



Visiting Jaffna fort.

**Editorial** Welcome everyone! It's been a while since our previous Newsletter, and many things have occurred here in Tudella and beyond. We hope you enjoy reading about our experiences!

**Jaffna Experience** Returning to our community after three months of ACEP, we second-year Novices, together with Brothers Réal, Rod and Jesudoss, went to Jaffna in the North of Sri Lanka, to share some of our ACEP experience. This year, the brothers organized our sharing in the form of a holiday-retreat. It was a great experience for all of us. We did our sharing in the mornings in the spirit of a retreat, and we visited Hindu and Buddhist temples in the afternoons. The sharing included many activities, in order to help us open ourselves to our companions. Through sharing some of our ministry encounters we touched into a deeper part of ourselves. We had many joyful moments, as well as difficulties and struggles in our personal, community, ministry and prayer experiences. ACEP is the beginning and the preparation for our future ministries, so we have learned and grown tremendously. We ended our trip by visiting some places of previous Marist ministry on the outskirts of Jaffna.

For me personally, our Jaffna trip was a nice moment to open up with my experiences, my joys, and especially my struggles, as well as to listen to my companions' sharing. *By Duc*

**Jaffna Trip 2019** One week after returning from our three months away on our ACEP, we second year novices and Brothers went on an eight-hour trip towards the northern part of Sri Lanka, to Jaffna. It was a wonderful and meaningful experience for us all, to relax and enjoy each other's company.



Visiting the Brothers' previous Jaffna community house.

We spent the first two days sharing the experiences of our ACEP, a great opportunity to express our successes as well as our difficulties during these three months. Some of us had a satisfying ACEP – however for some others it didn't turn out like what were expecting. So, we were all happy to listen and share with each other all those experiences. We also had some time to visit different Hindu and Buddhist temples, and the monuments which were left after the war. We



Feasting on freshly caught snails! (Br Rod didn't eat any!)



Visiting the local Hindu Temple.

enjoyed seeing the beauty and cultural richness of this part of the country. We are so grateful and thankful to our Brothers for giving us this opportunity, and we all found it a very helpful way to step back into our Novitiate life again.

By Long

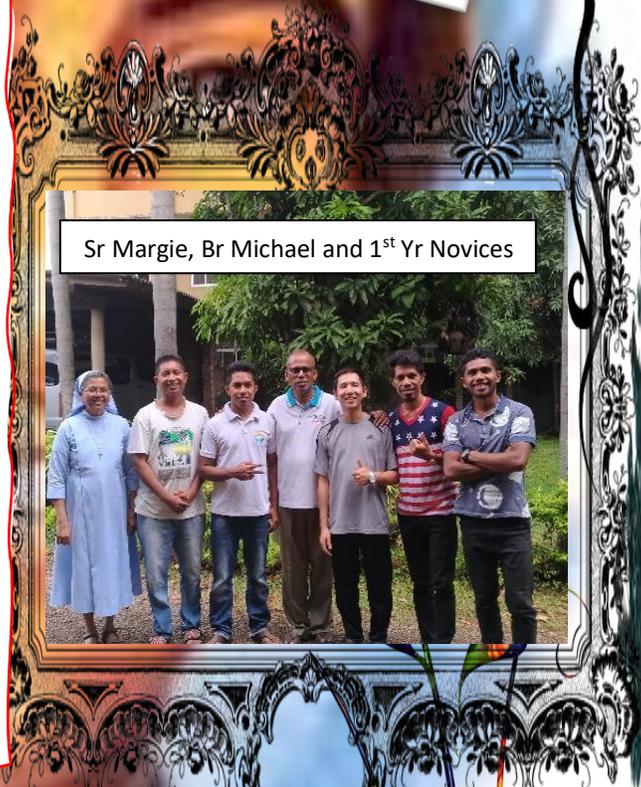


After lunch, before our swim.

