



# EAST ASIA

# MARIST LIFE

# Newsletter

June 30, 2024, Volume 03, Issue No. 02

## AN EVENTFUL SUMMER FOR THE SEOUL COMMUNITY

*South Korea*

Things have been moving very fast in our community of Seoul during these past few weeks, and I will share with you some of the events that have marked our lives lately.

On June 5th, most of the Brothers living in Korea gathered in Seoul to celebrate our Founder's death anniversary. We shared our vocational stories in small groups the whole afternoon and had a nice supper that day. The younger Brothers also enjoyed the evening chatting and having some drinks. On the following day, June 6th, we finished the celebration with a Mass in the chapel of the community, celebrated by two priests: Fr. Luc, a Korean priest who belongs to the Missionaries of Guadalupe, and our chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kim Soe Ul, a retired priest incardinated with the diocese of Austin, Tx, in USA and a former Korean Brother.



From June 10 to 12, all four Brothers, leaders of the local communities, traveled to Kobe to have our regular community leaders meeting there. At the same time, we had the opportunity to spend a few days with our elderly Japanese Brothers, with Br. Allen and Br. Yohan Oh, the superiors of that community. After our meeting, we had the opportunity to visit a couple of interesting places nearby.



*(The boots were used by Br. Yohan Oh, Superior of the Kobe community, during his recent pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. These boots are at the entrance of the community house.)*

*Br. Pio Yu with the staff of Local Children Centers visited Singapore.*





On June 16th, Br. Pio Yu Wuan Hee had the privilege and fortune of being selected to participate in a "Healing trip" organized by officials of the City of Seoul in charge of the different local children's centers which are run within the city for children and youth who cannot afford to attend the extracurricular activities of the specialized academies attended by children whose families can not afford the expenses of those institutions. Some outstanding people who lead these local children's centers were invited to participate in this trip to Singapore and Br. Pio was among them. He returned to Seoul on June 23rd.



On that same day, late at night, Br. Moses Cho Min Kyu flew to Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in the "Spirituality of the Heart" program organized by the team in charge of renewal programs in Rome to promote the living out of our Marist Spirituality more fruitfully and deeply. The renewal team runs the program: Br. Michael Sexton, Xavier Barcelo, and Ataide Jose de Lima, and the talks given mainly by Br. Oscar Martin, General Counsellor, and Michael Sexton are attended by 23 African and 5 Asian Brothers from various countries.



*(The Juniors in photo [1969] are the same guys standing in front of the Sanctuary below [2024])*



While the few Brothers remaining in the community continue with their tasks and apostolates, Br. Alfredo left for Mexico for his family visit on June 17th. From June 28 to 30, he had the opportunity to participate in the gathering of his group of former juniors in the city of Zamora, an area of the country with a strong historical presence of the Marist Brothers, who arrived in Mexico exactly 125 years ago on July 1st. From that group of juniors, 5 of them became Marist Brothers, but 2 of them left the congregations during their temporary vows. One of those who made the perpetual profession died already, and 2 remain still alive. Many of the 10 participants met for the first time after 54 or 55 years, but we enjoyed recalling the many funny events and mischievousness of those years of our youth. But we also had the great joy and satisfaction of hearing about the good influences we all received from those years, which have helped us be men of goodwill and positively contribute to society in many different fields. It was an exceptional experience that recharged all of us at the affective and spiritual levels.

Finally, I would like to add that our Br. Paul Won will also leave our community on July 11th for the Philippines, where we will spend the coming years doing some studies.

As you see, things have been moving around here quite a bit. Let's hope all these experiences allow us to renew our enthusiasm and energy and continue looking for ways to make Marcellin's dream a concrete reality in these new and challenging times.

Thank you to all the Brothers of the Province who faithfully live their lives and apostolate while some of us have diverse opportunities. God bless you all, dear Brothers. Greetings from Mexico.

*By: Br. Alfredo Herrera, FMS*



# Gier Program 2024

This year's Gier Program was conducted from May 27 to June 26, 2024. The Program is an ongoing formation and an experience of encounter and community for Brothers who have made their perpetual vows for the last 3-7 years. The first two weeks of activities were conducted in the General House in Rome, Italy, and the final two weeks were in the L'Hermitage in France. The Program was participated in by 15 young brothers from 8 administrative units and ten countries, making this group very diverse and dynamic. This 4th group consisted of Brothers from Brazil (4), Mozambique (2), Nigeria (2), Cameroon (1), Liberia (1), Madagascar (1), Malawi (1), Philippines (1), Rwanda (1), Tanzania (1). Four Brothers were also directly involved in accompanying the Brothers, namely Bros. Tony Leon (Australia), Angél Medina (Spain), Lindley Sionosa (Philippines), and Ataide José de Lima (Brazil).

