



EAST ASIA MARIST LIFE Newsletter

April 30, 2024, Volume 02, Issue No. 32

MARIST BROTHERS COTABATO COMMUNITY

January was a month of transition in our community and the school. To have a feel of it... Let us go into the major changes:

On January 8, Br. Rommel, the School Director and Community Leader, left to start his journey and attend the formation for formators in Rome.

January 18, Br. Jeff was installed as the new School Director. The community now is composed of four Brothers: Brs. Wency, Jeff, Raymund and Pepito.

Our Novitiate in Tamontaka is used as a venue for our student's recollection. For this, Br. Wency takes responsibility for preparing the place and the food and welcoming the recollection attendees.

Br. Raymund and Br. Pepito are teaching Christian- living education.

There are two decisions made by the past administration and implemented by the new, which are worth mentioning. First, the management of the stalls along the national highway has been turned over to the Parents-Teachers-Administration Association (PTA Association). So far, the positive impact is the better/higher collection of rentals and arrears. The second is the renovation of Junior High classrooms. The decision to install air conditioning in the classrooms was made by parents last November and implemented in December. The classrooms were ready for use at the beginning of January, protecting us from the high heat index of the El Nino.

MEC visit and the NDEA Area Meet were also done this month of February.

We started this article mentioning Br. Rommel's change of assignment and the new appointment of Br. Jeff as Director of Notre Dame of Cotabato. Indeed, "brothers come and go" but what remains is the significant impact of their presence to those whom they had interacted with. Below are the links of testimonies from the Marist Youth expressing how lives of brothers had impacted on them.

BR. ROMMEL:

<https://www.facebook.com/ClarionNDC/posts/pfbid0i8ibZg2zWM2fcCYwMe4JkWFgwUjB2hQKt5bHcjvHHs3SuCThyN6mps9RrsCwDh55l>

BR. JEFF RHEY:

<https://www.facebook.com/ClarionNDC/posts/pfbid0KcTPqZegH94LfTaM3z1f9uFjDThnYdo62C7yz7XDBmnlLocZJXZrjQQ8FpTEJ65Wvl>



Bros. Jeff Rehy and Wency

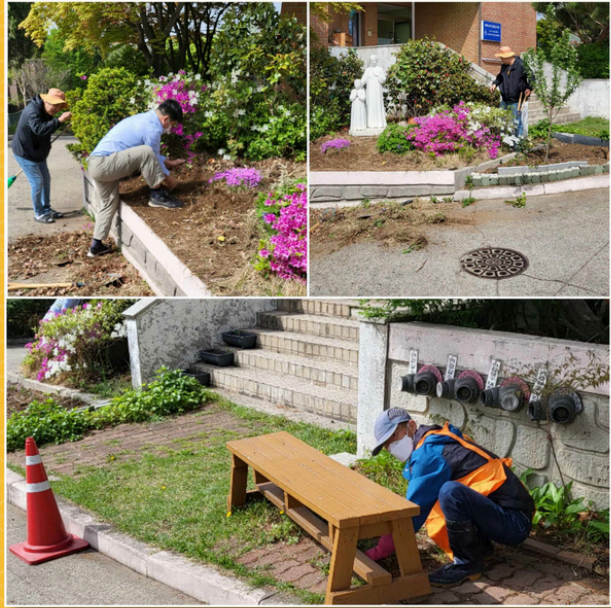


Bros. Raymond, Pepito, Wency and Rommel

Photo News

On April 17:
Seoul Community came together for a beautification project, enhancing the garden near Mary's Statue in front of the Sector House.

April 21: Bro. Jacobo from Ansan Community started to plant potatoes in their Community garden.



April 25:
Our elderly brothers from Ansan Community had their community recreation at Jebu -do

April 28:
A reading table was placed in the prayer room at Ansan Community for the elderly brothers' convenience while using the Office book. It was crafted by Bro. Lawrence Park from Kapeong Community.