### Human sexuality

Three months ago, all the first year Novices attended a wonderful workshop on human sexuality, with Br Michael de Waas, Sr Margie and Dr Mark. For me it was interesting to attend the sessions to study about our whole body, female and male. Before that I thought human sexuality was about bad words. But now I know that it's about a lot of good things for our human lives; if we live without this we will not be born or not live in the world. But to live our sexuality well depends on knowing ourselves well, and on our personal ability to befriend our physical and sexual feelings. To do so, you will be a good person and you will have good relationships with men and women as friendships. After the workshop I now know how to better control my sexual feelings and I have a meditation from Br Michael to use, which is helpful for me. I will put this meditation into practice sometimes.

By Gaspar Te'un



Sr Margie, Br Michael and 1<sup>st</sup> Yr Novices

## VIETNAMESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

It is a pleasure for me to write about the gathering of Novices and Brothers to celebrate Vietnamese Independence Day and the Feast of Our Lady of Lavang in the Marist Novitiate. It was a wonderful moment to know a bit about Vietnamese culture and what has been happening in their life. It was a great time for us all to know the history of Vietnam. Through this celebration, we also had a cultural meal together as Brothers and Novices. Especially for us Novices from Timor Leste, we enjoyed the Vietnamese food.

It was a beautiful day of celebration. *By Isaac*



Novices and Brothers after our first Spiritual Direction session at the Jesuit Centre in Negombo

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## Community Building Workshop, September 2019

After the second-year novices returned from different countries for their Apostolic Community Experience Program, and Br Réal from Québec, all members of the community were happy to be finally all together. Hence it was time to take a day off and to focus on our dreams, hopes and ideals concerning our community life.

We developed a program that helped us to do it: with games, a fantasy meditation, personal reflection on our PLP (Personal Life Plan), and a review of our Mission Statement, we arrived finally to the core of the day: "believing that with God all is possible, we try to express how we 'dream' our community life together".

To introduce it, Br Réal presented the « dream catcher ». The Amerindians (Indians of America) used to put the “dreamcatcher” above a sleeping area. The good dream can arrive to the sleeper while the bad dreams are caught by this net and melt at the first light of day. After this, each of us tried to express « the good dream » or his vision of the community with the use of some clay modelling.

Personally, during the sharing, I have been very touched, as much by the creativity of each one, as well as by the freedom and the depth of vision that each one could have. I could feel the wind of the Holy Spirit blowing in the sails of our small boat, pushing it to new and deeper water. And we really began to incarnate it in our daily life. I can see the difference... By Br Réal

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Br Rod conducting our Meditation

Football match with students in Maris Stella College. This was a happy experience for us because we had a chance to encounter and play a game with students. Moreover, it helped us to relax after so many busy activities in the novitiate. It was just a friendly match, so we had a lot of fun. At the beginning we were still strong, so we played equally well with the students. However, we were tired early because the weather was so hot, and we were not familiar with playing on a large field. Therefore all of us were tired and couldn't run and control the ball well. But we continued to enjoy playing the game and had a lot of fun. We were so tired and couldn't

play well, but luckily for us we still kept the score equal until the end of the match. And finally, we were defeated by a player penalty. After the game all of us were satisfied with our match. We came to shake hands with one another and took some pictures to remember this occasion. *By Nghi*



## Decorating our Chapel

After returning from our three months ACEP, there was a gathering of Lay Marists, Novices and Brothers to reflect with Mary on the day before our Assumption Feast Day. As part of our Workshop we began a reflective painting of "Mary today".

Before the day, we discussed where the best place to paint a picture would be, and we ended up deciding that the chapel would be the most appropriate place. As a group we looked at many possible pictures and decided on one that depicted the Holy Family returning from Egypt, leading the church forward.

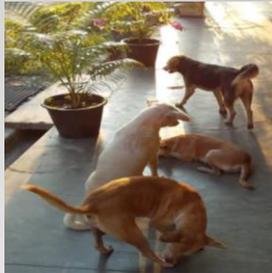
It took more than one month to complete, with the enthusiastic involvement of everyone in the community, including our local Lay Marists. We are not artists, but we tried our best to complete the picture. For me, personally, when I was painting, I felt that I was inside the picture, journeying with them, seeking the Kingdom of God.

