



EAST ASIA

MARIST LIFE Newsletter

April 15, 2024, Volume 02, Issue No. 31

MARIST BROTHERS MARCELLIN HOME COMMUNITY

The Marist Brothers Marcellin Home Community is composed of Br. Fred A. Salubre, FMS (Community Leader), Br Crispin P. Betita, FMS (Marcellin Foundation Executive Director), and Br Cyril M. Sumugat, FMS (Community Treasure), are dedicated to empowering young minds. We're proud to announce that 50 boys are currently under our care, all enrolled in schools across General Santos City. These 50 boys are thriving in diverse learning environments, with many attending regular schools and others benefiting from alternative learning programs. We're committed to nurturing their potential and helping them achieve their dreams.

Marcellin Foundation celebrates its 33rd Foundation anniversary. In 1991, the Marcellin Foundation embarked on a mission to provide a safe place and opportunities for children in need, at risk, and those in conflict with the law. Over the past three decades, the foundation has transformed the lives of countless young people. The celebration was attended by former Marcellin boys, and part of the program was the sharing of their experiences when they were in the center. During the calibration, there was a tourn over ceremonies of Region 12's Bahay Pag-Asa centers, catering children at-risk (CAR), and children in conflict with the law (CICL) received a subsidy grant from the Senate's 2-year Support to Bahay Pag-Asa Project. This funding aligns with the Juvenile Justice law and aims to improve rehabilitation services for children. The grant provided essential supplies like school materials, musical instruments, furniture, hygiene kits, and computer equipment for learning and communication. Additionally, staff will receive training to support the children better.

Our community had organized an outing, a much-anticipated event for all of us. However, Brother Crispin, for reasons concerning the considerable distance and the absence of someone to oversee the welfare of our Marcellin boys, regrettably opted not to join us. Nonetheless, Brothers Fred and Cyril eagerly embarked on the journey to Mount Pulang and Baguio City, both renowned for their scenic beauty and refreshing atmosphere, a stark contrast to the bustling streets of General Santos City.



Bros. Crispin, Fred and Cyril.



Br. Crispin receiving subsidy grants.



Bros. Fred and Cyril at the peak of Mt. Pulang.

PALAWAN MISSION EXTENDS FOR THREE YEARS

Br. Allan J. De Castro, Provincial of the Marist Brothers of the East Asia and Bp. Socrates Missiona, Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa together with the Community members of the Marist Palawan - Malutok Mission renewed and sealed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of Commitment to Mission and presence in Palawan for the next Three Years.

The Marist Brothers is significantly present and on Mission in Palawan for 25 years this year. Today is a Spiritual Moment for us because after 25 years we have once again renewed our commitment to the Vicariate, the people and most especially to the Indigenous People of Palawan. We will continue our commitment for Marist Education and for the betterment of the I.Ps in Palawan as a part of our responsibilities to the poor people especially young children as our Marist Charism is emphasizing to us and like St. Marcellin Champagnat our Founder has left us as legacy. We would like to thank those who supported us in so many ways as we do our mission in Palawan. God bless all of you!



Br. Frank Salcedo, Bp. Socrates Missiona, Br. Allan de Castro, and Br. Albert Bolibol during the signing of the MOA.

Celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Marcellin

Let's celebrate the **25th Anniversary** of St. Marcellin Champagnat's Canonization!

Triduum night of prayer and sharing of testimonies about how St. Marcellin's life continues to inspire us today.

A Heart that Knew No Bounds

#Champagnat25

Join us nightly @ 7:30 P.M.

April 15, Monday
April 16, Tuesday
April 17, Wednesday

ZOOM ID: 884 8059 4449
Passcode: 225500

A composite image featuring a portrait of St. Marcellin Champagnat on the left, a globe with a stylized 'M' logo on the right, and a background of a cityscape with a large dome.

