



# EAST ASIA

# MARIST LIFE Newsletter

March 31, 2024, Volume 02, Issue No. 30

## EASTER GREETINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL:

*Dear Marists of Champagnat:*

*Easter is a moment for great rejoicing!*

*The victorious Resurrection comes to us once more, and we are blessed with the grace of this Season's profound significance -the message of hope, renewal, and boundless love.*

*During the Holy Week, we were saddened by the death of Br. Ted Fernandez. But holding on to the Resurrection of our Lord, we see the blessing of his life lived in deep commitment to the vocation of brotherhood. His sixty-long years as a Marist Brother remind us that no matter how difficult our commitment to living our religious commitment, Br. Ted stood for us as an example of the joy of having lived the depth of our Marist vocation. It is hope-giving. This, indeed, is Easter!*

*In the stories of Easter, we find our own personal stories of our journeys-the struggles, the setbacks, even moments of doubt. Yet, these are the grace moments when we are called to embrace the promise of Easter in our time and believe and trust in God's insurmountable love that brings forth transformation in our lives.*

*May the spirit of Easter inspire us to live each day with gratitude, compassion, and unwavering faith as Br. Ted has exemplified it for us.*

*Happy Easter to one and all in the Marist.*

*Allan J. de Castro*  
Br. Allan J. de Castro, FMS  
Provincial

## MARIST BROTHERS KIDAPAWAN COMMUNITY

*NDKC Compound. Datu Ingkal Street, Kidapawan City*

Last January 2024, the arrival of Br. Nowelle Solinap, FMS from Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC), has completed the Marist Brothers Kidapawan community. The present members now are Br. Jeffrey Guino-o, FMS (Community leader), Br. Arnel Alfanta, FMS (Notre Dame of Kidapawan College president and Community treasurer, and Br. Melchor Nowelle Solinap, FMS (Asst. treasurer of the community). All of the three brothers are actively engaged in the school ministry. Br. Arnel is still the NDKC president and the direct link between the school and the community. Br. Jeff is currently the head of the Catechetical ministry, which is under the Campus Ministry for Religious Education department. Br. Nowelle is the current Junior High School Guidance Facilitator while continuing his MS. Psychology studies at Ateneo De Davao University. It is very interesting to see that most of the community members are mostly young, or, I can say, in their prime years and with full engagement in their respective ministries. Despite all of that, the three brothers remain very spiritual as they continue to observe morning prayers and go to daily masses. The Brothers in the community are also in the spirit of unity as they continue to have fraternal community meetings every month and happy hour once a week.



*(In the picture, Br. Jeff, Br. Arnel, and Br. Nowelle in the dinner out to welcome Br. Nowelle in the community.)*

*By Br. Melchor Nowelle Solinap Jr., FMS*

# MARIST BROTHERS RETREAT

The Marist East Asia Province had its retreat from March 24 to March 31 at the Marist Asia Spirituality Center, Lake Sebu. The theme of the Holy Week Retreat 2024 was aligned with the second call of the XXII General Chapter, that is, "to be the face and hands of your tender mercy." This theme invites us, the Marists of Champagnat, to cultivate a spirituality that fills our hearts with joy and makes us become inclusive.

The retreat theme aims to: (1) Cultivate and promote a spirituality that gives meaning to and integrates the Marist life and mission, according to the intuition of the XXII General Chapter; (2) Offer the participants a space for living the values and practices of Marist Spirituality, which will help them to grow and mature in their faith and (3) Offer moments of meditation and silent prayers.



# WAKE and BURIAL of BR. TEODULO A. FERNANDEZ, FMS

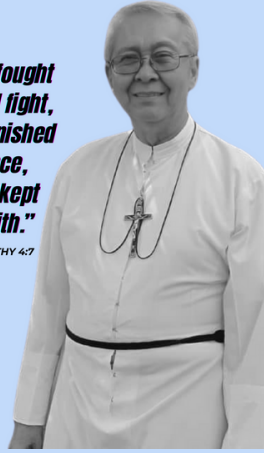


  
MARIST BROTHERS OF THE SCHOOLS  
EAST ASIA PROVINCE

*In Loving Memory of*

**BR. TEODULO A. FERNANDEZ, FMS**  
May 25, 1947 - March 26, 2024

*"I have fought  
the good fight,  
I have finished  
the race,  
I have kept  
the faith."*  
2 TIMOTHY 4:7



