposium, held at the Marist Brothers General House in Rome from December 4th to December 8th, 2023, was a remarkable academic conference that brought together Marists from around the world. This event served as a platform for participants to delve into various topics related to the spiritual and historical heritage of the Marists. Scholars, educators, leaders, formators, and both religious and lay members gathered to engage in thoughtful discussions and share their insights on spirituality, education, formation, leadership, and the broader Marist mission and life.



1. Spirituality: A Source of Inspiration and Renewal

The symposium placed significant emphasis on exploring the rich spiritual tradition and practices that underpin the Marist way of life.

Participants had the opportunity to delve into the profound spiritual insights of the Marist Brothers' founders, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, as well as the spirituality of other notable figures within the Marist community. Workshops and discussions focused on understanding the key tenets of Marist spirituality, nurturing personal faith journeys, and exploring ways to incorporate spiritual practices into modern-day life.

2. Education: Nurturing Hearts and Minds

Education has always been at the core of Marist mission. Symposium participants engaged in conversations about the distinct Marist educational approach, which seeks to educate the whole person, fostering not only academic excellence but also character development and interior maturity. The sessions reflected on the impact of Marist education in diverse cultural contexts and explored innovative educational practices for the future. The sharing of ideas and experiences proved enriching, highlighting the global relevance and adaptability of Marist educational principles.

3. Formation and Leadership: Empowering Marists for Service

The symposium also focused on the formation and leadership development of Marists. Participants exchanged insights on the importance of ongoing formation, both for religious and lay Marists, to deepen their understanding of the Marist tradition and its relevance in the contemporary world. Discussions on leadership aimed to foster reflection on the qualities and skills necessary to effectively lead and serve within the Marist mission. The symposium encouraged participants to embrace their roles as catalysts for positive change in society, by drawing inspiration from Marist values and spirituality.



4. Marist Mission and Life: Embracing Collaboration and Inclusivity

The symposium highlighted the significance of collaboration and inclusivity in the Marist mission. Participants explored ways of strengthening partnerships between Marist organizations and affiliations worldwide, fostering unity, and enabling cross-cultural exchanges. The sessions encouraged participants to reflect on the evolving needs of society and explore innovative approaches to address them, while staying true to Marist values. The symposium aimed to promote unity, solidarity, and compassion, ensuring that the Marist mission remains relevant and responsive to the needs of the 21st century. There was also mentioned about the challenges of the mix community (brothers and lay) in Africa context.

The Marist Symposium 2023 was an endeavor of immense significance, inviting Marists from different backgrounds to come together and celebrate the spiritual and historical heritage of the Marist Brothers. Through engaging discussions, participants delved into various themes encompassing spirituality, education, formation, leadership, and the wider Marist mission and life. With its focus on collaboration, inclusivity, and empowerment, the symposium symbolized the enduring commitment of Marists worldwide to continue the transformative work initiated by Father Champagnat. As the symposium concluded, participants left with

renewed inspiration and a deeper understanding of their shared journey, ready to ignite positive change within their respective communities in alignment with the Marist charism.

Mymensingh Formation and Vocation Community 2023



The new formation and vocation community of Mymensingh which was created in September and composed of Bros. George E. Valle, Philippines, Cesar Barba Gomez, Mexico and Robert Howee, Bangladesh, with six young men under their care, were able to settle down quite well despite of the series of unexpected disruptions, like transport strikes

and sudden change of timetable of classes, due to the national election preparation in the country. The sailing was not indeed smooth at the beginning, however, coordination, support and communication helped in the various processes of accompanying each one in the community and formation as well. Shortcomings, such as personality differences, were brought down to manageable level that provide each one a space and time to make necessary adjustments to grow. Below are the highlights of the last quarter of the year.



The community participated in the whole month of October's 6 pm Rosary devotion each day except Sunday, hopping from one catholic family to another around the neighborhood organized and assigned by the parish council. Joining the different families in this spiritual

exercise serves as the community's direct involvement among the faithful in the area. The devotional prayer to Mary usually culminates at the pilgrimage parish of the diocese called Baromari located at the North East of the country near the hilly border of India. The 18 parishes come together and do a diocesan wide pilgrimage that usually starts with a rosary procession in the afternoon of Thursday and ends with a mass in the morning of the following day.



