

Daring... and growing in newness

Learning something new can be daunting. There are reasons why we avoid trying new things. One of the reasons is that we are afraid: afraid about what others think of us and of failure. We are afraid of being outside our comfort zone: afraid of being free, creative, authentic, vulnerable, disable, sick, change and judged



by others. We are also afraid of growing older, death, making decisions, and new beginnings. We only fail when we are afraid and stop trying new things. We can never cross the ocean until we have the courage to lose sight of the shore. Nothing will happen unless we take the initiative to do it. Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. This is what we see in the life of our Founder. We must be open to trying new things. The biggest adventure we can take in our life and mission is that we live the life of our dream, the dreams of our Founder and poor people. When we live these dreams, we build newness in Christ. (Adapted from an Unknown Author)

Final Profession of Bro. Jiji Dhasan

Bro. Jiji will be making his Final Profession on 7th April 2018 at the Marist International Novitiate, Tudella, together with the Novices who will be making their first vows. We thank Jiji for making this decision to continue as a Marist Brother for life.



Fist Profession of H. A. Pradeep Kumara

Pradeep will be making his Temporary Profession on 7th April 2018, at the Marist International Novitiate, Tudella. We are grateful that God has given a new addition to the Marist Province of South Asia. We thank Pradeep for his life-choice to be a Marist Brother.

Marist Aspirancy Programme

Marist Aspirancy Programme has been shifted to Our Lady's Hermitage, Community at Tudella. This is located in the former guest house of this community which was renovated recently. It can accommodate six aspirants in total. Bro. Noel Fonseka is in-charge of the Programme. There are three Aspirants: two of them studying in Grade 10 at Christ King College, Tudella and the other engaged in Technical Studies. He is following a course of English. We look forward to getting more candidates. We are grateful to Bro. Joseph Florentius for his ground work in recruiting and running the Programme for the past few years. (Bro. Noel Fonseka)



Community Leader - Nugegoda

Brother Roshan Silva has accepted to be the Leader of the Marist community at Nugegoda. Roshan is young and energetic and will be an asset to the community as its animator. We are thankful to Roshan for his generosity in accepting this added responsibility while he assists the Province in managing the building project of Maris Stella College, Thimbirigaskatuwa.

Marist Sevana, Haldanduwana, Dankotuwa

We are three in this community: Bros. Eric, Chamara and Michael. Chamara travels to Maris Stella College, Thimbirigaskatuwa and Eric to St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa for their ministries. Michael is the house keeper and engages in facilitating programs on Leadership and Spirituality to various groups. The brothers engage themselves in Parish activities, including Dham Pasal (Catechism classes) on Wednesdays.

The house has been renovated and given a new face-lift. It's also a 'Welcome House', situated in an eco-friendly 14-acre coconut land, for those who wish to spend some quiet time. Landscaping around the house is underway; a long-term plan due to financial constraint!

The community hosted four groups - Marist Novices from Tudella International Novitiate, Provincial Council, Lay Marists of Maris Stella College and the Parish Catechists and their families - providing the facility to run their own programs during the last two months. One of the purposes of this house is to have the facility available for those who wish to spend some time here and/or run their own programs. This facility is ideal for one-day programs. We extend an open invitation to 'come and see' us. (Bro. Michael De Waas)



Kalpitiya Community

The brothers at Marist Niwasa, Kalpitiya donated 150 school bags and mathematical sets to the needy students in the Roman Catholic Tamil School in Kalpitiya last December. This was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Old Boys Association of Colombo Branch and Maris Stella Primary School. Bro. Godfrey Perera was instrumental in organizing these. We were able to donate new clothes to the needy students at Roman Catholic Tamil School in Kalpitiya in January. The staff of Zonic Lanka at Katunayake were the donors. We thank Rev. Fr Srinath Fernando for his involvement in finding the sponsor for this worthy project. The enrollment and the number of students attending the Kalpitiya RC Tamil School has gone up due to the interest taken by the brothers in the lives of students in the area. (Bro. Lal Fonseka)



INTER-HOUSE ATHLETIC SPORTS MEET- 2018 Maris Stella College – Negombo

The Sports Meet of Maris Stella College, Negombo was held on Saturday the 27th January 2018 at the college grounds with the participation of students, parents, and distinguish guests. This is one of the colourful and glamorous events of the college.

General Athula Galagamage attached to the 54th Division in the Sri Lanka Army, in Mannar presided over the event as its Chief Guest and Mrs. Galagamage gave away the awards.