**BR. TEODULO A. FERNANDEZ, FMS**  
(05.25.1947 - 03.26.2024)

**RELIGIOUS FORMATIONS**

- 1963 - 1964 : Postulancy
- 1964 - 1965 : Novitiate
- 1965 - 1968 : Scholasticate
- 1973 : Champagnat Course for Formators (Rome, Italy)
- 2015 : 3rd Age Renewal Program (Manziana, Italy)

**HABIT-TAKING AND PROFESSIONS**

- May 1, 1964 : Habit Taking
- May 1, 1965 : First Profession
- May 1, 1970 : Perpetual profession
- Jan. 23, 2024 : Permitted by the Superior General to make the Vow of Stability

**APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCES**

- 1968 - 1970 Marist Grade School, Marikina - Teacher
- 1970 - 1972 Notre Dame of Jolo for Boys - Teacher
- 1973 - 1977 Marist Novitiate, Tamontaka - Master of Novices
- 1978 - 1979 Philippine Province - Vocation Director, Director of Pre-Novitiate Formation
- 1979 - 1983 Philippine Province - Vocation Director
- 1984 - 1988 Marist Novitiate, Tamontaka - Master of Novices
- 1988 - 1992 Philippine Province - Vocation Director
- 1993 - 1994 De La Salle University Manila - Studies
- 1994 - 1997 Notre Dame of Marbel University - Campus Ministry and Religious Education Director
- 1997 - 2003 Philippine Province - Provincial Superior
- 2003 - 2006 Marist School, Marikina - President
- 2007 - 2009 Notre Dame of Kidapawan College - President
- 2009 - 2010 Lagao Community - Community Leader
- 2010 - 2012 Notre Dame of Marbel University - Guidance Counselor
- 2012 - 2013 East Asia Province - Child Rights Protection Officer
- 2013 - 2017 Lagao Community Superior, Accompanist for the Temporary Professed Brothers in Active Ministry
- 2018 - 2020 Notre Dame of Cotabato - Guidance Counselor, Community Leader
- 2020 - 2021 Immaculate Conception Novitiate - Formator
- 2021 - 2023 Lagao Community - Member, Philippine Sector - Archivist
- 2023 - 2024 St. Joseph Community, Lagao, General Santos City (Care Home) - Member

**MILESTONES**

- May 1, 1989 : Silver Jubilee (25 Years)
- May 1, 2014: Golden Jubilee (50 Years)
- May 1, 2024: Diamond Jubilee (60 Years)



# A TRIBUTE

*Bro. Teodulo A. Fernandez, Jr., FMS*

(May 25, 1947 – March 26, 2024)

**“Good men can never truly be lost.  
Their spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of  
those who love them.”**



Bro. Ted and I were together during our initial formation, which started at the Immaculate Conception Novitiate in Tamontaka, Maguindanao. We were one of those who proceeded to the Postulancy Formation Program without undergoing the Juniorate Formation Program at the Notre Dame of Lagao, Boys' Department in General Santos City. In 1963, after high school graduation, we found ourselves in the Novitiate with other formandeas. We were actually quite a big group since, at that time, several of our group mates came from Sri Lanka and one from Hong Kong. We spent two years there: one year as a Postulant and another year as a Novice.

I first met Bro. Ted on May 20, 1963. He was bespectacled, looked lanky, fragile, and quite the reserved type, but he was not snobbish or anything like that. He was actually quite accommodating and always had a friendly smile for everyone. Unfortunately, the kind of formation that we had did not encourage us to establish friendship and healthy intimacy with one another. Silence was the rule, and sign language was encouraged. The modesty of the eyes is preferred over curiosity, as it was always emphasized by the Novice Master that “curiosity kills the cat.” Familiarity with others was taboo, and we were always warned against indulging in “particular friendships.” Our time and days were highly regimented, and the “schedule” was “sacred” and should not be deviated from at all costs unless it was a matter of life and death. That is why I always thought that if we were given a better psycho-emotional-spiritual formation, I could have benefitted more from Bro. Ted, who had a stable personality, was a down-to-earth person, and with the opportunity and luxury to have had ample training and formation in the fields of guidance, counseling, and accompaniment.