Country Retreat from October 21st to 26th together at the Holy Cross Fathers' Pastoral and retreat Center, Badun of Dhaka city. Two SMSM sisters, Shakuntola from Fiji and Suporna from Bangladesh joined the 5-day retreat and the renewal of vows as well. Prior to this country spiritual exercise, Mymensingh formation and vocation community had a 2-day meeting in order to formulate the Personal life plan(PLP), community life plan(CLP) and budget for 2024.



Short come and see for the Aspirancy program of Amor Rosario, in dark blue long sleeve with spectacle, who came originally from the capital. He is already 32 years old with masters in Social work and a former Holy Cross Fathers' scholastics 5 years ago. He is currently working in a Muslim administered hostel looking after the Christian primary school boys. The family visit on February 9 will determine whether he is joining the program in March or not.



Joint birthday celebrations of the last quarter of the year and preparation for the coming Christmas season in the community as well as in the parish, together with the other religious congregations of brothers, sisters, fathers and diocesan intermediate seminaries.

This all for now folks and have a grace-filled 2024 to all of you!

George

SOME 2023 EXPERIENCES FROM GIASNOGOR (Br. Vigilio Bwalya-January 14, 2024)

1. Building bridges differently in Giasnogor



Shumita Begun (not her real), a student of St Marcellin School here in Giasnogor did not pass well her end of year exams, and both teachers and the school head had serious argument on whether to allow her

to proceed to the next class (class 8) or not. Though democracy has never been a better option for deciding on serious matters, votes were cast for those in favour and those

against: it was a tie result and the question "what next?", was unavoidable. Throwing a coin was suggested and the coin that had two sides, a flower for not allowing Shumita to proceed and a bridge for allowing Sumita to proceed to the next class, was immediately available. For all fairness,



and being neutral in the matter, I decided to throw-spin the coin three times. To everyone surprise, the first two throws turned out to be a bridge, and Shumita's fate was justly, rightfully and happily settled; Shumita is now a happy student in class 8. As we live and work among a religious and cultural



diverse community, the triumph of the bridge over the flower is an enriching and inspiring experience that reminded me of our Community Life Plan's Vision Statement which says, *" Here in Giasnogor, We Build bridges together among people belonging to different religions, ethnic groups and backgrounds creating a space in which they can come together, work together and study together. We do this from our own diversity since we too come from different countries and backgrounds.*

2. "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that"

Ishan, a grade 7 pupil was one of the promising boys in the hostel, always happy and hardworking with a big smile on his face. His absence from school and hostel was noticed after the long Ramadan Holiday, and immediately parents were contacted who later assured us that Ishan was well but unfortunately, will not go back to school. When they



mentioned school and hostel fees as the main problem, we promised them to take charge of the fees. But still Ishan was nowhere near the school or hostel. Later they told us that Ishan is helping his father earn more income to help support his siblings who are in primary school. Ishan is now a school dropout and a victim of child labour, something that we have been fight against since the beginning (in 2017) of our Moulovibazar Education Program here in Giasnogor. Sadly though, I realised however that, "we cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that".

3. Divine Providence in the tea gardens of Giasnogor



Rasel collecting donated briks

Something I never anticipated nor later on thought of doing happened. Thinking that Roshid (a boy in the neighbourhood) was idly sitting at home wasting time, I took a short early morning walk to see him and give him some work to earn money for his school books. What I find was Roshid, his young brother Rasel and the Mother drawing and digging a foundation for their new house. Their father died 2 years ago and the mother has a part time job as guard in the school. What she earns is hardly enough to provide for their basic needs, and I unconsciously wondered how they will build a house. When I asked the mother this question, she smilingly said, "Brother, you are the one to build our house!". I silently whispered to and rebuked my self why I had taken that early morning malicious walk. Turning to the mother, I assured her that Allah (God)

will provide. In the afternoon of that day, their house building project's budget was brought to me for considerations. Even though I detest begging in my life, it was the only option left for me. I immediately consulted the construction company for help, and they promised to provide iron sheets and bricks. They also promised to help with the construction works. For

the sand, I asked the family and the neighbour to help bring sand from the nearby stream which they did. As if this was not enough, a religious congregation provided funds for cement and iron rods. Thanks to the Roshid family's trust in Divine Providence, their house project is about to start.

