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NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to all!

Holy Week

Brothers please keep Holy week as a time of prayerfulness and quietness in your houses, in keeping with the spirit of the season. It is good for Brothers to participate in religious functions and ceremonies in your respective parishes to keep in solidarity with the parish community.



Easter Message

The suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord is the culmination of Easter, which we call the paschal mystery. It is a time of salvation, time that gives us hope with our life in Christ. Jesus spent three days only in the tomb, to then be resurrected, defeating death and evil at the same time. Following Christ, we go through suffering, penance, repentance, almsgiving and prayers, reconciliation and conversion from sinful ways, we die to ourselves to participate in Christ's glorious resurrection. "If Christ is not risen from death, we have no hope and our faith has no base", says St. Paul "and if Christ has not been raised,



then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless". (1 Corinthians 15:14) Easter is the symbolic reminder for all of us that Jesus has overcome death and sin. It marks the victory of good over evil. As Pope Francis says "we Christians believe and know that Christ's resurrection is the true hope of the world. The hope that does not disappoint".

As we prepare for our Province's 5th Chapter let's be optimistic about our future, although we do not see the end of the tunnel, we still walk courageously with hope in the Christ who overcame all obstacles and evils. Let's be apostles of hope and keep our good work going, never despairing. Our hope is amplified this year, with the addition of two new Brothers to our ranks. Congratulations to Brothers Sasmika and Sheron. Your hope spurs us all on, and encourages those of us who might find little reason to be hopeful.

"Be the hope" for tomorrow. Let this concept be our Easter joy and celebration.

We ask the Lord:

Lord, the resurrection of your son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

“Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it”,

I wish you all a happy Easter. Alleluia, may his resurrection be a beacon of hope for us all!

“Lenten reflection” session for the Marist family at Maris Stella College

Maris Stella College organized “Anima Christi II”, a prayerful reflection session on 4th April at the auditorium. The college choristers sang Lenten hymns in English, Sinhala, Latin and Tamil languages based on the mysteries of Christ’s suffering death and resurrection. They spent a good three hours of prayer singing and reflecting in adoration. The underlying message was conversion – conversion from sinful life through repentance, and through repentance to new life, as the prophet reminds us, through fasting and weeping.

That’s why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts, come with fasting, weeping and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief. But tear your hearts instead.” (Joel 2:12-13)

Bro. Michael introduced the prayer session. He shared the need to turn our hearts to God in repentance and be reconciled to God, particularly in this graceful time of lent.

Seminar for Children, Tamil Nadu

- On 10th February, we had a seminar for the children and a counseling session for the Parents. It was organized by Bishop Heper College, Holy Cross College Students, our Marcellin Club Youth group and Rainbow Staff with the guidance given by Brothers.
- On 10th March we celebrated the Women’s day as well as women empowerment activities for the Rainbow family. It was a motivational activity for the women to face the challenges and struggles in our society. The program was organized by Barathi Dhasan University, Bishop Heper College Students, our Marcellin Club Youth Group and Rainbow Staff.
- In Tamil Nadu our Students are writing the annual Exam. Please pray for them.



ANNUAL FUNCTION - MARIST NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL - Viyalanmedu

Our Marist Nursery and Primary school annual day function was held in front of our school premises on March 8th 2019. Special guests were Br. Xavier fms from Spain, Fr. Edward, Parish priest Somarasampettai, Fr. Alexander (Rector Holy Cross), who were all invited for the grand day along with our Brothers in India.



Our school ground was packed with the audience, who were mostly parents and villagers. After the inaugural speech by the chief guest and our Principal, students who had excelled in different competitions, held throughout the year in school, were given prizes.

