

EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY...

These days, we are reflecting and talking a lot about *Ecology* and how to avoid natural disasters provoked by human activities. But all our effort will be reduced to isolated actions if we don't change our minds and hearts in our relationship with nature.



We are still acting as if we were the absolute owner of our planet and we have difficulties to see us as part of the whole system. We are still living in an *anthropocentric* way our relationship and not in an *anthropo-cosmic sense*, where the human being is part of the cosmos and deeply interrelated with the whole evolution from the beginning of the universe until now. This is demanding a change of vision and a change of acting.

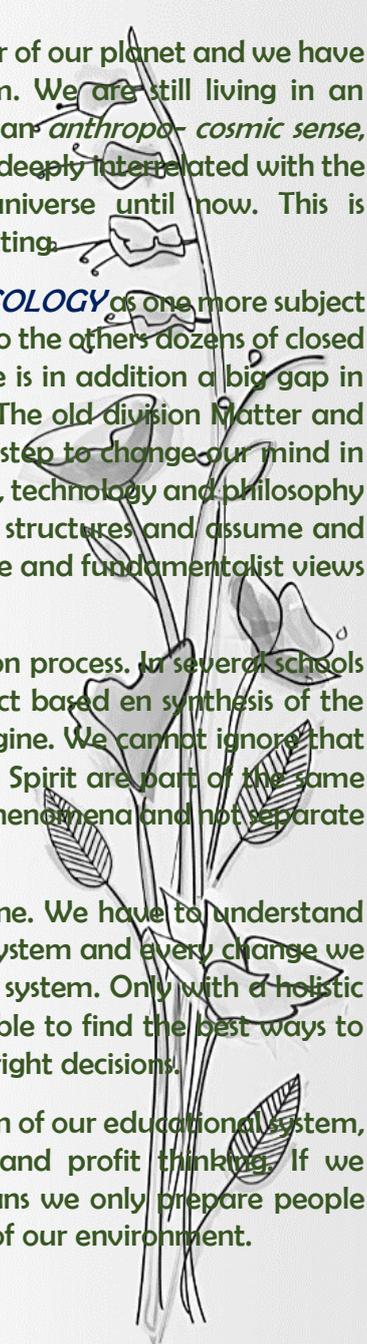
We will not change anything when we only add *ECOLOGY* as one more subject in our study planes. We add one more closed box to the others dozens of closed boxes we have already in our schools where there is in addition a big gap in between natural science and humanistic science. The old division Matter and Spirit is still alive. To find a way to reconcile both could be an important step to change our mind in front of the ecological problems. We need a new synthesis of natural science, technology and philosophy and religion. On both sides we have to destroy prejudices and ideological structures and assume and overcome a long history of confrontation. Materialistic thinking on one side and fundamentalist views of religion on the other are dead ways.

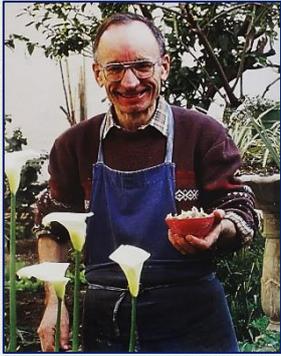
We need urgently a new vision and adequate study plans in our education process. In several schools they are trying to create a platform of dialogue and an education project based on synthesis of the whole human knowledge. Matter and Spirit are closer than we could imagine. We cannot ignore that fact. Consciousness is present in the whole evolutionary process. Matter and Spirit are part of the same reality and if we want to understand reality better we have to unite both phenomena and not separate them.

We have to find out how to study and investigate the whole system as one. We have to understand that, at the same time we reflect and act, we are already part of this life system and every change we work out has its consequences and affects the whole system. Only with a holistic mentality and approach to our reality, we will be able to find the best ways to life together in harmony with nature and make the right decisions.



In a concrete way it claims for a renewed organization of our educational system, free from lobbyism of industry, political interests and profit thinking. If we continue with the present education system and plans we only prepare people for more consumerism, exploitation and destruction of our environment.