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY IN TALIT. INDIA

In the last quarter of 2023, we had seven main events in our Talit Marist Community. The first was on November, 19th. We had in the hostel **"the Parents Meeting"**. Firstly. The teacher Arun talked to the parents about the importance of the education. After Sir Robin Hansda developed the topics of the study and the discipline. Finally, Bro. Jiji, the Principal of the Hostel, talked about the rules of the hostel and the admissions calendar. The meeting concluded with a festive and fellowship meal. In the afternoon the parents talked with the different teachers of their son.



The boys of the class X starting the meeting. Br. Jiji talks to the parents in the meeting.

The second event was the next day, on November, 21th. The Talit Community had a **Recollection Day** in Chetana Pastoral Centre. After the initial prayer, the Bishop Cyprian Monis motivated our day talking about the Religious Life, following some items of the "Exodus". After, we had personal time of meditation till the lunch. The two Candidates: Sithal and Bisnu wrote the letter to our Marist District Leader, Bro. Canisio, asking the acceptance in the Aspirancy. In the afternoon we had, the rosary, adoration, personal confession and the Eucharist.



The bishop Ciprian motivating our Advent Recollection. The Marist Community in the Chapel.

The third event was **the visit of Ms. Rebeca**, the Coordinator of the NGO Australian Marist Solidarity. On November 27th, Ms. Rebeca arrived at our house. This day, all the staff had a meeting with her and also, visited the Study Centre of Erua in Guskara. She closed the classes with a celebration and dinner. On November 28th, evening, we had her farewell celebration. The boys interpreted different dances. She received many gifts and affection from the hostel boys. Also, she visited our Formation House of Saint Marcellin.



Ms. Rebeca, from AMS, visiting our new house.



Ms. Rebeca with the boys of the hostel.

Our fourth important event was **the admission of Sithal Toppo and Bisnu Baxki to the Aspirancy**. We celebrate this important event on December 2nd in our Chapel of Saint Marcellin House. Sithal and Bisnu are following the formation program. They are learning different skills of our Marist Community life: preparing the prayer, cooking, cleaning the house, working in the garden, or visiting different Parishes or Religious Communities. They follow a daily programme of study through different Subjects like English, Life of Saint Marcellin, Mary, Psychology, the Marist Life, Bible, Music, and Philosophy.



Celebration of the entrance to the Aspirancy.



Sithal, Bisnu and Robin during the classes.

The fifth event was the ***Closing Ceremony of the Community College*** on December, 5th. We started the program with a meeting at ten o'clock with the teachers of the different study-centres and we finished with a fellowship meal. This was a Mini-Project from FMSI in six villages around Talit, from June to November. We will continue this project next January 2024.



Closing Ceremony of the Community College. All the Teachers with the Marist Community.

The sixth event was ***the Christmas Celebration*** in our Chetana Boys Hostel and the Saint Marcellin House. On December 15th the Marist Community with the Hostel boys, teachers, some priests, and sisters, celebrated Christmas. The program started at 6 p.m. with the Mass and the inauguration of the Crib. At 7 p.m. the boys performed dances with Christmas Carols. All the people received some gifts. We finished with an abundant dinner and dances. Bro. Jiji prepared very well the program with Bro. Augustin and Mr. Robin. All the people congratulated them for the excellent crib and the wonderful Christmas decorations. Also, the parents of Bro. Augustin and the brother, sister, and nephew of Bro. Monoj could enjoy this celebration. On 18th December, our community celebrated Christmas with the Religious communities of Chetana and Burdwan in Saint Marcellin House. We were seventeen persons: priests, Sisters, and Brothers. We started the celebration at six o'clock with the Mass. We finished the celebration with an abundant dinner. Before dinner, we gave a present to everyone. It was a moment to share and laugh with our religious neighbors.



