

SMbulletin

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SPIRITUALITY AND ECOLOGY AT PALMAS DI MONTE ALTO

One of our Marist communities in Brazil is located in Palmas di Monte Alto. In 1742, a church was built on the hill, hosting a two meter high statue of Our Lady looking upon the inhabitants of the small town. In recent years, the parishioners have been dreaming of changing the Church's status to a Sanctuary, to answer the growing spiritual needs in the area. To enforce this process, they have renovated the church and the historic statute. On the road up to the hill they have built a Stations of the Cross and installed information panels. The Parish council has approved also a plan to install a monument dedicated to Fr Colin.

The same area suffers greatly from prolonged droughts, which make the soil hard and rocky. That's why, since 2016, Fr Arnaldo da Silva has encouraged the parishioners to plant trees and create a wood. The project has faced many difficulties, but thanks to their perseverance, the trees are now bearing their first fruits.

The conversion of the church to a sanctuary and the creation of the wood, are a response to the truth that "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change" (Laudato Si', 13).



RENOVATION OF THE NOVITIATE HOUSE IN EDEN

The Society is taking advantage of the absence of an international novitiate in the novitiate house in Eden, Philippines. A new building is being erected to accommodate the



larger novitiate classes. The construction is under the leadership of Fr Fernando

Ingente who also worked with the architect in the design. The building of ca. 600 square meters adds some additional bedrooms, a larger classroom, and other common areas. The construction is taking place on recently acquired property next to the original novitiate building. The new structure is expected to be completed before November 2021.

"GUSTARE DIO"

Italian confrere, Fr Faustino Ferrari, has published a book "Gustare Dio, sulle orme dei mistici" [to taste God, in the footsteps of the mystics]. The book opens with a quote from our founder: "We have to learn



also to taste God, oh yes, to taste God... to taste God means to have a wounded heart". The author wonders: "Can we gain wisdom by tasting God? Only if we give this time! A time of quietness, silence, meditation, and prayer is necessary to remain in God's company." Those who are interested can buy the book online.