



Visit of the Marist Sisters



Wise Man among the Young



Human formation



Picnic day



Easter celebration at District house



Novices with Tatay and Nanay



COOKING SNACK



Social night



Sky rider

THE IMPACT OF PASTORAL IN MY LIFE



Pastoral contact with people who, in the ministry is midst of some of the worst one of the atrocities and sufferings the fundamental world has to offer, manage to elements of a keep and shine the light and religious' goodness of Christ. No, they life. It allows us (religious) to are none of this because they discover the splendor of our be- are the very reflection of God's ing as religious, and also to stay wealth. in touch with the project of our founder.

I can say after 6 months of pastoral work in the Philippines that pastoral ministry is the most uncertain path or the most uncertain project of religious life. When you go, you never know what will happen, how or how much it will change your life and your vision. It was a deep experience for me to be in

Pastoral work for me is not a moment to fulfill my duty or my responsibility as a religious, but rather a school of life, a source that allows me to rediscover the immense wealth of God and my own spiritual poverty. Pastoral work is the engine that gives meaning and movement to my life.

Joël AMA

MY UNDERSTANDING OF NOVITIATE AFTER 6 MONTHS



Looking back at the last six months as to what constitutes my experience in the Marist International Novitiate, the best image so far would be that it is like riding a bicycle. Why do I describe this journey as riding a bicycle? With the act of riding a bicycle, in order for the bicycle to advance, you must relax and then make an effort by pedaling forward, simultaneously up and down. The moments of pedaling up refer to those moments of consolation, while pedaling down refers to those moments of desolation. In other words, the Novitiate experience for me has been challenging and at the same time very exciting as we will see in the following lines.

For the last six months, the focus has been on looking at my past life experiences together with my formators. Looking back has been very challenging, as wounds that were thought to be covered, healed and long forgotten were uncovered and brought to light. But the aim of all these has been to acknowledge and accept my past experiences, so as to be in a better disposition; and know what is going on within me, in order to fervently respond to the voice of God.

Looking back not only enabled me to recognize my weaknesses and limitations, but also gave me an opportunity to look at my strengths and see how far I have been able to advance in my life journey with the gifts God has placed in me.

This journey to help me discover my “self”, was focused on the following areas: family background, childhood, my emotions, spiritual life, intellectual life, relationships within and outside of my biological family, cultural dynamics, the impact of my education and persons encountered at every level of my growth until this present moment, community life, etc. Looking at the areas listed, you would agree with me that it has been hard work. You would equally understand why I used the symbol of a bicycle to describe my experience in the novitiate which I believe is the same experience my brothers in the novitiate are experiencing, so together we help each other to ride-on on our individual bicycles each going at his own pace without any competition whatsoever.

However, the last six months in the novitiate have not only been about me but have also been about my relationship with God through the Society of Mary. During this time of the novitiate, we have taken time to deepen and look closely at the history of the Society of Mary, the Spirituality of the Society of Mary, the Constitution of the Society of Mary and especially the life of our Founder, Venerable Jean Claude Colin, and the place occupied by the Blessed Mary in his life as a person and also as a founder. It has also been a time where I have been exposed to the realities of the Society of Mary in terms of her aims, objectives and mission in the world. And the dominant motive here has been to present the pros

and cons of the Society of Mary; to process them in prayers and discernment; and see if the realities of the Marist vocation goes in conformity with my own vocation in serving God.

Despite these movements, the two terms desolation and consolation I mentioned earlier should be looked at at the context in which we are writing. By desolation, I mean challenges, difficulties and moments of discouragement, and it is of course because of moments such as these that I have been able to appreciate all that has taken place in the movements of my life for the last six months. On the other hand, the moments of consolation are very much alive throughout this time of my novitiate. It has really been a time of “tasting God”. Acknowledging my difficulties draws me to a deeper and closer understanding of myself and my limitations, and helps me appreciate with all simplicity and humility the strengths I have been able to identify in my personality. As my journey in the novitiate continues, I am conscious that man is not perfect; therefore there are still lots of concern I need to look at, and it is only at the end of such a marvelous time in the novitiate that I might be able to really paint a clearer picture of my life and experience. However, it can only be better and clearer by the Grace of God through consistency and fidelity in my prayers and openness to the Will of God in my life. Please pray for us and rest assured of our prayers.