The Philippine Sector celebrated the 25th Anniversary of St. Marcellin's Canonization with nightly prayers during the Triduum. From April 15 to April 17, prayer leaders from different areas of the Philippines took turns leading the prayers, following the prayer guides shared by the Brothers' Today.

On the 18th of April, Champagnat Marists gathered at the Province Center for the Holy Mass, which was followed by a program. Mr. Edwin Duyo, a retired teacher of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, shared his experience of witnessing Marcellin's canonization at the Vatican, Rome. It was a moving experience for him, inspiring him to emulate Marcellin's values in his own life. He testified to the many blessings he received in life as he trusted deeply the loving Providence of God.

Mr. Angel Sabulao, who received the St. Marcellin Champagnat Award in college, shared stories that highlighted the deep influence of Marcellin's values on his life. Like Marcellin, he and his family developed a deep love of Mary and devotion to praying the rosary.

The morning event culminated with a shared Thanksgiving lunch.

In the afternoon, Notre Dame of Marbel University personnel and the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family began their celebration with a thanksgiving mass and a fellowship snacks followed thereafter. The occasion was a moment of rekindling the memories of the canonization day in 1999 by those who were present during the said historic event in Rome. It was for many an occasion of knowing more the gift of St. Marcellin for the Church and for us all.

Photos of the Celebration:

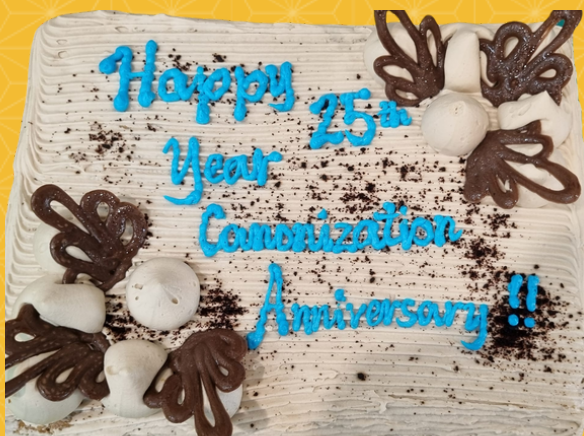


Photo News

April 9:
Marist Education Center Brothers & Staff visited Kapeong Community.



April 13:
Ansan Community Happy (In photo: Bros' Alexander, Simon and Michael)



April 14: Seoul Community Meal Out



April 6: Breakfast with the Religious of Kuching at the SDB community.



April:
Ten (10) members of the Young Christian Society (YCS) club, together with four Duke of Edinburgh members, were present during the Charity event sale for the Kuching Deaf Society.



April 14:
Kuching, Malaysia-SJIS Altar Servers' Group during the Day 1 Prayer Triduum in school. Other students also joined. A brief presentation about the topic of Sainthood in the Catholic Church was also provided alongside an introduction to the life of the Marist Brothers.



Photo News

April 11-13:
Br Allan visited marikina community.



April 15:
Br. Elmer Jandic in Rome attending the Brothers Today Ongoing Formation in Rome on DEALING WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS program from April 7 to May 4, 2024



April 13-16:
Br. Allan visited Malutok Palawan community.



April 14:
Br. Rommel and Br.Elmer attending the Formation course in Rome.



April 15:
Br. Anselmo Kim of KOREA-JAPAN Sector participated the meeting of Preparatory Commission for XXII GENERAL CHAPTER.



April 14:
Meeting of Asia Region participants during the MIMA III in Spain...



April 15:
Dr.Alfie Maria Custodio, Business College Dean from NDDU, Philippines, shared her reflections on the theme "The Reluctant Economist" as part of DEVELOPING SERVANT AND PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP IN MARIST MISSION.



St. Joseph International School Year 8 Camp: Persons are Gifts

Kuching, Malaysia

The Year 8 Camp buzzed with vibrant energy! Students set off on a path of personal growth, forging stronger friendships, and learning gratitude. This year's theme, "Discovering Gifts," aimed to help them find their unique strengths. Workshops explored creative expression through art and music, leadership through team-building activities, and independence as they tackled various tasks. In this supportive environment, students cheered each other on, celebrating individual achievements and forging a strong sense of camaraderie.