On the other hand, we had excellent training in the physical and intellectual aspects. Manual labor and sports were emphasized. Love of work is a Marist virtue that is always inculcated in the minds of those in formation. All of us, without exception, were obliged to carry out our assigned duties, which were done on a rotation basis. That means all of us would be able to experience the varied and many tasks assigned by the Prefect in the Novitiate. During our time, the assigned prefect was Bro. Gus Obed was uncompromising and always demanded excellent performance from all of us.

Bro. Ted, who had been diagnosed with a congenital heart problem (the technical term now skips my memory) during a series of physical examinations while in the Novitiate, went through the rigors of physical training like everybody else. At first, he was so worried that his heart condition would become an obstacle to pursuing his vocation, but after some deliberations, the superiors thought he should be given a chance to prove himself. It was amazing that with his frail body and delicate condition, he could accomplish his tasks uncomplainingly and uncompromisingly.

Sports was another thing that we involved ourselves with on a daily basis. Bro. Gus made us play all sorts of sports: basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer, and American football. Most of us could be rough and did running, tumbling, jumping, and elbowing occasionally. Bro. Ted tried the best he could, but he was never the athletic type. Sometimes, he would end up the last to be chosen if the prefect decided to form two teams by assigning two captain balls to choose their members. Bro. Ted barely survived the sports department; he did not really have the killer instinct; maybe in other departments.

During our initial formation, I would categorically say Bro. Ted was the best among the rest. We had “The Rules” to follow, and I guess during those days, we were primarily defined by how faithful we became to them. Looking back, I couldn't remember any instance in which he committed an infraction of the rule. Sometimes, I would even wonder how he would have struggled to identify any fault he would accuse himself of during our “Chapter of Faults.” Maybe he invented most of them. In this department, he excelled most, earning from me the title “The Ideal Postulant” and “The Ideal Novice.”

In the Scholasticate, where we spent three years of academic training and preparation at the Marist Scholasticate in Marikina City, Bro. Ted was practically the same—still the “Ideal Scholastic.” He poured his heart and mind into what he was doing and excelled academically and religiously. We had the best training from the best teachers

from the staff. Bro. Ted always passed all subjects with flying colors. He achieved his tasks excellently yet remained down-to-earth, humble, and efficient.

One factor that contributed to Bro. Ted's very positive personality is his upbringing. He is a product of a very religious family, infused with endearing Filipino and good Christian values. His family was financially stable, and he was given all the necessary support in his education, formation, and, particularly, in his vocation. He was well-rounded, well-trained, and a good son to his parents and brother to his siblings.

This kind of upbringing has led him to forge his career path early in his active ministry. While most of us got involved in teaching, administering schools, and being academicians, Bro. Ted was groomed to become a formator in the Province. He had all the necessary qualities to be such, and his superiors did not leave any stone unturned in order to make him a good one. Most of his life as a Marist Brother was spent in forming, guiding, and inspiring the Brothers to love and appreciate their calling as Marist Brothers.

I was with Brother Ted in the same community thrice: Lagao, Marbel, and Marikina. He was the community superior in all those places where we were together. He was an excellent community superior—kind, caring, sensitive to others' needs, thoughtful, and always thinking of the needs and welfare of his members. He was actually a non-threatening kind of person. You don't get intimidated by his presence, and he has a knack for being one of the guys. He makes you feel like he is a member rather than a superior.

I can describe Bro. Ted, in three words: loving, caring, and helpful. I don't think that he is capable of harming or maligning people. It is not part of his nature. He is naturally good and always wishes everyone the best. He doesn't engage in gossip and always gives people the benefit of the doubt. Generosity is one of his virtues. It is almost second nature for him to give and share what he possesses. When people are in need, he thinks of ways to be of service, never counting the cost and expecting something in return.

He is always like a big brother to everyone. His caring personality shines through his words and actions. It is easy for him to go out of his way to express a caring thought through his cards and notes, console a mournful friend, or visit a sick Brother or colleague.