The first two weeks in the General House in Rome were spent sharing our personal Marist stories and experiences as Brothers from various places while establishing connections and brotherhood through fraternal dialogues and fraternity sharing. It was also a time for us to listen and share with the Brothers and Lay people working in the general administration their respective roles and responsibilities in the animation of the institute as a whole. Moreover, we also appreciated and experienced a bit of the culture and uniqueness of each of us through cultural nights, which the General Council and Administration communities also joined. During these two weeks, we also visited important places of history and faith, such as the Vatican and Rome, while meeting people along the way, which gave more color to our fraternity experience.

The last two weeks of the Program were in the L'Hermitage, the home constructed by Marcellin with the First Brothers. It was also very timely for the Program to end in the L'Hermitage as the bicentenary of the construction of the building was launched last May 19, 2024. This adds an important aspect for reflection, celebration, and meaning to our experience as a community of Brothers reconnecting to the very beginning of our Marist story. The objective of our time in the Hermitage was to be able to visit significant places in our Marist history, tradition, and spirituality that have developed and evolved since the time of our founder and the first Brothers. But I felt that more than these, it was an opportunity to experience living in the home built by Fr. Champagnat and our first Brothers. I had the privilege of being back in the Hermitage for the second time, but the experience this time around was also different as we were invited to live and let the place itself tell its story and history by just being with it.

Two of my most significant experiences during our stay in France were walking the Camino de Champagnat from Le Rosey (Champagnat's birthplace and home) to the Hermitage and sitting and reflecting on the river Gier.





The Camino de Champagnat, officially recognized by the French government as a hiking trail, is about 32 32-kilometer walk passing through various important Marist places. These are the trails believed to be where Marcellin walked during his times. Sitting on the banks of the river Gier while soaking in its cold water and listening to the sound it creates was a wonderful time to reflect on my journey and our Marist community. The river Gier flowing out from the Hermitage symbolizes our Marist life and mission - from the Hermitage to the rest of the rest of the world.

As we returned to our respective places and ministries, we ended our Program by sharing our personal synthesis and meaningful liturgy, expressing our little commitments as little brothers of Mary to rebuilding our 'hermitage' wherever we are and will be.

If you are interested, I am also sharing a link to a video prepared by Br. Tony Leon, which summarizes the whole Program:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/npvtg10gc5u6ujy7cj4jq/Gier-2024.mp4?rlkey=vyc3hwcqfh2gxb3xckdxi869&st=6060pzak&dl=0>



## Sharing of Marist Lay Life with Brothers in MAPAC

On June 28, the scholastics of Marist Pacific Center had sessions on knowing more the life of Marist Laity. The first session was with Ms. Angela Undar, Principal of Notre Dame Cotabato and Ms. Carole Wark of Australia were invited to share their own stories of growing Marist spirituality, shared life, and mission. Participants comprising those coming from Vietnam, East Timor and Solomon Islands were given the opportunity to raise questions that matter to their understanding of Marist Lay Life.





# Preparation for Perpetual Profession (PPP) in Vietnam

The Preparation for Perpetual Profession (PPP) is a profound and sacred journey within religious life, marking the transition from temporary vows to a lifelong commitment to God and the religious community. This period is one of deep reflection, spiritual growth, and discernment, preparing individuals to fully embrace their vocation.

The PPP started with the arrival of the Formators' Team, composed of Bros. John Hazelman, Roy Deita, and Real Sauvageau, on June 17, 2024. The program took place at a retreat center near the Our Lady of Bãi Dâu Shrine in Vung Tau City, a coastal city with a beautiful setting close to the sea. Brothers Bao Nguyen and Trinh Long from Vietnam assisted the team during the six-week program. Brothers from different nationalities, including those from East Asia Province (2), Star of the Sea (1), Marist District of Asia (8), and L'Hermitage (1), participated in the program.

Most brothers arrived on June 22, and on the 23rd, there was an official welcome and introduction by Bro. Trinh Long. The program included modules on vocational journey, the evangelical counsels, community living modules and immersions, as well as community outings and visits to local attractions.

The first module on the vocational journey was led by Bro. Roy, where each brother shared their vocation story. Community outings and meals were organized to foster community bonding and provide cultural experiences. The program lasts six weeks, with the completion of the first module marking a significant milestone in the preparation process.





# Mission: Vocation

## Workshoppers immeresed with the Marcellin Foundation

- Eerl Phryme Depalubos



Marist Formation Workshop participants recently had the opportunity to meet and connect with the Community of Saint Marcellin Foundation in General Santos city, SOCCSKSARGEN, Philippines.