*By Le Van Duy*



Novices Long and Duy, with Br Sasmika and students from Marist Stella College, on their Retreat Day

**Death of 'Whitey'** They may only exist in our life for several years, but we mean a lifelong time to them. Animals are good friends of human beings, especially dogs and cats that bring lots of fun into our daily life. Blacky, Whitey, Luffy, Jimmy, Lucky and others are pets that leave us sweet memories. After returning from ACEP, one of our watchdogs, Whitey, was sick. Soon after, she passed away from us. We thank God for these friends of human beings.



## Spiritual Direction Seminar

Human beings are created by God with mind, body, psyche and spirit. One of the Novitiate's goals is to discover our own spirituality, gifted by God. Moreover, it can't be cultivated well individually without guidance or accompaniment by an experienced person. Soon after the beginning of a new Semester, the Novitiate Formation Team arranged a seminar on spiritual direction. We have four spiritual directors, Sr. Canice (Holy Family Sisters), Fr. George SJ, Fr. Aloy SJ and Fr. Leon SJ. We had our first meeting with Sr. Canice at our novitiate, and with the Jesuit Fathers in their Provincial House. They made us feel at home and at ease. All the novices had our spiritual direction for the first time with our directors. We will regularly meet them once a month. We thank the Team for organizing it much earlier this year than last year. We also appreciate our four spiritual directors for their availability to us.

The New

## Celebration of Chinese National Day

1<sup>st</sup> of October this year is 70 years anniversary of the Establishment of People's Republic of China. On 29<sup>th</sup> of September, Sri Lanka International Novitiate Community celebrated Chinese National Day organized by Liu Cong, the only novice from China, with helps of whole community. Local Lay Marists, Brothers and religious friends were invited. Everyone enjoyed Chinese hotpot and some traditional foods. Through prayers and the presentations in videoclips, we renewed our impression and understanding about the reality of Catholic Church in China, Chinese cultures and China Society respectively. After celebration we feel more Chinese with Chinese.



## “Journey together in brotherhood” by Cinto

First of all, I want to send greetings to my mates and brothers in this Marist family. We are all called to journey with each other. My journey, as a novice in the Daceyville community, is with four professed



brothers - Paul Kane, Matthew Clarke, Michael Jones and Peter Conolly – a postulant (Ruas) and me. I am very happy to live as a member of the Brothers’ formation house and to experience how the brothers live their lives together in brotherhood.

Thank you for inviting me to write something for this newsletter. I am pretty well here with all my brothers, but still have ongoing treatment in St. Vincent Hospital in Sydney. Every day I have to go to hospital for five days a week. In the morning I leave home about 7:30 a.m. and come back have my breakfast about 9 a.m.

I meet with my novice director, Bro. Tony Shears, twice a week for accompaniment, learning about the Constitutions, the Founder and Mary. I have scripture classes twice a week as well with Bro. John Curry.

On Friday I study Henri Nouwen’s book about the prodigal son with Bro. Paul Kane. The rest of my day is just for me personally.

A few weekends back, Bro Paul, Ruas and I spent a weekend at the Brother’s beach house at Cronulla. We talked about our lives and our weekly programs. This weekend, we are going to Mittagong, where the Brothers have a retreat centre. We will be doing some work there in the gardens and enjoying the countryside.

It is fascinating for me to be here with the Brothers, even though we are all doing different ministries and in different places. Even though our community comprises different cultures, we still have a very strong family spirit among each other. All of us have one thing in common - to make Jesus known and loved.



### PHOTOS:

Enjoying lamb from the BBQ at Cronulla beach house.

Mass with Timorese people: Every first Sunday of the month there is a Mass in Sydney attended by many Timorese people.

Celebrating Brother Matthew’s birthday at the local club. Left to right: Cinto, Peter, Tony (novice master), Ruas, Michael, Paul and Matthew.