The Celebration of the Christmas Mass in the Hostel and our Saint Marcellin House.



The Teachers cutting the Christmas Cakes for all the Hostel Boys. Christmas Celebration in our House.

Our last important event of 2023 was ***the visit of the Brothers Sami and John Peter*** from Tamil Nadu. They arrived on December 27th and they stayed four days with us. They visited some places, like Burdwan, Bolpur, and Kolkata. We enjoyed their presence, and we shared many good moments with them. We promised to increase our contact with South India and to visit Tamil Nadu next May 2024 in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Marist Brothers in India.



The Brs. Sami and John Peter with the Community. Sharing experiences with good foo

Bro. Jose Maria Sierra.
In Talit, 6, January 2024.

TUDELLA NOVITIATE

Br. Kikko

SEMESTER BREAK

Last year, we had our last semester break for three weeks. We had a very good time during our semester break. We assisted each other to enrich their personalities and to do community work. By helping each other, we showed fraternal love and the family spirit in our community. We had done many jobs in our novitiate community such as taking care of the plants by pruning, painting the wall, which is in front of our house, reconstructing the fishpond and decorating the house for Christmas.

Sometimes we divided as a small group to do some activities. That's why we were able to work quickly. There was no competition among us but there was collaboration.

During semester break we also went to "Brown Beach" in Negombo to relax, swim, eat special barbeque...



CHRISTMAS AT TUDELLA MARIST NOVITIATE

Christmas is an extraordinary time for each Christian. It is time that we celebrate the nativity of Jesus Christ, who brought salvation to humankind. As a Marist novice at Tudella Novitiate Community, Advent and Christmas were a time for our spiritual growth and to live out the "Marist Presence," which is a significant aspect of our spirituality.



Christmas began with the four-day Advent retreat at the serene pasture retreat house of the Good Shepherd Sisters. The theme of the advent retreat was “AWAKE” or “AWARENESS”. It was run by Bro. Kikko and Bro. Real. They brought to us many important inputs for our spiritual awareness of Christmas and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation at the end of the retreat. Right away after the retreat, we started to decorate our community for Christmas. It was a chance for our novices to work together as an international community. The novices have learned to dialogue with each other in deciding on decoration themes and how to show the culture of each country.

Besides the celebration of the community, we practiced the “Marist Presence” by accepting and attending many invitations from other congregations and parishes, e.g. The carol singing in many languages in Tudella parish, Marist’s meal on Christmas day with Marcellin Nivasa community (the provincial house of the South Asia Province), Christmas Carols of Maris Stella College, the Christmas concert of “Franciscan Poornodaya,” and the prizegiving of the English Medium Sunday school of E-kala parish.

This Christmas was a grace time for novices to experience Christmas in another culture and also practice being present as a Marist among people. It was a time to nourish our souls and welcome baby Jesus into our hearts.



FOUNDATION DAY

January 2nd was a meaningful day for our community. We celebrated the 207 years of our foundation. We had a beautiful mass celebration presided by Fr. Joseph TOR. Br. Kikko introduced the celebration with some slides explaining the fact of the foundation since quite a few attendees were not familiar with the Marist beginnings. He presented some pictures of La Valla, the community and the first brothers.

The beautiful and meaningful homily was given by Br. Shanthi highlighting Marcellin's personality, the characteristics of the Marist charism and how today we try to bring it into the world.

After the celebration, we went to the dining room where we enjoyed a delicious dinner, prepared mainly by the novices.



Our celebration was joined by the workers of our property. We also had the presence of a Cambodian family, a Vietnamese family and 7 representatives of the Ekala parish choir where we frequently collaborate with them in the Eucharistic celebration every Saturday evening.