April 24:
Apostolate Committee Meeting



25th Anniversary of St Marcellin's Canonization and the "Formation Program: New Builders of the Hermitage"

The Marist Family celebrated with joy and thanksgiving the 25th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Marcellin Champagnat on April 18, 2024. In the General House of the Marist Brothers in Rome, the Mass was attended by Marist Brothers, Marist Fathers, Marist Sisters, Marist Missionary Sisters, Lay Marists, and guests.

Brother Ernesto Sanchez, superior general of the Brothers, in his speech after the Mass, recalled the words of Pope John Paul II during the canonization of St Marcellin Champagnat: "St Marcellin proclaimed the Gospel with a burning heart. He was sensitive to the spiritual and educational needs of his time, especially to religious ignorance and the situations of neglect experienced in a particular way by the young."

Brother Ernesto said, "Like him [Marcellin], we are invited to follow Jesus, like Mary, living fraternity and giving ourselves to the service of children and young people, particularly those most in need. The Pope also said that day: 'Let us ask the Lord to give us a heart that burns like that of Marcellin Champagnat, to recognize him and to be his witnesses.'"

He also said that the Marist charism has to be kept alive and updated: "We have received the gift of the Marist charism and we are invited to keep it alive and up to date in our time."



Brother Ernesto Sanchez, superior general of the Marist Brothers, (at the far left) posing with the Brothers who are attending the "Formators Program: New Builders of the Hermitage" after the Mass on the 25th anniversary of the canonization of St Marcellin Champagnat.

Jose Nacienceno, of the ecology ministry of Marist East Asia Province, was one of the Asians present in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Marcellin Champagnat at the General House in Rome. He, together with the brothers in the House of Spirituality in Manziana, Italy, went to Rome for the occasion.

He was in Manziana to conduct a one-week session on "Educating for Integral Ecology" on April 15-19 as part of the "Formators Program: New Builders of the Hermitage." Bro Rommel Ocasiones, vice provincial of East Asia, is one of the brothers attending the formation program from February to November 2024.

He reminded the brothers that they, like other Earthlings, are integral to the Earth community or our common home and have to live in harmony with the whole Earth community.

Emphasizing the contemplative aspect of Marist spirituality that invites “contemplation of the universe”, he said that they, like other humans, are “the mind and heart” of the universe. Jesus’ two great commandments of love echoing what humans are to be as cosmic beings.

The posters of the story of the Universe are arranged to illustrate the identity of humans as “the mind and heart” of the Universe.



He said an awareness of Earth’s care for us is primary over and above our care for the Earth. This awareness can lead to deep gratitude, love, and cosmic humility. It critiques humans’ propensity for control and misplaced anthropocentrism, which results in so much destruction of the Earth.

Explaining “ego-s” to “eco-s,” words from the statement of the XXII General Chapter of the Institute, he said that the Brothers’ loves, concerns, and actions must go beyond what is only good for themselves, the Institute, the Church, and humanity and must include the good of the whole Earth community.

Therefore, the primary question to guide them as integral to the Earth community is: What is good for our common home or the Earth community?

He emphasized the need to strengthen the “communion of nature” part of the formation of the brothers to take seriously the revelatory and formative dimension of creation. Creation, including humans, is a “formator” that teaches patience, self-sacrifice, humility, silence, gentleness, etc. (Remember Job in the Old Testament: “Ask the beasts and they will teach you” and Jesus in the New Testament: “Consider the lilies of the field...” and his parables that were mostly based on his observation of nature.). Thus, formation needs a regular systematic and contemplative experience of creation. •



Joe Nacienceno and Bro Rommel Ocasiones

A Celebration of Thanksgiving!

Br. Allan Turns 47.

On May 2, 2024, Br. Allan de Castro, Provincial, turns 47. The celebration of thanksgiving for the gift of life began with the Mass officiated by Fr. Count Roosevelt Rozario, a member of the St. Joseph Community and a priest from Bangladesh. In his homily, he meaningfully shared the context of the Gospel, pointing to Jesus's discourse on the Last Supper. He cited that in the teaching of Jesus, love is the hallmark and the criterion of Christians and that discipleship entails a threefold mission, namely, (1) to love others as He has loved them, (2) to bear fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives and (3) to ask God the Father for whatever they need in Jesus' name. The homily has, indeed, given depth to the meaningful celebration of Br. Allan's birthday.