By the end, the camp had instilled a newfound sense of self-awareness, strengthened friendships, and a deeper appreciation for family, friends, and life in general. Students returned home with cherished memories of exciting adventures, a deeper understanding of their own talents, and a newfound importance placed on friendship and gratitude in their lives. This successful camp served as a springboard for the year 8 students, who embarked on the rest of the year with newfound confidence and hearts full of thanks.

A big thank you to all the teachers who generously accompanied the students on this incredible year 8 camp!



Seminar on Digital Safety for Parents

Last April 05, around 60 parents of Notre Dame of Milbuk, the farthest diocesan school in the Diocese of Marbel, underwent a Digital Parenting session where parents learned protection of children against the negative impact of leaving their children addicted and irresponsible in the use of cyberspace. This program is part of the Marist-East Asia Province advocacy against online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. (OSAEC) ...a hope-giving initiative for the best interest of children at risks. Br. Crispin Betita, FMS, and Ms. Agnes Reyes facilitated the sessions.



FMSI Holds Project Monitoring Meeting via Zoom

The FMSI-Rome staff Mr. Marcello Romagnoli and Ms. Angela Petenzi met with Br. Crispin P. Betita, FMS, Program Director and Ms. Agnes Reyes, Program Manager of the Misan Cara funded project for Marcellin Home and the Advocacy Project against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) last April 17, 2024. The said project monitoring meeting was aimed at following up the progress of the program implementation, reviewing the gaps in the project target deliverables, and citing recommendations for improvements in the on-going implementation of the program.



Glimpses of the Past

The following article is culled from the article of Cotabato Community written by Br. James Adams, fms, as published in the AMIHAN NEWSLETTER of the Marist Brothers Philippine Province, volume 18, number 2, March-April 1997, pages 6-7.

The last days on earth of Br. Renato B. Cruz, FMS Former Provincial October 22, 1941-May 9, 1997

Jim left (Cotabato) on May 7th (1997) for Manila. He went straight to the UST hospital, where he stayed in the room of Bro. Ray is helping Wency, the official watcher. The next day, they showed Ray the dividend check that had just been issued to the Marist Congregation by the Marian Hills Memorial Park, Inc. This was the first assistance the MHMP project has produced to help the FMS formation houses. Ray smiled when he saw it, the first fruit of his pet project to make non-earning province assets produce revenue for our ministries. He said later, please tell Dra. Mercado and the other investors, how happy I was to see this."

The next day, May 9th, Jim suggested Wency P. go back to Marikina when the car would arrive in the evening, just to get needed rest. Wency had been watching Ray all day and all night for many days. The day began like any other day in the hospital. In fact, the patient even looked better than usual. He ate a hearty merienda and entertained numerous visitors in spite of the sign on the door advising that visitors should not exceed two at any one time. Ray was out of bed, sitting at the table, and eating his lunch when he suffered chills at about 1 p.m. He was assisted back into bed and given oxygen to ease his labored breathing. Between 2 and 4 p.m., the physician put a suction tube through his mouth because of some bleeding in the stomach. After a while this made it hard for Ray to talk, but because the doctor wanted it, the patient agreed. At around 7 p.m., the Marikina monks came to pick up soiled linen, replenish the bottled water, and just sit and visit for a while. The patient couldn't talk with that stomach tube in place, but he did waiver amiably to Kiko Glover, SJ, and the others who came in. By 8:10 p.m. the Brothers all left for home and, as was the custom, Jim began to recite the evening rosary with only the hospital attendant giving an audible response. Ray followed alertly, thumbing his beads. He then blessed himself at the close of the last decade, not an easy task with three IV tubes connected to his right forearm. He was very tired, however, and, after a while, said he would rest. He closed his eyes. Within a few moments, he quietly ceased breathing. It was 9:15 p.m. The hospital chaplain, a diocesan priest from the northeast of Thailand, Fr. Somyot Phadhromrit, gave Ray again the sacrament of the sick. He had done this a week or two previously.

