



Marist College Suva

Salu Salu 2015



From the Superior: Fr Soane 'Ahoako

Every year brings changes to Marist College. 2015 has been no different. We began the year as a community of twenty five, with twenty seminarians. We welcomed four new men to Marist formation, two newly professed Marists returned from novitiate and four seminarians returned from their Marist Mission Experience. There were two new priests on the staff: Fr Sione Hamala as bursar and formator, and Fr Andrea Volininno as philosophy lecturer at the Pacific Regional Seminary.

We come from many lands and cultures. And the time spent at the beginning of the year was important in getting to know one another. One important task during orientation was settling on our personal goals for the year. Another was when the formators spoke about the formation program and their expectations.

We quickly jumped into Lent and it did not seem that long before we were celebrating the Easter ceremonies and then it was the end of the first term.

We said goodbye to three men as they

continued their discernment about vocation and life. Thank you to Cletus, James and Maselino for their contribution to the community. We wish them the best for the future.

One visible sign of change at Marist College this year are the renovations that have been completed and those that are ongoing. The deacons house had some much needed repairs in the first months for the year. Colin House, the main accommodation block, has received a new roof and over the holidays the work will continue. Hopefully it will be all complete when the community regathers in 2016.

We are very grateful to the generous benefactors who have made this work possible. Thank you to those who support us in many different ways: prayer, moral, and financial.

We are so grateful for the experiences of 2015 and pray that 2016 will be a year of many blessings for you and your family.

Fr Soane

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The Community

The Arrival of the Picpus Fathers

When the first group of Marist missionaries came to the Pacific they sought the advice of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, otherwise known as the Picpus Fathers. They had the responsibility of caring for the Vicariate of Eastern Oceania. The Marists were responsible for the Vicariate of Western Oceania.

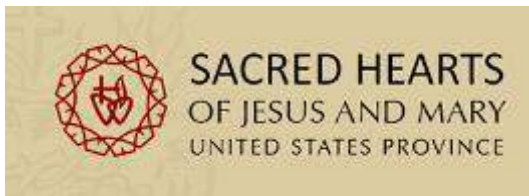
In those days the Picpus Fathers and Brothers provided hospitality and support for the Marists. We are now returning the favour—about 180 years later. The formation house for the US Province of the Picpus fathers has moved from Berkeley in California to PRS in Suva. Seven seminarians and two formators have made the journey. They celebrate Mass with us, eat with us and we join in many activities together. Some of them are living in the deacons house while others are living in the Wontok house at PRS.

We held a “get to know you” evening in which the seminarians shared some of the Marist and Picpus story with each other. It was interesting to hear about St Damian of Molokai and others.



Two Superiors:

Fr Dedi Riberus ss.cc and Fr Soane Ahohako sm



The Propaedeutic Term

A change to the formation system this year has been the introduction of the propaedeutic term. This is an introductory, or preliminary period, in which the students do some introductory work in English, Spiritual Formation and Human Development.

Paul Croker and George Rionimae joined us for the third term. They attended classes at the Pacific Regional Seminary and joined in all the community activities at Marist College.

At the end of the term George decided to return to his home in the Solomon Islands. Paul, who is from Fiji and has lived in American Samoa, will continue into Year One for 2016.



Paul Croker



George Rionimae

Movement of Seminarians

Pio Ravu and **Iosefo Vili** are going to Corpus Christi Teachers College for 2016 and 2017.

Brad Chadwick, Dick Tawake, Emil Kenewata and Cameron Mota are going to the novitiate in The Philippines.

Deacon Dennis Levi is appointed to the Dala community in the Solomon Islands.



Fr Andrea—A New Philosopher

After a long journey, passing through Australia and New Zealand, I finally arrived at my destination: PRS (Pacific Regional Seminary) and Marist College.

It was January 12, and three months have now passed since that first day. It was not the first day of school for me: that would come on February 17th. In fact, for the next three years I will teach philosophy at PRS. This was the first encounter with a new reality: the Marist College, the house of formation of future Marists.

I am an Italian Marist, indeed Roman from Rome, which now is located opposite the capital of Christianity, the priest of Rome as far away from Rome. The first impression when you get in the new world, the new over the old Europe, is that the time zone tells us that we are the first to start the day. All starts from Fiji, from the East, Europe comes after. It's nice to celebrate the start of the year or Christmas, first, or end your day while in Rome they are starting.