Brothers, family members, and friends came to celebrate the day with Br. Allan. During the simple program prepared for him, wishes and testimonies of his goodness were expressed. The program concluded with Br. Allan expressing profound gratitude to all who became part of his life's vocational journey, to those who have taken part in the mission of the Province, and for the unconditional support of his family members.



Glimpses of the Past

The following articles were extracted from AMIHAN, the Marist Brothers Province Newsletter, Volume 29, Number 2, May – August 2007 issue.

COTABATO COMMUNITY by Br. Wenceslao Paterno

Our community was completed in the evening of June 6th when all three members have arrived. We had our first community meeting last July 1 to set up the daily schedule and to assign house chores. Br. Jeff Rhey, the youngest, is the guest master of the house. Br. Arman the young member of the community is the Director of the school and takes care of the houseboys. The not so young member of the community, Br. Wency, the house superior, takes care of the temporal goods and needs of the Brothers.

Br. Jeff teaches fourth- and second-year values education subjects. He has five subject loads. Aside from teaching, he coaches the school soccer varsity team. He also coordinates the school based YFC (Youth for Christ). He is also the adviser of II-Br. Alfano Class and a member of NDC Faculty Basketball Team.

Br. Arman, as Director of the school, provides leadership and direction to the school programs and activities as well as to the personnel and students. Also takes care of the temporal goods of the school and supervise the on-going construction in the campus.

Br. Wency, the not so young member of the community, aside from looking after the temporal goods of the community and taking care of the of the Brothers, also teaches Values Education to three first year classes – two periods for the day classes and one period for the afternoon shift.

DADIANGAS COMMUNITY by Br. Mark Roberth Laurea

A man's vigor lessens as he grows old, doesn't it? And I observe Br. Bob's vigor is weakening already, but it does not prevent him from serving the mission he started with BRC (Business Resource Center). Br. Crispin is the caregiver of our street kids at Marcellin's Academy in Katangawan. He stays there most of the time and visits us during his free time or usually has lunch here. And I observe that he fully devotes his time to the street children. He is currently taking care of 92 children at Marcellin's Academy.

Early on weekday mornings, Brs. Dem and Ernie are always in a hurry. They leave right after breakfast to arrive on time at school. Br. Dem's designation is in Espina Campus. He is the Campus Ministry Coordinator, Moderator of the Himig Marcellino Club, teacher of six CLE (Christian Living Education) classes, and Religious Superior of the house. He packs his lunch and takes it to Espina Campus.

On the other hand, Br. Ernie's designation is on the Main Campus as an adviser for Grade 5 and taking care of five CLE classes. In the afternoon, he only has 30 minutes for a lunch break in the house, and he must sacrifice his siesta on weekdays because of his class during the first period in the afternoon.

Last but not least is the President of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Br. John Tan, FMS, who is also the community treasurer. The beginning of the school year also marked the beginning of strenuous days and tasks for John, such as meetings, different activities, and paperwork. John's authority or responsibility is sometimes augmented if the Provincial Superior is not around.

(Br. Mark Roberth Laurea was a missionary novice assigned in Dadiangas Community)

LAGAO COMMUNITY - by Br. Dominador Santiago

Br. Pops is our lone octogenarian. He is the oldest member of the community and still moves quite well for his age. He often visits the construction site of the elementary building in Lagao to check whether the workers are doing their job or dilly-dallying. He also visits the different campuses of NDDU to be present and be a presence to our lay partners in our different ministries. He still plays chess against our aspirants, and he beats them soundly. Whether the aspirants just allowed him to win out of respect or Pops is really a chess master, I do not know. Br. Tim is the first and the older septuagenarian. He is the second oldest member of the community, and he is manning our community garden and fishpond. The garden is producing different kinds of vegetables and fruits. The fishpond is pretty prolific. It started with 9 Tilapias. We have already harvested twice, and still, there are hundreds more being taken care of. Br. Tim is in charge of beautifying our property and is making sure that everything looks good and groovy.