After this, the cultural programme started with a dance performance by the small children of our school. Students dressed in colorful costumes, and they enthralled the audience with their performance. Their dance presentation was followed by several other performances by the students of classes KG to IV std. It was a wonderful student's celebration, with cultural dances and drama. Tremendous talents of the students were revealed in all the events. Parents were stunned to see the kid's performances and all enjoyed the delightful programme. The drama was highly appreciated by the audience who gave a standing ovation to the participants when they gathered on the stage. At the end of the programme, refreshments and dinner were served to the guests and the participants.



Youth Recollection day, Haldanduwana



St. Mary's youth, along with Bro. Chamara, organized their pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at Kudagama, As the resource person, Bro. Chamara led the youth in meditation, reconciliation, group sharing, and adoration, finally ending with the way of the cross. The purpose of this pilgrimage was to prepare the youth for a meaningful Lent.

"You did not choose me, no I chose you." (John 15:16) Novices First Profession, International Novitiate, Tudella

6th of April 2019 was a happy day for the profession of the 2nd year novices. The two Sri Lankan, Sheron Shanaka and Sasmika Fernando, and nine others, from Vietnam, Bangladesh, East-Timor, and Papua New Guinea, made their first profession in a ceremony presided by His Excellency Archbishop Pierre Nguyen Van Tot, Apostolic Nuncio to Sri



Lanka, with leaders of our Administrative Units, Bro. Peter Carroll (Australia), Bro. Jean-Marie Batick (Melanesia), Bro. Mervyn Perera (South Asia) and Bro. Juan Castro (District of Asia). Among the celebrating priests were Fr. Baylan Perera SJ, Fr. Clifford Perera OP, and the Novitiate Chaplain Fr. Mervyn Noel OMI. A large gathering of family members, Lay Marists, Brothers, friends, and local Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests, filled the Novitiate Chapel to full capacity.



The Papal Nuncio exhorted the congregation to pray for the newly professed and wished them to be examples of their profession in practice. He also insisted the importance of keeping attached to Jesus, the main vine, to continue the vowed life. He exhorted them to

live as St. Marcellin wished his Brothers to live, with a life of love for one another. At the conclusion of the Mass he bestowed his apostolic blessing on the newly professed. After the celebration, the gathering was served with lunch to conclude the function of the day.



Pakistan visit - Bro. Devasiri Fernando & Mr. Damith Mendis

Bro. Devasiri and Damith are visiting the Pakistan Brothers and institutions to see about their finances and other needs, as Bro. Mervyn and Councilors could not get a Pakistan visa. They are in Peshawar and Sargodha from April 7th to 17th 2019. We wish them a fruitful time in Pakistan with our Brothers.



Lay Marists gathered with their families



Marist Lay members and their families had their Annual tour to Horton Place in the central high lands of Sri Lanka from April 6th to 8th. Brothers Michael, Sunanda and Chamara joined the group. It was enjoyable time for all. Bro. Michael shared the Pope's views on ecology and spirituality with the group. We further discussed, 'how we might become a nature loving group and how we could share this with people in the pleasant cool weather'.





Visit of General Councilor

Bro. Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa, one of the General councilors, and the link councilor for South Asia, will be arriving in Sri Lanka to attend the Marist Asia Conference meeting to be held here. He will be in Sri-Lanka from 29th April to 08th May.

Brothers, please remember our sick and elderly Brothers in your daily prayers

Birthdays : your prayers are kindly solicited for birthday boys.

April

04th, Hadayat Deen (92) 3329295258
 15th, Chinthana Nonis (bro.chinthana@gmail.com)
 18th, Nicholas Fernando (94) 77 1531764
 21st, Paul Bhatti (97) 991636362



May

02nd, Sesu A. (91) 9994771878
 03rd, Anthony Francis (94) 779797497
 10th, Raj Kumar (91) 9585758874
 17th, Kumarasinghe Perera (94) 718375958
 18th, Johnson Gnanasekara (91) 9994559937
 31st, Jeyaraj M. A. (91) 9944940419

Blessings and Best wishes,

Brother Mervyn Perera,
 Provincial