In this context religion, the teaching of our Christian faith has an important role to play and a long experience to offer. A renewed view of the Holy Scripture and theology could be an important unifying element in the effort to understand and obtain a more holistic and unified vision of our universe and our life.

As Marists we are challenged by this new way to understand and feel our presence as human beings in today's world. As a worldwide Institute, *we have the instruments to promote and empower a new vision in many different places and cultures.* Each of us is urged to review our own convictions in this matter and if necessary introduce the changes in our own life first.

Bro. Max Meier

Vietnam

On March 22 to 24, 2019 the brothers in VN, **Br. Juan Castro** and lay Marist had the country meeting in K'long Don Bosco retreat house, in Lam Dong province.

In that wonderful venue, welcoming people, good climate, surrounded by nature we had eco-spirituality prayers, sharing time about our lives, our present reality in each community, and our mission. At the end we decide an action plan for the coming months/years in VN.



During the Eucharist celebration **Br. Bao** and **Br.Thuan** renewed their religious vows for one year. Congratulations brothers, may God bless you!



Bro. Canisio

Aspirants Immersion experience in Cambodia (March 11-28)- Saigon Aspirancy

We would like to thank God for everything especially for bring us to Cambodia. Here we received a lot of blessings from Him such as this good experience with these special people.



We were 5 Aspirants went to Cambodia, from Saigon community. We were divided into three groups; two stayed in *Lavalla school in Phnom Penh*, one in *Pulung* and two in *Pailin*. We two, joined with the Pailin community of 4 Brothers. Here we practiced our English with children by teaching, playing, helping and fixing the classroom, etc. The students were friendly, funny, and always having welcoming hearts; We felt so happy and brought us more joy and courage to continue our journey as

young Marists. it was very enriching moments with the brothers and their mission.

Mr. Cuong and Mr. Dan

Quoc Oai Community. Ha Noi.

Since *Antonio* left for Spain for his home leave, *Thuan* and *Geoff* have continued to work in both the New Horizons centre and the Blind centre. Just last week *Gioan*, has joined us for a month before heading to the Novitiate in Sri Lanka.

During the recent TET holiday Geoff spent the time recovering from a rather unpleasant hernia operation but is now back in action. *Thuan*, beside his involvement in the activities of the New Horizons and his teaching at the Blind centre in Ha Noi has been gaining much experience dealing with government offices in the city, relating to work permits, visas and passports.

Our planning for a new project in a remote area of Tuyen Quang province has unfortunately come to a halt for the time being. Despite the enthusiastic support of government people, fund raisers, the local people, and our recent country meeting, we have encountered an obstacle coming from an unexpected quarter.... The local bishop. However, we hope this can be overcome and we can continue to push ahead with this challenging project.



Geoff Kelly

Tan Chau Community

After Tết holiday, we come back to our normal Vietnamese teaching and other activities and we are only two now. We are continually trying as much as we can, to be with these poor children. Sometimes it is hard to manage the group with many kids and different group of age.



We have been working closely with the parish priest and recently with JRS - an organization of Jesuits workers from Cambodia. Their main job is to help migrants and refugees. In the month of February, JRS sent two of their colleagues to Tà Dơi to do a survey with the returnees. Their work is to find out the reasons why the people had left Cambodia and returned Việt Nam and hopefully assisting those that are still there in Cambodia. Thanks to their dedication to work for migrations.



A very recent country meeting gathered us all together at K-Long Donbosco retreat center in Lâm Đồng. Tiến, one of our very first former Aspirant, now is applying to be a Marist Lay of MDA; he has been in few meetings and gatherings where Lay Marists is the main focus. Tiến wishes that the Marist Charism of Champagnat deeply rooted and strongly practiced in Việt Nam and throughout Asia. This meeting has been a chance for us to have much more awareness of the Lay Vocation which has not been fully understood nor recognized earlier and still it is in the church today. Thanks to Michael who has always been so passionate about this work, creating a Lay Marist Network in Việt Nam; he is also in constant contact with our former formees.



