



HUMAN FORMATION: TRANSCENDENCE



Some weeks before, our formators announced that we would have the Bugey Mission Experience for three weeks: one week in Davao and two weeks in Marist communities outside Davao. We did not have any idea of where we would go, or of

what kind of mission we would encounter. At this time, I was having lots of thoughts and anxious feelings, because I was thinking that it would be very hard for me. In the end, however, everything turned out well.

Before going for our Bugey Mission Experience, we had a five-day session with Ate Leah and Ate Orett, both of whom help us in our human formation. I have found them very helpful in my journey of formation throughout this year.

For the first two days, Ate Leah introduced us to the places where we would be going, and we looked at what kinds of missions we would encounter. She gave us questions which, in answering them, I began to have a fair idea of what I might expect during the Bugey Mission Experience; this really calmed down the anxiety I was feeling at the time. The questions asked: Who am I? What do I expect in the mission? How will the host expect me to behave and how can I be available for doing things both inside and outside the community? By answering these kinds of questions, I gained confidence to go to any place for the Bugey Mission Experience.

The other three days were spent with Ate Orett. Topics we talked about included: "My Heart's Desire," "Dreams of Glory," "Woven into Being," and "My Kite Experience" (my experience of transcendence). These topics helped me to go within myself and have a conversation with my deepest self. My ego truthfully mentioned my heart's desires – both important and unimportant – as I intertwined my values and needs with my desires. However, by identifying these elements in me, I gradual-

ly came to feel free and relaxed, after I had put aside the least important desires, values, and needs – which were obstacles to my journey of formation – and upheld those desires, values, and needs which will help me in my mission.

My kite-ing experience also gave me knowledge of the times when I made sacrifices in order to make my kite soar high. I also reflected upon how I handle or cope with crisis situations, as well as strategies to handle them better. It was very beneficial to do this and to make myself conscious of forming objectives to deal with life situations. Additionally, in "Dreams of Glory," I was pushed to have a goal of something I would like to accomplish at the end, directed by my inner desire of who I want to become: a Marist. At the end of the day, I presented my goal to God and allowed God to respond to my desires, values, and needs.

The topics of transcendence shaped and prepared me for the three weeks of the Bugey Mission Experience. After these sessions, I really felt calm and eagerly waited for the pastoral weeks to come; I believe my brothers also felt the same way.

In the ministry, I actually did well, without any feelings of doubt or anxiety, because I was aware of myself from the talks which we had had. With the host as well, I didn't feel shy, hesitant, or nervous to stay with them.

Finally, this also helped me to build confidence of who I am and of anything I want to do for my pastoral or ministry in the future; I could say that it put me, emotionally, on the right path for growth, allowing me to minister with the right emotion. Lastly, it helps in my prayer life, dedicating my whole life to God each day.

Leonard Wui AMORA



'To swim or not to swim — that is the question.'



After two weeks of silence, novices relax at the beach.



Community life isn't always peaceful.



A pair of brand new signs make the novitiate house a little less 'hidden and unknown.'



The community blesses the new car — a gift from our Superior General.



Nik (left) and Leo (right) partying in Digos over the break.



The Marist Sisters visit our community (we serve the best coffee).

A TIME FOR REST AND RELAXATION



In every single program, whether it is daily, weekly, or annually, you can always see that there is a time for break. It is a particular time that is set apart from the normal, routine timetable. It is a time for

relaxation and rest, but also a time to reflect and see how much you have achieved in your life. Not only that, but it is also a time to set some goals for your future. Having a break might not be important to some people, but as far as I am concerned, we as humans all need a break sometimes in order to relax and rest, especially after going through a lot of activities, classes, and lectures.

This year, 2019, our novitiate program set up a one-week break for the novices before going into the second half of the novitiate. The break was held from 12 August to 19 August, and it was enjoyed by every novice. Before it occurred, everyone was already looking forward to it, because we were a bit tired and we needed some time to rest and relax. This became apparent when I learned that each novice had already planned what he would do during this one-week break and where he would go, well in advance of the break itself. It was a great experience for all of us, even though some of us decided to spend most of the time in the campus, just to get enough rest. For those who went out daily, I do believe they really enjoyed their tour in Davao City.

All the novices spent a day visiting our foster families in Digos City, and a few of us went further to visit the Marist Missionary Sisters in General Santos City.

Our break does not mean that we took a break from everything in our program; no, it is only a break from having classes and doing things like manual labor. Every morning we had our morning prayer and Mass, as usual. Our evening prayer was done in private, and it was good to see that some of the novices returned before the normal evening prayer time, in order to do their prayer. It was a great experience because we all enjoyed it, and I would say that it helped us to regain our energy to continue the second part of the novitiate.



Lesley KINANI