By 10 P.m. Jim set about informing the monks in Marikina and a few close friends of Ray. Special thanks to the SPC Sisters who called their friends, owners of a funeral parlor. This made it easy to transfer the remains from the hospital to Quezon City and, eventually, to Marikina City. By 6 a.m. Brothers Caesar, Rey, and Ador arrived to help Jim in the hospital check-out procedure. By 10 a.m. the wake began at the chapel of the Marist Asia Pacific Center within the campus of Marist School, Marikina. Br. Brix and the monks of the school community and Br. Alfredo and the MAPAC community handled everything, accommodating hundreds of mourners over the three-day wake. A keynote event of these three days was, of course, the arrival of former superior general Br. Charles Howard, FMS. Although he had been traveling for many, many hours, Br. Charles delivered a touching, insightful homily at the evening Mass of the final day of the wake at MAPAC.

At midnight, the body of Br. Ray was brought to the Manila domestic airport, with Jim riding next to the driver in the hearse. In another car were Brothers Rene Reyes, Caesar, and ex-FMS Hermes Daga-as, and the two Brothers who were accompanying the transfer to GSC, Jerry, and Ador. At the airport, thanks to the ex-FMS, Expedito Estandarte, Philippine Airlines cargo manager, the shipment to General Santos City on the 5:45 a.m. flight went smoothly.

Then, there were four days of wakes at NDDC and NDMU before the body was finally brought "home" to Cotabato City. When Jim reached Cotabato on May 15th, he saw that the Brothers and lay teachers had everything well in hand as they prepared for the final two-day wake, May 17 & May 18, at Notre Dame of Cotabato. Not long after, Frank arrived from his final exams at the Ateneo Graduate School and immediately went to work taking care of the hundreds of visitors, including the members of Ray's immediate family, one of whom had just flown in from Germany. As Ted described so clearly in his comments at the Cathedral, the final wake and the funeral was like a scene of a beloved son returning home after a long absence. NDC had been Ray's own high school (class of 1957) and it was the scene of his only extensive classroom teaching ministry (1962-67). In the city, the entire Christian population had been well informed and hundreds trooped to the school to pay their last respects.

One of the Masses celebrated during this wake was presided over by the emeritus bishop of the Prelature of Jolo, Most Rev. George Dion, OMI, DD. Ray's octogenarian mother, Mrs. Jacinta Cruz, was in almost constant attendance throughout the two-day wake, along with her other children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The funeral in the Cathedral on the morning of May 19th was as expected. Numerous members of the clergy from 5 or 6 dioceses filled the sanctuary while the nave of the church held hundreds of religious and lay faithful, including Moslems who had Ray as their teacher at NDMU.... All paying tribute to a Brother they loved and to the Marist Congregation he well represented for many years. ####.

Provincial's Schedule



April 1 - 30, 2024

April 14-17: Malutok, Palawan Community Visit

April 17-25: To accompany Br. Edgar Cerales for medication at Medical City. Quezon City

April 18-21: 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 16:
Br. Joseph Yoshida

April 17:
Br. John Allen V. Timola



Prayer Intentions:

- For Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, and all who serve in ministry, that they may continue to guide and inspire us with wisdom and compassion.
- For leaders of nations, that they may work together for peace, justice, and the well-being of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable.
- For those affected by recent natural disasters, that they may find strength and support in their communities, and that relief efforts may reach them swiftly.
- For families everywhere, that they may be strengthened in love and unity, and that they may find joy and peace in their relationships.
- For all those who are sick or suffering, that they may experience the healing touch of God and find comfort in their time of need. Particularly, we pray for the speedy recovery of Br. Edgar Cerales, FMS, who underwent operation.
- For the grace to live our faith with courage and conviction, that we may be witnesses to the love and mercy of God in all that we do.