Talit Community – West Bengal, India

On 17th February, we had **parents meeting for this year 2019**. Almost 63 students of our hostel inmates' parents were able to participate in this annual meeting. We brothers were so happy to receive this kind of support from the parents and increased joy of our students to be with their parents. It gave us hope to carry on our mission with these poor students.

During our meeting, we shared many things what had happened in our hostel last year, particularly, how we took initiative to develop of the place and students' education and their moral values in a Marist way as brothers. Parents also interacted with our conversations and helped us to hear their feelings and desire of their children and listened our expectations from them for their children. We conclude the meeting with the Holy Eucharistic celebration. Then we had a fellowship meal together with the parents and Children which brought more joy and happiness in our campus.



24th of February, we were able to welcome our **Bishop Cyprian Monis** to our hostel. He was happy about our mission and further development of the place in this Santhal Tribal mission. He interacted with our students and find out their happiness to be in the hostel and learning as much they can. He was encouraging them in many ways and gave good suggestion for their future growth and life. He was happy about community commitment and our regular presence with the children for their further growth.



16th March we had our **second meeting with our teachers** who help our students by taking special classes in the hostel. We brothers shared our Marist life and our Charism particularly the important of our mission with these Santal children while we have mixed religion of teachers. Also, we expressed our expectation of their contribution to our students to help them by teaching and helping in their studies. We brothers are happy with those 5 teachers for their regular commitment and interest to teach our students. "Before teaching the children love them all equal" these words of our Founder was focused in our meeting with teachers. At the end we had a meal together.



21st of March, we celebrated “Holi” Indian festival which is a special day in north part of India. It’s end of Spring and beginning of Summer season. So, we spray colours on each of us and share the joy of new season. Celebrating with our students made our day very special.



Bro. Jiji Dassan

FROM ASPIRANCY (Sylvester kujur - Aspirant)

I would like to share the experience of the three Aspirants from MDA at Trichy- South India.

We joined the program of Aspirancy on 2nd June, 2018 in Talit, West Bengal - North India. We were there for two and half months learning English, Music, and Extracurricular activities with the **Bro. José Maria Sierra**.

On 23rd August, we travelled from Talit to Trichy, Tamil Nadu South India for our Aspirancy program. Here, we have started further in knowing our founder Marcellin Champagnat and his life and we also had classes on Mary and English.

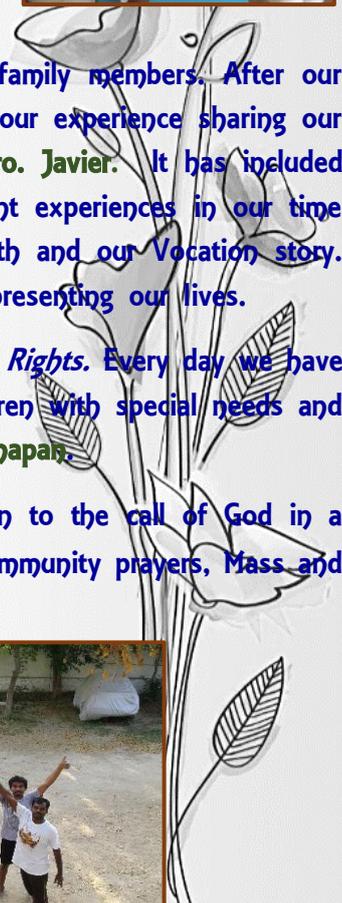


In December, we came back to Talit and had a Christmas break with our family members. After our Christmas holidays we have started our 3rd part of our experience sharing our “Life Story-The presence of God in my life” with **Bro. Javier**. It has included our family experience (Genogram), the more important experiences in our time of students, our friends, environment, our life of faith and our Vocation story. In this picture you can see our Mandala which is representing our lives.