TRIP TRINCOMALEE

Sri Lanka is a small but beautiful country with a big heart. It has long been a tourist destination and it is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world. Truly I tell you that I have very little knowledge about Sri Lanka, its people, culture, history, and nature. But when I heard the news that we had a trip for 4 days, I was so thrilled. For us, it was a very good chance to know more about this country. Here's our 4-day Sri Lanka itinerary to help you explore this island nation.

The trip was from 6 to 9 January and we started our journey around 6 a.m. with a short prayer. We hired a minibus which made our journey more enjoyable and comfortable. We visited some Temples and Churches. The first experience with “**Buddha Rock Temple**” in **Dambulla**. There were 5 different caves, where many Buddha statues in different positions, especially Meditation, compassion... and most of them are more than two thousand years old. The ceiling, the walls and the Buddhas statues were painted with the same style.

We spent time and took photos as a **Memory**. I like their ritual that you cannot enter with the slipper. I like their concept that “the feast is for the religion but the joy for all”.

The second day we went to **Kanniya hot water spring** where some of us took a bath. The local people believe that the water from the fountain is holy and it cures diseases.

The third day was very dull, because of the rain we cancelled the program then visited two churches and one temple, **Sri Lakshmi**



Narayana Perumal Kovil, where we couldn't enter with slippers and T-shirt and that was the most beautiful.

We stayed in the Pastoral Center, where the retired Bishop was living and the sea was in front of our house. Every evening we walked in different groups even after supper also. The weather was very enjoyable but the problem was mosquitos. We had breakfast and dinner there and the food was very simple but delicious.

I am thankful to all of our Brothers who took care of and guided us and I found a good relationship. It was a very good gathering for us rather than a trip.



WAITING MY VISA

Br. Hoan

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways—oracle of the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Is 55:8-9

I came to Mexico (my country) last December 2023 expecting to get my Visa for Italy, since it was impossible to get it in Vietnam. However, the process has been longer than expected and I am still waiting.

Among the requirements, it was a letter from the Nunciatura then another from the Br. Provincial and I needed to send the document I had received from Rome, there.

Thanks God I was able to succeed in this first stage of the process. The next stage is to get an appointment at the Italian Embassy but up till now I have not been able to get the appointment date; but thanks to this waiting time, I was able to participate in the annual Retreat of the Brothers of the Province of Central Mexico.

Br. Manuel Mesonero, a researcher of our Funder, talked to us about new aspects of Marcelline's Life. The Dark Night of Champagnat. It is a new aspect that challenges every one of us. The death of the ego and the total detachment of any other thing that was not God's will. "If the Lord doesn't build the house...."

This has been some of my experiences in this new 2024. Waiting for the Visa, receive a sincere desire that the Peace and Love of Jesus be with all of you.

January 2024

CU CHI COMMUNITY

Br. Kim



after the Mass with some local parishioners.

Fr. Joseph Phung Van Ky, one of the former Marist candidates visited and celebrated Mass in our community on Nov. 8, 2023.

Recently he was ordained as a member of the Congregation of the Blessed Blood. Fr. Joseph is not only gifted in the arts, but he is also a very valuable member of his community in caring for people with disabilities. The photo was taken

Br. Duy is active in the youth ministry in the neighboring parish.

He guides the catechists in the faith, but rather than leading from the front, he provides support and



encouragement from the sidelines and organizes various activities for the youth and young adults.



He accompanied two young people to the Saigon diocese youth congress on the last Nov 25 together with Mr. Son, our Aspirant. They enjoyed every moment of the event, even the moment of being wet with youth full of enthusiasm to praise the Lord in the rain.





On January 18, he organized and led a Taize prayer for a group of catechists. He also arranged in many ways for the after-prayer party with them.

Cu Chi community is so grateful for Br. Duy's passionate Marist activity for the youth around us.

COUNTRY MEETING AND FAREWELL TO BR. MICHAEL



The Vietnam country meeting, which began with Eucharistic adoration, was held on December 31 in the Cu Chi community. It was very fruitful as we brought each community's issues, made decisions, and shared responsibilities for building the Marist Vietnam brighter in 2024.