Among many major events, the March Past, Drill, Gymnastics and Band Displays were the most colorful ones that attracted the guests. The Julian House became the Champions recording the highest points at the Sports Meet.



INTER-HOUSE ATHLETIC SPORTS MEET Maris Stella College- Thimbirigaskatuwa

This Sports Meet was held on 13th February 2018 at the Negombo Maris Stella College grounds. The Chief Guest was Colonel Manjula Kariyawasam, the Director of the Physical Education, Development and Training in the Ministry of Education.



The Sports Meet was well attended by parents, well-wishers, distinguish guests, and the Principals and teachers of the neighboring schools. Brother Shanthi Liyanage, the Principal of the school, addressed the gathering, on the theme of the school for the year 2018 - A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body. He spoke about the value of sports in the life of students and appealed to

the parents to make sure that their children take part in at least one sport activity while they are in school. He reminded the students that taking part in sports would pay rich dividends in terms of fitness, well-being and happiness. The Chief Guest in his speech said that the Ministry of Education had already instructed school Principals to award extra marks to students who excelled in sports related to extra-curricular activities in their term tests.



The colourful event came to an end with the Julian House competing the three houses - Anthony, Lewis and Joseph - and becoming the 2018 Champions. The winners received their awards from the Chief Guest and his wife. (Miss Romain- Teacher, MSC-Thimbirigaskatuwa).

The Inter House Sports Meet of St. Joseph's college Nugegoda

This was held on 2nd February at Buddadasa ground in Nugegoda. Col. Manjula Kariyawasam presided over the event as its Chief Guest. The Anthony House became the overall champions. The sports meet was successfully completed under the guidance of the Principal, Bro. Sunanda Alwis, the Prefect of Games, Mr. Viraj Chathuranga and the members of the Staff. (Bro. Dulaj Fernando)



Independence Day Celebration in Sri Lanka.

Hi, I am Sasmika from Tudella International Novitiate. Sri Lankans celebrate their Independence Day on 4th February. We, at the International Novitiate, celebrated the day with our community members.



It was a wonderful time for our community, especially for the non-Sri Lankan members of our community. We decorated the place with different designs from Sinhala and Tamil cultures. The community members dressed themselves representing different religions and ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. We had some presentations about the country. The dinner was served with Sri Lankan food. We are thankful to Mrs. Stella and Mr. Nayagam our cooks who helped us prepare some spicy and delicious food.



The main focus of the celebration was the family spirit, a real expression of brotherhood in our community. I would like to thank all our brothers and novices for the support they extended to make this event a success, particularly to Wang Peng (from China) for his contribution in decorations.

I invite all our brothers in the Province of South Asia to pray for our community and our perseverance. (Sasmika)



Retreat & recollection

The annual retreat for the Brothers in the Province will be held from 3rd to 10th August at Serene Pastures Retreat House, Bolawalana. Br. Emili Turu, former Superior General will animate the retreat. Please keep the dates free for this wonderful opportunity to renew ourselves.



Recollections for the Year 2018

March 16th to 18th and October 26th to 28th at Serene Pastures Retreat House, Bolawalana.

India

La Valla community House for the Brothers at Viyalanmadu, Marist English Medium School was declared opened by Br. Mervyn Perera on 10th February, 2018. The Brothers working at the School had been living in an improvised classroom. Bro. Raj had initiated a project to build a residence for the Brothers with the funding assistance from Marist Solidarity Office in Australia. We are thankful to Br. Raj for this initiative and very grateful for the Marist Solidarity Office for their generosity in supporting our Indian Brothers.



The La Valla International Community

Bro. Lazar H. Sebastian has been invited to follow the formation program in preparation to be a member of the La Valla International Community. The formation program will be held in Italy from May to July 2018. He will be leaving for Rome for this purpose in May.

Pakistan

Spring Arrival at Sargodha Catholic School (SCS)

The Spring Season is showing its colors everywhere in Pakistan as the harsh and the cold winter is saying good bye gradually.

The ancillary staff along with students are getting ready to welcome this lovely season.

The ancillary staff under the supervision of Mr. Ilyas Maisih (Gardner) painted the flower pots in red and white to add colors to SCS atmosphere. The students from the class 7th went around the school watering, weeding and cleaning the flower pots and flower beds.

This simple activity has helped build up a healthy relationship between people and nature enhancing our COMMON HOME more beautiful and attractive. A big Thank You to our dedicated ancillary staff and energetic students (Bro. Farancis).



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH: "Happy Birthday Brothers!"



PRAYER REQUESTED

- Our Senior Brothers

Blessings and Best wishes,

Brother Mervyn Perera,
Provincial