In the Enneagram, Bro. Ted is categorized as Number 2 – “The Helper.” Jokingly, I call him “The Mother of Perpetual Help.” The number 2s in the Enneagram are kind, generous, warm-hearted, and loving. These qualities typify Bro. Ted. He is motivated by the need to be helpful to others. Like the other redeemed number 2s, Bro. Ted is attentive, appreciative, generous, warm, playful, and nurturing. He has a knack for making others feel special and loved.

When Bro. Ted was assigned as the acting principal at the Notre Dame of Cotabato, Boys' Department, and one of the students endearingly told him, “Brother Ted, you can never be a good principal.” Brother Ted asked: “Why is that?” The student replied: “Because you are too good.” Later, Brother Ted admitted to me that, indeed, he finds it difficult to run a high school because it is hard for him to say “no” and to reprimand students.

During the start of the Pandemic, I lost my job and was struggling financially, finding it difficult to make ends meet. Being a senior citizen, I was not allowed to travel and could not report for work. He soon found out about my problem without telling him about my situation. I was surprised because sometimes, he would stop by at my place in Lun Padidu, Malapatan, on his way to Glan and hand me an “ampao.” This is a small red envelope containing an amount of money. Unceremoniously, he would hand me the envelope and tell me: “Brix, take this. Someone gave me this, and I thought that you needed this more than I do. Just pray for the person who gave this. He prefers to remain anonymous.”

I am sure many other people can attest to the many times Bro. Ted helped them. He didn't boast about them. For him, everything is “no great deal.” This was his favorite expression when people thanked him or mentioned his help and kindness.

For me, Bro. Ted is not gone. He remains like a “hovering spirit,” always seeking people he could help. He will always be around helping people, inspiring them, and encouraging them to be the best versions of themselves. His spirit will live in the hearts of people who love him even after he has gone.

Brother Ted, thank you for the memories; they abound. They will be a reminder that somewhere in time, there was a special person who enfolded the goodness of an angel: caring, protecting, caring.

Thank you for being so understanding: you have witnessed my struggles, pains, and falls. You were there for me not as a judge but as a support and a shield.

Thank you for the many ways you guided and inspired people with your help, love, and care.

- Briccio J, Baynosa

# Photo News



March 15: St. Joseph International School, Kuching- Gathering of teachers at our community



March 22, courtesy visit to Fr. Ramon Maria Bernabe, OMI, President of Notre Dame of Midsayap College, Inc., during the Cyber Youth Empowerment Program participated by the youth leaders of the 15 NDEA Member Schools, Kidapawan-Midsayap cluster.



March 30: St. Joseph International School (SJIS), Kuching- One Form 4 student (girl), was baptized, first communion, and confirmed on Easter Virgil Mass, 30 March 2024, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, KK. She is currently joining my BK classes for the 2025 SPM BK paper.



April 6: Breakfast with the Religious of Kuching.

*Some photos of the Brothers' Retreat during the Holy Week at the Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.*



# MARIST EAST ASIA FORMATIVE ENCOUNTER: A MOMENT OF REFLECTING ON THE MARIST MISSION

Last March 15-17, 2024, Forty-four (44) brothers, laity, and youth leaders gathered to meaningfully reflect on the Marist Mission, an activity in relation to the preparation for the Marist International Assembly III. Held at the Marist Spirituality and Mission Center, Lake Sebu, the participants followed sessions meant to achieve the following objectives, among others:



- To reflect on the spirituality that moves us in the Marist Mission as a global family,
- To understand the greatness of the Marist Institute and its possibilities,
- To reflect on the documents and messages of the Church and society, to discover how the Marist Mission is responding to these calls in and on behalf of children and youth, especially the most vulnerable,
- To dream and project the future of the Marist Mission, and
- To be grateful for the journey that we Marists have made as a global family in Mission.

Spearheaded by the program facilitators Ms. Elma Rafil, Chair of the Laity Committee, and Ms. Leann Jester Rosali, the East Asia representative to the MIMA III International Assembly, the 3-day event in Lake Sebu generated valuable reflections and insights contributing to better understanding and hope for animating the Marist mission even more. Participants' contributions to the reflections are synthesized as follows:

- To ensure the relevance of the mission, education beyond the comforts of regular schools must be offered to reach out to society's less fortunate creatively.
- Increase opportunities for the mission by raising awareness and involving volunteers.
- Coordination and working in partnership with other agencies in the Church and in the community, locally and globally, needs to be strengthened.
- It is important to have on-going Marist formation and the formation of values among all stakeholders engaged in the Marist missions.
- Concerns about sustainability need to be addressed to ensure the continuity and relevance of the Marist charism in today's world.
- More presence and promotion of Marist vocations.
- For the youth to actively engage.
- Adapt a stance of active listening and timely response to the needs of the mission.