Now, we are reflecting about *Human Rights and Child Rights*. Every day we have classes of English. Once a week we go to help children with special needs and we have the opportunity to learn yoga with **Br. Chinnapan**.

We three (*Manoj, Augustin and Silvester*) are very happy continuing to listen to the call of God in a discernment process through interviews, manual work, playing, recollections, community prayers, Mass and Rosary.



From MAPAC

Marian Pilgrimage

Last Sunday, 24th of March, we MAPAC young Brothers together with other Congregation's sisters, around 26 students with our professor travelled from Metro Manila to Batangas - Philippines, for our Marian pilgrimage. The trip to the Batangas pilgrimage shrines was a requirement



of our Marian Theology class. We reached our destination after travelling by a van about three hours. We visited three Marian pilgrimage shrines; *Mary Mediatrix of all Graces*, our *Lady of Caysasay*, Labac - Taal, and the *Mountain of Salvation* at Caloca. The trip was very much related to our Marian Theology classes in which we are learning to look Mary as a Good Mother and Mediatrix of all Graces. Also, the trip helped to increase our faith in Mary by seeing other people's



devotion to her. In addition, some of us, drank the healing water from the spring of *Caysasay*. The water was believed to be miraculous, being regarded as responsible for the healing of all kind of sickness. Furthermore, we were blessed because we had time to pray rosary together as a group in the pilgrimage place. Late in the day we began our journey back to home and arrived safely. Thanks to the protection of our Good Mother Mary. This trip will linger for a long time in our minds.



Bro. Rubel Nokrek.

Postulancy Formation Community in Davao

After the departure of the 2nd year Postulants: 6 from Timor-Leste and 2 from Vietnam (MDA) our community has diminished to 15 (12 Postulants: Cambodia, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh and 3 Brothers). This group of postulants continues with the formation program: community building, English, accompaniment, etc... Here is some news from our community.



The presence of Br. Brian, FMS

Almost two months ago Br. Brian, from Australian arrived to our community. The purpose was to help to the postulants to improve their English. In the morning two groups: one of 5 and the other of 7 postulants, go to Level Up language Center for two hours every day. Br. Larry and Brian, while at home, help them in their homework:



pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, etc. As the time came for Br. Brian to go back to Australia, we want to express our gratitude for his presence in our community and above all for being witness of fraternity and brotherhood to all of us. Thank you, Br. Brian.

Recollection in "Santo Niño" Shrine

To find a retreat house in Davao and surrounding is not easy during important liturgical seasons (Lent, Advent...). When we realized and the Lent was near, we tried to find an appropriate retreat house for our community, but was impossible. Due to this reason, we decided to have a Recollection day in "**Santo Niño**" Shrine in the hills near of Davao. We walked from home to the Shrine, about 45 minutes. After spend some time in the Shrine, we continued our schedule for recollection: a talk of motivation about Ash Wednesday and Lent, personal time for reflection & prayer and time for sharing our faith in three different groups. We finished with a nice *merienda*. When the time of sunseting, we walked back home