We also took the opportunity to thank Br. Michael for being a part of Marist in Vietnam for more than 15 years. Thank you, Br. Michael, for your dedication and love for so many people, especially the young people. May God bless you in your new calling as the District Econom.



Br. Thanh graduated from MAPAC and returned to the Cu Chi community in December. Recently, he was granted a one-year Visa to Rome, and he is now on his home leave. He will travel to Rome at the end of this month together with br. Cong to participate in an international formation program for 10 months.

May God grant special grace to all the brothers, particularly bros. Thanh and Cong, who will be joining the formation program as they will assume responsibilities that are important to the vitality of the Institute.



January 15th was one of memorable days in the history of the Cu Chi community.

Firstly, the Bishop of the Phu Cuong diocese, Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, visited us for the first time after the community officially launched in June 2021.

We were so grateful to the bishop for accepting our expected invitation to the Cu Chi community after an event at a nearby parish.

The second was a visit from public security. He investigated brothers and my residency in the community. There were some difficulties in filling out some documents to register the residence and residents, but the police were kind enough to explain.



We were not expecting the bishop and the public security to visit us on the same day, but everything went smoothly. The two visits made us think about the meaning of living together in the Church and the local society. And it also reminded us of the value of our mission to help young people become good Christians and good citizens.



Tan Chau Community

Br. Nguyen Van Phuc



Hi very one now I will tell you something about this picture we welcome the Christmas time in Suoi ngo community with the volunteers and brothers. we told about the experience and learning from each person, and they brought love and care to everyone. We are the same big family to welcome everyone here.



In this picture we welcome sister's Thao from ACI, brothers and volunteers as well for the trust meeting to find the way to help the children to well education in the future. Special the children in the Ta Do Lake.



Br. Binh's classroom in the family house.



Thanh's classroom in the family house



Br. Phuc's and volunteers Dam's classroom in the family house.



Br. Binh's classroom in the family house

SAIGON COMMUNITY

Br. Pietro

In these news I would like to quickly inform you about every single brother. I suppose it pleases the readers and of course the Brothers. The community is numerous, and the brothers are scattered in three houses, one of which is about 300 km from Saigon.

1. About community Brothers

1. **Br. Hoan Castro:** He left Saigon community at the beginning of December. We noticed his absence, being the caretaker of the house of LTH (house of Sainte Teresa whose shrine is a few meters from us).



2. **Br. Bao:** He continues his studies of Psychology course > 2024 > 4th University year. He has several commitments to carry out as country coordinator:



supporting the two projects in Dak Nong and Ta Do. He moved into the Little Teresa House, living together with brother Thuong. The 16 of February he will celebrate the thanksgiving mass in his hometown (Ke Vang, Huong Khe). He try to be present in the community's time table, on the evening

3. **Br. Hung:** He continues his studies of pedagogy course > 2024 > 4th University year. He plans to finish in November or December 2024, with the delivery of the thesis and the achievement of the degree. As apostolic activity, he continues his presence with the orphans, according to his scheduled time. He feels quite busy with his study. The teachers pretend more from him, since he is the club students responsible.

4. **Br. Thuong:** he continues his studies information technology course > 2024 > 3rd University year. Very applied student, often returns home with a new award. As apostolic activity, he continues his presence in Ha Dong parish, Other commitments: Child protection, Trust and Young brothers meetings. He plans to go home to celebrate his mother 70th Anniversary.



5. **Br. Ly:** He feels happy to be back to Viet Nam and ready for his new mission. He visited Dak Nong community with brother Pietro from 5-8 of January. After Tet he will be part of Dak Nong mission with Bros. Nghi and Luan



6. **Br. Nghi:** Since September he is committed with his new mission in **Dak Nong**, with different task such as teaching English, catechism, catechumen.... Creative in creating good relationship with local authority. Starting some project for the poor people in Nam Nung parish.



Busy as well with his English learning. Having a test in April.