The gathering was a formative encounter, a time when our Marist spirituality and mission were renewed and invigorated once more.



# Glimpses of the Past

The **GLIMPSES OF THE PAST** presents a special issue on one of the events in 2022 that I personally hardly noticed or remembered to have reached our MARIST LIFE NEWSLETTER. I am referring to the graduation of BR. MARK ROBERTH LAUREA in 2022 from Xavier University—Ateneo Cagayan de Oro graduate school with a Master of Arts in Education major in Educational Management.

Br. Mark Roberth is currently the President of Marist School, Marikina City.

The following information is from Br. Mark's *Curriculum Vitae*:

*Br. Mark Roberth R. Laurea, FMS is a dedicated Marist Brother with a profound passion for education and technological innovation. He embarked on his educational journey in 2011 as a CLE (Christian Living Education) teacher, imparting knowledge and wisdom to students in grades 9 and 10 at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University. Over the years, Br. Mark's commitment to education led him to Notre Dame of Kidapawan College, where he served as an Assistant CMRE before assuming the role of Prefect of Discipline at ND Jolo Kasulutan in the academic year 2014-2015.*

*Transitioning into leadership roles, Br. Mark excelled as the School Director of Notre Dame Jolo Kasulutan from 2015 to 2021, overseeing the holistic development of students and staff alike. His influence extended beyond the school grounds, as he served as the Vice-Chairman of CEAP–BARMM, demonstrating his dedication to educational advancement and advocacy.*

*In 2018, Br. Mark's role expanded as he took on the position of School Superintendent for the Vicariate of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, where he exhibited exemplary leadership and vision. His involvement in various educational boards, including STEP, NDDU, NDMU, and ISTE, showcases his commitment to fostering technological advancement in education.*

*As an esteemed resource speaker and facilitator, Br. Mark champions technology-driven learning, passionately advocating for the integration of technology in educational processes. His leadership extends to Marist College, Inc. in Marikina City, where he currently serves as the school President. In this role, he leads with empathy and compassion, ensuring that academic excellence and student well-being are at the forefront of his priorities. Br. Mark's collaborative approach empowers the school community, fostering a culture of inclusivity and innovation to meet the needs of all stakeholders. # # #*





# Provincial's Schedule



April 1 - 30, 2024

April 1-4: Wake and Burial of Br. Ted A. Fernandez, FMS

April 4-5: Marbel Community Visit

April 5-6: Lake Sebu Community Visit

April 11-13: Marikina Community Visit

April 13: Marist School BOT Meeting

April 14-17: Malutok, Palawan Community Visit

April 18-19: Dadiangas Community Visit

April 19-21: Online Provincial Council Meeting Number 15

April 23-24: Cotabato/Tamontaka Community Visit

April 25-26: Kidapawan Community Visit

April 27-28: To see Br. Edilberto Mallorca, FMS and Br. Albert Munoz, FMS

April 29-30: Marist Province Center, Lagao, General Santos City

April 5:

Br. Moses Cho Min-kyu

April 9:

Br. Anthony Cheng (Chin Yeong)

April 10:

Br. Edgar R. Ceriales

April 13:

Br. Rustico S. Lumbo



## Prayer Intentions:

- For the eternal repose of Br. Teodulo Fernandez, FMS. May he find eternal peace in the arms of Mary in God's heavenly home.
- For those who are facing struggles and hardships, comfort them in their times of need.
- For our communities, our nations, and the world at large. Heal the divisions among us, Lord, and unite us in love and compassion.
- For our Brothers and Lay Marists and all those suffering from illness, we ask You, God our healer, to surround them with Your healing and comforting presence.
- For our families, friends, and loved ones. Keep them safe from harm and danger and fill their lives with Your peace and joy.
- For all of us that we may live each day with purpose and passion, glorifying You in all that we do.