The immersion experience provided a valuable space for the workshop participants to engage with the community and deepen their understanding of Marist values

During their visit, the workshop participants had heartfelt conversations with Bro. Fred Salubre, FMS and Bro. Crispin Betita, FMS. These discussions centered on the Marist charism and its application in serving the local community.

The exchange of ideas and experiences undoubtedly fostered a stronger sense of connection and collaboration between the Marist Formation participants and the Community of Saint Marcellin Foundation.

## Beyond the Workshop: Marist Vocation Workshoppers Visits Notre Dame of Dadiangas University

The Marist Vocation Summer Workshop took a break from self-reflection for a day of discovery, venturing out to explore the vibrant campuses of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU). Stepping out of their workshop space, the workshoppers were greeted by the bustling energy of NDDU's academic environment.

This immersive experience wasn't just about sightseeing; it was a chance for them to envision themselves embodying the Marist charisms within these very halls. As they toured the facilities and witnessed firsthand the dynamic student life, the visit could potentially spark new questions and ideas for the participants.



This newfound perspective might just serve as a catalyst as they continue their personal journeys of vocational discernment. This exposure to the realities of university life, helps to imagine themselves as future educators or mentors within the Marist tradition and communities



# General Assembly of the Marist Solidarity International Network

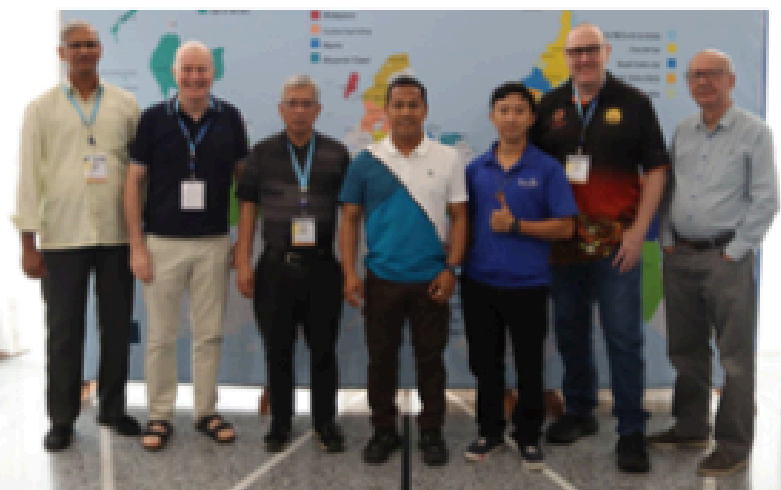
June 17-21, 2024, General House, Rome, Italy



*Bro. Manuel De Leon, and Joe Nacienceno, chair of the Mission Commission of East Asia Province and member of the Executive Committee of the Network, respectively, participate jointly with delegates from different AUs of the Marist world in the Assembly.*



*Joe Nacienceno, the chair of the Institute's Ecology focus group and member of the Executive Committee of the Network, presents the operational action plan of the group. His report was one of the documents that the General Assembly approved.*



*Participants from the Asia-Oceania Region share experiences and stories; and promise to collaborate and support work in solidarity.*



*Joe Nacienceno and Bro Angel Diego, the director of the Network, planting a tree at the closing ceremony of the Assembly to symbolize the commitment of responding to*



# Marist Teachers Gather To Rekindle Family Spirit

#AMaristsHeartKnowsNoBound  
#RekindlingFamilySpirit

Retired and former NDDU IBED Lagao Junior High School teachers had their “Beachapade” at Asuncion Beach Resort Malapatan on June 29, 2024. The gathering, or the group called “Maristas Tapok,” aimed to rekindle friendship and the Marist Family Spirit. The gathering was made possible with the generosity of everyone and Ma. Eden Leonida- Bringier Family. Ms. Bringier said, “Let’s rest, relax and laugh.”

Br. Armando Manaay, F.M.S., led the opening prayer. He emphasized the blessings of camaraderie and friendship among Marists.

Dr. Alma Hordista, the appointed President of the event, welcomed everyone, especially the Bringier Family. She pointed out, “Once a Marista, is always a Marista.” She hoped that the Marist teachers’ gathering would be held regularly.

The appointed Vice President, Magdalena Villamor, highlighted the unique Family Spirit of the group. She said that despite the distance and the expenses, she and her husband “Tibok” were excited to have fun and create new memories with the KaMaristas. Her hashtags- #ForeverMarista #HappinessBeyondMeasureWithKaMarista #MyFamilyNextToMyOwn

The theme Rekindling Family Spirit was the word of mouth of everyone after the event.