Clinton ASUNKWAIN KUBE

THE CHALLENGE OF LANGUAGES IN FORMATION AND MISSION

Language is the basic tool of communication among people around the world. Language helps people to understand each other in their

daily lives and in their own communities. In most multicultural communities, members are normally encouraged to learn the main language that can be spoken widely, because of the misunderstandings that would arise among themselves if they speak in different languages. Our International novitiate here in Eden is known as Marist International English novitiate and that means English is the main language in the community. Members of the community therefore have to speak and do their activities in English. However in our community we come from different countries. Some are English speakers, some are French speakers and some of us we come from countries where English is considered as the third or fourth language. Therefore we sometimes find it a bit hard to speak or write in English.

At the moment two English speakers are helping the others to improve their

English. It is a good chance for us non English speakers to learn more about English. Apart from English there are also times that we use other languages like Cebuano, French and Italian for our masses. At first some of us struggled a little bit in pronouncing the words in those languages, but we are now slowly improving. Having Masses in those other languages also opens the door for those who want to learn those languages in the future.

Another difficulty that we are still facing in language is when we go out for our pastoral: most of the people out there cannot speak English, and we do not speak Cebuano. Sometimes it makes our pastoral more difficult when we do not understand what the people are saying to us or when they do not understand us. It is also a chance for us to practice our Cebuano which we learned at a basic level during our orientation. So, we are working together as a community to overcome these challenges.

Lesley KINANI

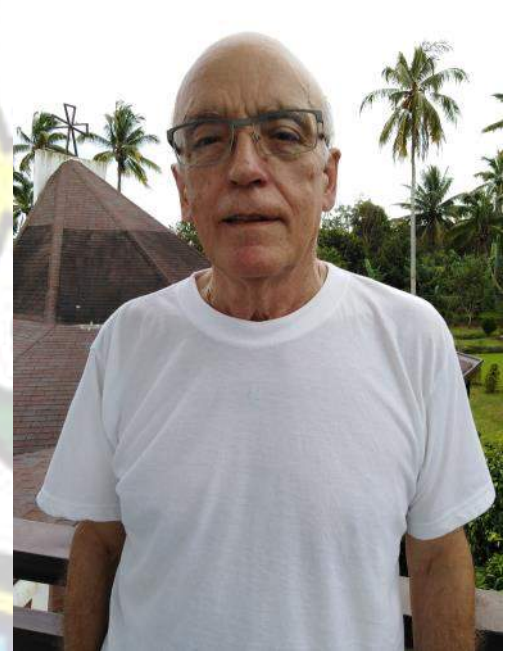
NOVITIATE COMMUNITY 2019



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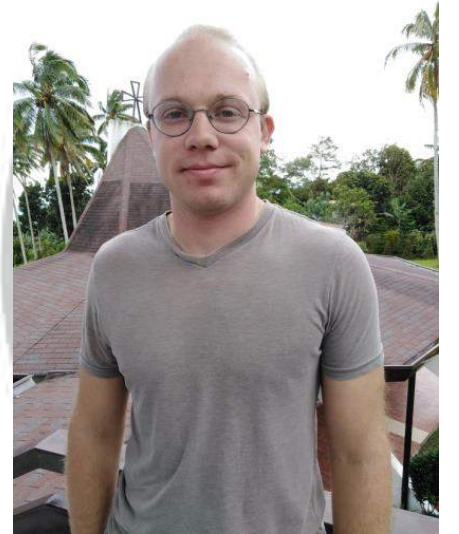
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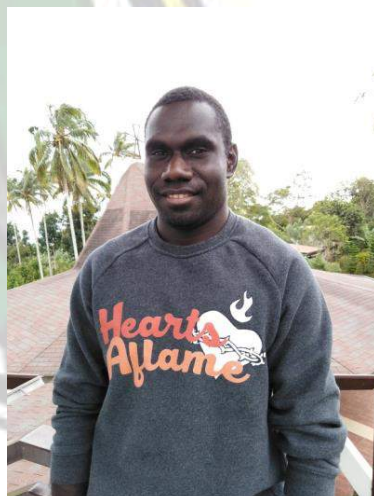
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NOVICES