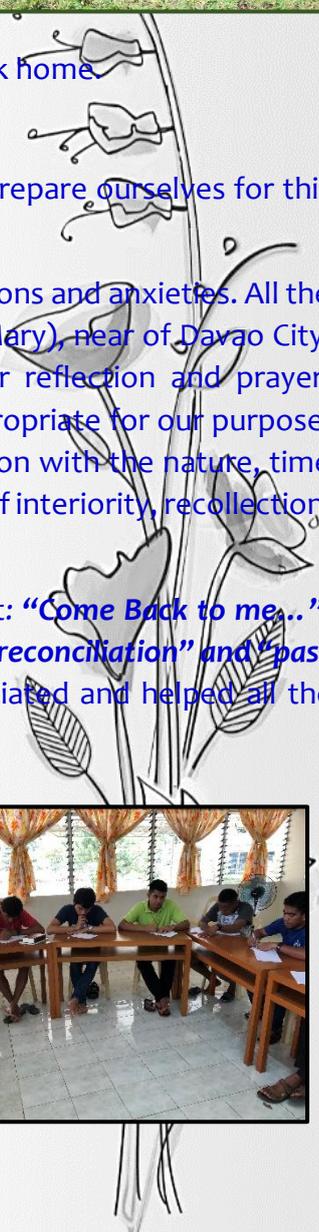


Lenten Retreat

On the 2nd weekend of Lent, finally we could have our retreat of Lent to prepare ourselves for this significant Liturgical Season.

The fact that the community went out for this event always bring expectations and anxieties. All the members of our community went to PM Retreat House (Presentation of Mary), near of Davao City. The schedule was very simple: talks of the brothers, personal time for reflection and prayer, community prayer, sharing in groups, etc... The atmosphere was very appropriate for our purpose: enter properly in the Lent Season more consciously. Silence, communication with the nature, time for resting, personal rooms, no time for cooking, etc... increased the spirit of interiority, recollection, personal prayer, reflection...

The topics that the brothers developed were the customary ones for Lent: "**Come Back to me...**", "**the desert**", "**temptations**", "**the Fast, prayer, almsgiving**", "**conversion**", "**reconciliation**" and "**pass me from death to life**". All the topics were very well presented & appreciated and helped all the members of the community to enter in Lent deeply and consciously.



Beautification of the Entrance

Our property is becoming beautiful. We are finishing the work on the entrance of our Postulancy Community. The workers finished, some weeks ago the tiles of the entrance, the walls around and the property and, now the postulants with the brothers are planting some grass, flowers, decorative trees, etc... Thank you very much to all who helped us, specially the General Administration.



Br. Paco

Some news from Br. Juan, from his recent visits of communities



Bro. Cong with the Candidates in Class

Vietnam Country meeting





Vows
Renewal of
Bro. Bao and
Bro. Thuan

Provincials' Meeting in
Rome



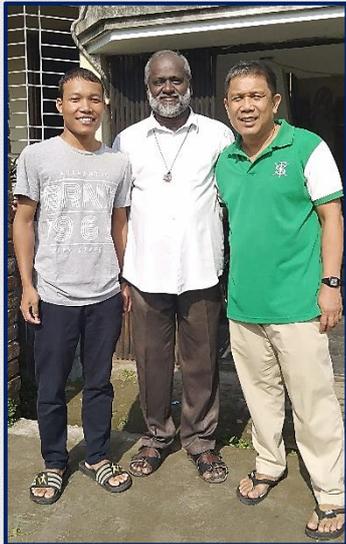
Vatican II
work-
shop at
Tudella
Novitiate

Novices Preparing Liturgy

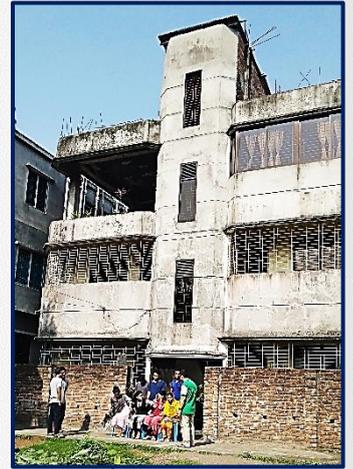


MYMENSINGH FORMATION HOUSE – BANGLADESH

In the month of March, **Bro. George** and I were able to visit some of the young men's families who showed their interest to join with us as candidates. At the end of the month, we had "Come and See" program with three young men and the fourth one already in contact with us for more than a year who is going to finish his class 11. After four days program organized by Bro. George, now we have 6 weeks of English program while the young men are waiting for their class 10 results, and



this will go until Mid-May. Close to us, there is a Korean Sisters' congregation who are taking care of the sick people. They have some girls in their Aspirancy program; they also join with our group for the English classes these days. It was so nice to have young people in our house, after I took in charge of this house & Formation, lived three months without anyone except Br. George. Hoping in God and our Good Mother, there will be some more young men will join with us in June. Before that, we brothers will visit some more families of the young men who are in contact with us.