# *Glimpses of the Past*

*The following is the letter of Br. Maurus James to his Provincial Superior in the United States of America two days after their arrival in Cotabato.*

Cotabato, June 23, 1948

Dear Br. Provincial,

Well, here we are. Now we know what your famous Cotabato looks like. We weren't disappointed because we had not expected much, but it was a shock. It was bound to be. We were prepared for the worst.

We left Manila Monday, June 21 at 8:00 a.m. and arrived in Cotabato at about 12:00 noon. All the Oblates were there at the airport to meet us. We rode to the Oblates house in a Buick. Imagine of all things! Ride in a Buick! The Oblates really has a spread for us: chicken, pie, cake and all the trimmings. The cook they have is certainly a wow. He can do a whole lot with very little.

The Oblates rented a house for us. The nuns still need to leave our house. I wish they would stay there. The house we are living in now is very good. We are living on the second floor of a two-story wooden house. It is very cool at night. The nun's new school is not ready yet. They won't move in until about the time school opens on June 6.

We dread the opening of school. The Oblates have built us up in the eyes of the people: the best teachers in the order, famous disciplinarians; I, as a coach (which I wasn't), am supposed to have won 7 championships in a row in N.Y.C. in a league with over 100 schools competing. What a reputation we have to live up to!

Fr. Billman is leaving today for his new assignment. During the past two days, I have gotten all the dope. I'm in a daze. I don't know what to do for us yet. They have no system for registration. Up to now, it has been done on the first day of school. That will be a mad-house. Imagine 400 boys being assigned to a class, given their programs, all within a few hours. We'll follow their system all this time, but changes will be made next year.

The school is some hole. We are in for something this year. Remember the new school you promised. We'll suffer anything if we don't have the guarantee for that new building.

We unpacked the books from the Philippine Educational Bureau—books from Br. Arthur Xavier is arriving here in Cotabato on June 24 (28 crates). All the lab equipment has also been unpacked. The band instruments are here, but we haven't touched them yet.

We have hired the National Language teacher, the History teacher, and the band leader. We have to hire two more teachers, one for four periods and one for two.

It has rained two nights out of the three we've been here, and there is mud all over the place. We haven't had a shower yet.

We are ordering three more cassocks apiece. We need them. We can't wait for your clothes.

Where are all the monkeys? We haven't seen one yet. What a disappointment that was.

The Young Men's Chinese Association has asked me to referee a series of basketball games to be played here with Davao. It's good to get in on the right side of them, so I accepted.

How about the jeep? Is it coming? It should be sent if possible. Over here, they cost Ph4,500. It's an awful walk in the hot sun from the school to the Church. I believed we could use it. Let us know.

It is going to be rough for us when school starts. I don't know how we will get all the exercises done. We will go from 7:30 until 5:00 school and then from 7:00 until 8:00 in the college. Right now, we are getting up at 5:15. Any suggestions?

Everything looks good right now, but when I think of everything at once, I get dizzy. We'll jump the fences when we come to them.

Br. Damian, Br. Herbert, and Br. Peter is wonderful. They've been working like he-men since we got here. I believe we'll get along wonderfully.

I don't pretend to be a hero, but we're ready for anything. The Oblates are a wonderful example. What a swell bunch of fellows.

I'm writing this letter practically in the dark. Everyone is in bed. I hear noises around me. The lizards are giving their peculiar call from the ceiling where they are perched; the frogs are going for all they are worth outside the window, and the mosquitoes are buzzing around me. It's time to quit.

We haven't bought anything as yet. No use. We'll wait until we move into our own house. What a joint!  
Regards to all from away out here.

- Br. Maurus James



# Provincial's Schedule



July 1 - July 12, 2024

Community Visits to Korea-Japan Sector

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

July 01:

Br. Franklin D. Salcedo  
Br. Lindley H. Sionosa

July 03:

Br. John Clement Chong KA

July 05:

Mrs. Lucrecia Tabayoyong  
(Affiliate Member)

July 06:

Br. Demosthenes A. Calabria

July 07:

Br. Wenceslao P. Calimpon

July 13:

Br. Alfredo Herrera

July 14:

Br. Jeffrey R. Guino-o  
Br. Raymund C. Gallardo

July 16:

Br. Joachim Heng (Hee Tiam)

## Prayer Intentions:

- May we deepen our relationship with You and grow in our faith.
- May conflicts be resolved, and understanding and compassion prevail.
- May we be instruments of Your peace, spreading love and kindness wherever we go.
- May our homes be blessed with Your presence and make them places of refuge and joy.
- May all the birthday celebrants be filled with the abundance of God's loving grace.



JM Tabique