Br. Gabe is our second and the younger septuagenarian. He is our ever-faithful, well-organized, prayerful, and generous Province Archivist. He sees to it that everything is spic and span. He is sensitive to the needs of his Brothers and others, and he sees that they are responded to. These days, he is troubled a bit by stomach and heel pain (it makes walking a tad painful). We hope these pains will be well addressed and gone shortly.

Br. Joe is our Province Vocation Director. Many of his friends and former acquaintances are surprised that he looks very young despite his age. He said, "What makes me feel and look young is because I spend a lot of my time with the young people." In weeks past, he visited different places trying to snare some young men to become Marist Brothers. As of now, he is grounded. Not because he did something wrong but because the Vocation Director's car was loaned to the Aspirancy house community, whose car is being repaired.

Br. Manny, the newly elected provincial of the new Province, is very busy attending meetings all over Asia and beyond. He went to Rome, Hong Kong, and is currently in Malaysia. He and the council are preparing for the Provincial Chapter to be held here in the Philippines in December of this year.

Br. Ador, the community's youngest member, has been re-assigned to the college. He is now the acting CMRE director of Notre Dame at Dadiangas University. He leaves the house right after breakfast to be in his office before 7:30 a.m. He is the superior of the community and in charge of the house workers' welfare. ##

Catholic Safeguarding Institute and Notre Dame of Marbel University Collaborate for the Course Offering on Safeguarding

On April 30, Fr. James Gascon, S.J. Director of the Catholic Safeguarding Institute, Asia-Pacific and Dr. Juvy Reyes, Graduate School Dean of Notre Dame of Marbel University met in Zoom to discuss the plan to offer a Master's Degree program on Safeguarding. It's a work in progress and both CSI and NDMU are committed to have the said plan realized, all for the best interest of protecting children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding: Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

SAFEGUARDING COURSE
Partnership between CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING INSTITUTE ASIA PACIFIC and NOTRE DAME OF MARBEL UNIVERSITY

Possibilities

1. Degree Program: MAEd in Safeguarding (Professional Track - Non-thesis)
36 units, capstone project (application of theories and skills), campus immersion activities
2. Graduate Diploma Program (24 units / 2 semesters)
*erequisite: Graduate Diploma in Cultural Education
3. As a 3-unit course/ subject - part of the curriculum

Provincial's Schedule



May 1 - June 6, 2024

May 1-3: MPC, Lagao

May 4-15: Sri Lanka for Marist Asia Conference Meeting

May 16-23: Visit to India (South Asia Province) as part of One Asia Province Dialogue

May 24-29: Visit to Pakistan (South Asia Province) as part of One Asia Province Dialogue

May 30-June 3: Cebu for MPC Outing

June 4-6: Provincial Council Meeting 16 at Kidapawan Community

June 6: Perpetual Vows of Br. Engel and Br. Jick at NDKC, Kidapawan Community

May 2:
Br. Allan J. de Castro - Provincial
Br. Pio Yu (Wan-hee)

May 17:
Br. Jo-An C. Legaste



Prayer Intentions:

- For the Church, may she continue to be a beacon of hope and compassion in our world.
- For all world leaders, may they work together to promote peace and justice, especially in regions of conflict and turmoil.
- For those who are suffering from illness or hardship, may they find comfort and strength in the loving embrace of God and the support of their community.
- For families, may they be filled with love, unity, and understanding, and may they grow closer to God in their daily lives.
- For all those who have died, may they rest in eternal peace with the Lord, and may their loved ones be comforted by the promise of the resurrection.
- For our Provincial, Br. Allan de Castro, FMS, as he celebrates his birthday. May Mary our Good Mother bless him and continue to guide him in his leadership mission.