7. **Luan:** Started his studies of social sciences in Ninh Binh (200 km from Hanoi). First course from September 17th until October 1st. Second course from 20 November to 15 December. Brother Luan is happy with his mission in the **Joshep parish** of Dak Nong province. Building community with the priest and a seminarian young man. Waiting to be joined by br. Ly.



8. **Pietro:** Got 3 months e-visa, until 28 of February 2024. His wish is that the brothers can improve good relationship with each other, to feel one community even living in 3 different houses. Remembering the brothers to maintain priority in their commitment for studies (it is a great chance to have these years given by the Congregation to achieve their professional preparation), and try to get the diploma without delay, so to start full commitment for the mission in the future. However, Pietro remember that it is important to have an apostolic activity with children and young people on loco (in one parish or other), to maintain solid the basic motivation of contact with modern youth and their expectations.

9. **Thuan:** During summer months, Thuan had his time of community life absence, time to discern with accompaniment and retreat. After finishing this process, he wrote to Canisio informing that he would not renew his vows and will leave the Marist Congregation. He shared a reflection of his experience and the appreciation for the time given for his formation. He did a good discernment and seemed in peace with it. We too feel in peace as we tried our best to help him. We hope that he can spread the good Marist perfume wherever he goes.



2. Contacts

- ✓ A friend of Br. Thuong: Mr Tam, his classmate: still interested. Contact needed and invite him to our house.
- ✓ Mr. Huy, from Dak Nong, friend of br. Nghi. Studying in Binh Thanh. Twice a week is coming in MSH for learning: reading the day Gospel, having English conversation.
- ✓ A friend of Br. Cong, Mr Hieu, is thinking about "Come and see" program after Tet holidays.
- ✓ Mr. Dung, Ngoc, Viet, and some others still in contact.
- ✓ After 3 weeks of "Come and see", Mr Song from Huong Khe decided to end this experience.

3. Visitors and some events

During this period there were numerous visits, particularly during Christmas holidays and the anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. We are always happy to welcome among us people who want to know our community and appreciate our presence and our role as educators of young people.



< Christmas party in Pizza Company



Spanish family, br. Hoan Castro friends with delicious local sweets



<<< Brother Hung and some friends



>>>
The 3 Vietnamese communities (Saigon, Cu Chi, Ta Do) gathered in Ha Dong Parish to celebrate the foundation anniversary of the Marist Institute

Brotherhood



8 December > Renewal of the vows > Brothers



Thuong and Hung

>>>>>
Service



Report of Cong No, Dak Nong, VN Marist Project.

Dear brothers, after four months searching the new project in Dak Nong province, we are feeling very happy and welcomed, the local people support us a lot for our new mission. Since we came here, we have been living together in the parish with parish priest and a seminarian. We share our tasks in the parish and involve into many activities of the church, and there are three main things we keep doing regularly; teaching English from Monday to Friday, catechist and catechumen on Sunday. The parish priest has to govern two parishes, so he asks brother Luan to support the people at the other



parish during the week. Beside teaching and doing activities in the two churches we also coordinate with the young people do different activities and exchange with other religion's youth to build up the relationship and generate the friendship. We also attend the charity group of the parish to help the poor people around, especially the indigenous people.

So dear brothers, through our short period of new mission here, we feel very happily, fruitfully in this rural area with the national and King people, it keeps us always busy but from of all this is a good experience for our mission.

We Thank you and continue to ask you to pray and support us in this new project. May the Lord and Mother Mary always be with you in this new year.

Brother Nghi.



MDA VISION-MISSION STATEMENT 2023 – 2025

We, the Brothers and Lay Marist of Champagnat,
Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Mary and Marcellin Champagnat
Become faces of hope that look beyond
And promotes a Global intercultural family
In places where we have taken roots.



In our quest to live our vocation as Marists
And responding to the emerging needs of our respective mission places,
We strive to build homes of light where everyone feels welcome
And strengthen our human resources through formation
And training to ensure vitality and sustainability in our various ministries.