It was a great news for us to hear the First Profession of **Bro. Robert** who is the second fruit from this respected Mission country. April 6th, he made his profession along with other 10 of his companions in Sri Lanka International Novitiate. On 9th, he arrived to Bangladesh and evening came to our community, will stay few days working on his legal certificates and Passport renewal with Government officials. We are blessed to welcome him in our community, which is good for our young men hear these days to meet a Marist Brother from their own soil. Hope his stay will give them more courage and help them to think about their 'call' more seriously.

*Our hearty **Congratulations** to you **Bro. Robert**. Welcome back home as a Professed Brother and welcome to our Marist Family as a member too. Your presence will bring joy to the Brothers, young men in the formation, your Parents, family members & relatives, and all the well-wishers of yours. Our prayers and good wishes go with you always.*



Bro. Alexander

INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE SRI LANKA



Recent days, the International Novitiate community in Sri Lanka had a lot of activities by preparing the 2nd year Novices, place and the chapel, liturgy preparation... etc. Every one of us busy with our allotted responsibilities with joy and brotherhood. Yes! The day arrived... 6th April Saturday, we had a great day in our Novitiate. Eleven young men were able to say "Yes" to God by professing their vows; to God, to the Church and to our Institute. With a lot of preparation, with help of our formators, these 11 young Brothers made their First Vows and totally surrender to God and to our Good mother Mary, the way our Founder and his brothers did.

Our Newly Professed Brothers are; **Bro. Luân**, **Bro. Hoàng Anh** and **Bro. Bình** (From Viet Nam) **Bro. Robert** (from Bangladesh), **Bro. Benjamin**, **Bro. Jacinto** and **Bro. Melquiano** (from Timor Leste), **Bro. Sasmika** and **Bro. Sheron** (from Sri Lanka), **Bro. Cyril** and **Bro. Carlvin** (from Papua New Guinea). Together with them, **Bro. Dulaj** from Sri Lanka also renewed his vows.

There were good number of mixed group of people; **Arch Bishop Pierre Nguyen Van Tot**, **Apostolic Nuncio to Sri Lanka** was the Main Celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration. Good number of Marist Brothers, our Formators, including our Major Superiors; **Bro. Peter Carroll**, **Provincial of Australia**, **Bro. Mervyn Perera**, **Provincial of South Asia**, **Bro. Jean-Marie Batick**, **District leader of Melanesia** and **Bro. Juan Castro**, **Leader of the Marist District of Asia** joined with us. Also, some other local Religious Men & Women and Priests, good number of friends and other laity's presence increased our joy and helped us to share our brotherhood with all.

The choir was organized by **Bro. Rod Thomson** and **First Year Novices**, and with various rituals such as the blessing and wearing of their Soutanes and Cords, professing their vows, followed by the signing of their commitment. The vows of our newly professed Brothers were received by **Bro. Peter Carroll**, **delegate of the Superior General**. Eucharistic celebration was very meaningful and a great blessing for all especially those 12 young brothers who made their vows. After the Mass, we had picture taking ceremony as our memories of this day, then moved to the next stage of celebration of our fellowship meal outside in the garden. There was a lot of joy and laughter around the place.

We give thanks to our Good Lord, Mother Mary and Father Champagnat for this beautiful day. As members of the global Marist family, we give praise and glory to our God and pray that our Newly Professed Brothers will always be accompanied by God's blessing and graces, that they might be a

"beacon of hope in this turbulent world", called to be **"the face and hands of God's tender mercy"**



Celebration continues with the group photo and fellowship meal with joy...

