



MARIST COLLEGE

BULLETIN 10



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Marist College Chapel.

Life as an Aspirant *By Fred Kado*



It took me some time before I grew to understand what life here in the seminary is about. It was during our first mass at the Zion Chapel and Fr. Simon Mani shared in his homily that in order for a person to grow in the knowledge of God, he must pursue to know himself first. He added that self-knowledge leads to a better understanding of God. I felt his homily helped me understand what my first mission was as a person, and that it is to grow in the knowledge of myself and to understand myself more. This also helped me recognize that this was not just any institution, it is a special institution

21st March 2020 is a day I will always remember. It is the day I arrived at Marist College as a prepropadeutic candidate pursuing to enter the seminary as a seminarian under the Society of Mary.

I clearly remember processing thoughts of how I would expect things to be like in a seminary. To my surprise, my expectations and reality did not find common ground and it soon fueled my frustrations.



where special training is provided to special men who will embark on a special mission. .

The formation program here at Marist College does not only shape a seminarian to become a good priest, but to become a good priest that thinks, judges, and acts like Mary. It means encountering the uniqueness in people, listening to them and discerning where God is pointing me to respond. It means pondering about the immediate needs of others and how I can respond to it through the voices of others.

Amid all the distractions and noises that are natural products of the modern world, formation sets aside recollections to help us regather ourselves in the language of God, which is something the world has devalued over time, that which is called silence. I have found recollections and spiritual reading a very important part of my formation, as it imitates the very example of Jesus' solitary prayer in silence. Through the examples of Jesus we are able to reflect that "The Way" showed us that silence was a unique language and that prayer was that unique language in action, something we as seminarians are called to love whole heartedly.

As a seminarian, I now understand that we are here in a special place where we are trying to grow in the knowledge of ourselves and also to further our knowledge of God.

On a personal level, I can say that things can become difficult at times, I lost both my grandparents recently and it has really placed me in a position where I am demanded to use all that I have learned here to ensure that my loss does not lead me to make decisions out of my emotions. The current lockdown has had its fair share of hardships, I have lost more relatives during the second wave of covid-19 and most I am not able to farewell.

Amidst all the challenges of being a seminarian, I can personally say that the opportunity of being in Marist College and studying at the Pacific Regional Seminary has helped me to pursue the best version of myself. It has helped me grow in the understanding of the life I have chosen to live, to be able to see the special needs of people who are facing difficulties, to listen with our hearts, and to submit to God daily through words, thoughts, and deeds to others. May God be with us all, now and always.

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure"
- St. John Paul II -



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