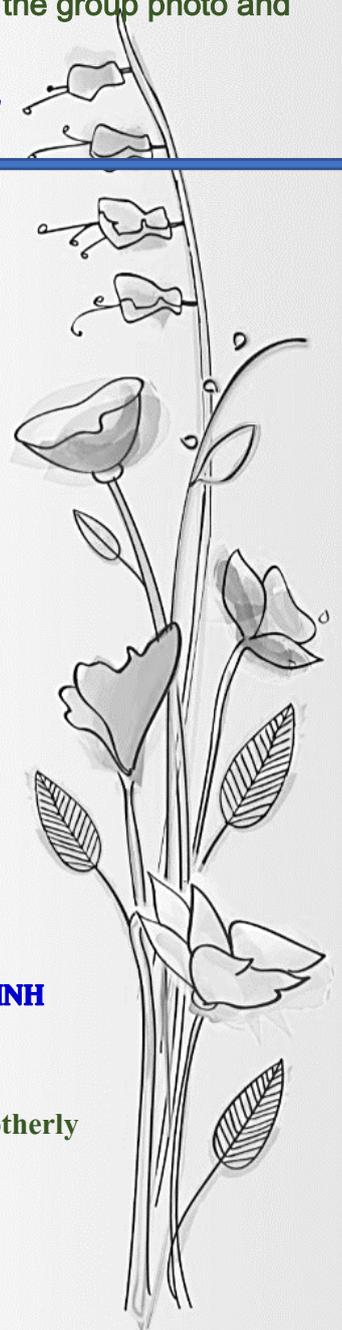
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CONGRATULATIONS!



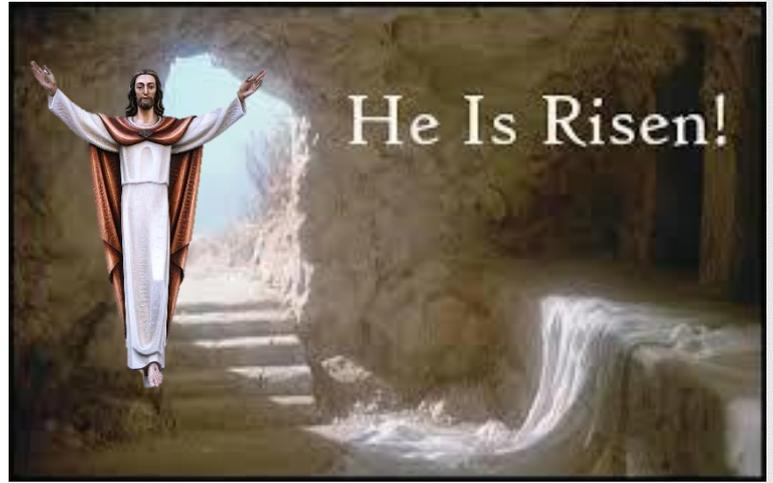
**BRO. LUAN, BRO. HOANG ANH, BRO. ROBERT AND BRO. BINH
along with their Postulancy master BRO. PACO.**

Behalf of the MDA, we wish you all well and assure our prayerful and brotherly support. Go ahead... listen to the call of God and our Good Mother and try to do your best for all.



HAPPY EASTER

May the Risen Lord fill your soul with the light of Hope and give a new start to your life! Get ready to welcome a New Life in Risen Christ!



BIRTHDAYS

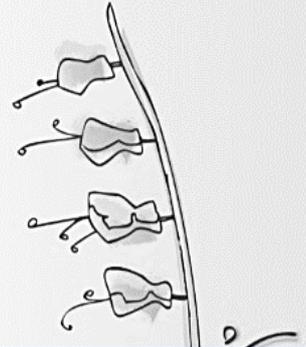
April 2019

2nd Nguyen Thanh Hung
5th Gilbert Dakora

May 2019

5th Nguyen Tien Cong
9th Xia Baoxuan
10th Lucy Yan Qing (LM)
16th Le Van Nghi (N)
20th Mark Poro
29th Nguyen Duy Binh

**Good wishes and Prayers
Brothers and sister**



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