The second aspect is the beginning of the year after the summer holidays. In Europe, the first part of the school year is marked by the expectation of Christmas, and the Christmas holidays. The second part by the expectation of Easter and the start of the holidays. Here the school year begins with Lent and then Easter. You enter directly in the center of the liturgical year, the Easter Triduum. And since Easter, we continue in the ordinary season of the liturgy. The school year ends with the feast of Christ the King, the end of the liturgical year. Christmas well, not only the memory of the first coming of the Lord, but the eschatological expectation of the second Advent.

Third aspect: the "Oceanic culture". It is appropriate to talk about the different cultures in the Pacific. Different languages, cultures, traditions, lingua franca (English or French), characters and different

climates. In classes where I teach, I have in mind the faces of those who come from Samoa or Vanuatu, who is from Suva, the capital of Fiji, and who is from an island of the archipelago. This diversity is exciting, but it is also a challenge for those who come from traditional structures of European society and the Roman Christianity.

Fourth aspect: the youth. I use this word here because the Church is young. The presence of young people and families with many children, not only as the only child as in Europe, makes the Church young and alive. The liturgical celebrations show the will to live, without much concern for the future. The Holy Spirit thinks

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about the future, he guides history.

I conclude with a final point: the suburbs. Pope Francis speaks a lot to go to the suburbs to meet others. Fiji is perhaps one of the suburbs of the world. Nobody talks about the big newspapers. Occasionally, due to natural disasters, we can speak of Vanuatu or otherwise. Even Jesus was born in a suburb, one of the Roman Empire. Our founder, Father Colin, said that we had to enter the house of Nazareth, and from there, look at the world. I think looking at the world, from the house in the suburbs, make us closer to Christ.

Fr Andrea



Reviewing a homily



Year One First Time in Formation



Dennis and Timothy playing for PRS in the dark blue.

Who can give us an answer to the following two questions?

“How many legs does a table have? Who would share with us their skills, knowledge and experience of how to build a good table?”

As a first year Marist seminarian at Marist College, Suva, it is an objective for me to make an effort to answer these two questions. Learning new things or discovering new places, new cultures, and new environments is a big challenge for me. However, it is a privilege for me to learn new things.

The most difficult thing for me is to adapt to a new way of life in Marist College. Marist College has boundaries or rules that are strictly applied on prayers and meditation, community work, sports, our relationships with my brother seminarians and the formators. This is unlike other places where the rules are not strictly applied.

I really enjoyed being in the Formation House playing soccer as I have for many years. It was the first time for me to learn playing rugby and be involved in other activities.

The “Formation Talks” by our formators were based on many different topics reflecting on “formation” and concentrated mainly on the quality of life. Marist College is one of the religious institutions that teaches the hardest courses that I have ever studied in my life.

It teaches me to try and make an effort to answer the first question in theory and to answer the second question practically. Or in other words, to make a quality table that attracts people to come and sit around it, eating and sharing together.

The point is that: Marist College teaches me to know God through Mary by committing myself with the four legs of the table or the four pillars of “Formation” namely: human formation, spiritual formation, intellectual formation and pastoral formation and to practically use these pillars as a

“Learning new things or discovering new places, new cultures, and new environments is a big challenge for me.”

pathway to a better life.

I hope I will make use of all my skills and talents to make a balanced table of life, to serve and not to be served.

First time in “formation” is the “reformation” of the formation that being started by my parents.

God Bless

Timothy Hare



Aspects of Life



Novitiate Experience– Pio Ravu Year Four

I am privileged to share some of my personal experience of the Novitiate in 2014 in Eden Davao, Philippines. All who have been to the novitiate are aware of the importance of tasting God in their ordinary involvement in life.

The weight and depth of the novitiate experience may be unexplainable, however, allow me to wear my discovery spectacles and briefly lead you to a magnificent experience that I would call: "Searching in the Silence of Eden "

Eden is the new location of the novitiate. It is a quiet and peaceful place. Rather isolated it is twelve kms away from the main road to Davao City. Silence and solitude is the chorus sung in the heart and it resounds repeatedly in the consciousness of a novice. This was fortified by the enormously well-structured program presented by the formators. This boosted our morale in the four aspects of the human person: spiritual, intellectual, emotional and pastoral.

We were made up of different men from many walks of life. While we are many and varied, unique and special, with our own distinctive characters, personalities, capabilities and talents, each searched to answer the question "What do I want in Life?"

Sometimes we choose the best version of ourselves while there were other times when we chose the second best version of ourselves. There were times when we were caught up in our own little world with our limited knowledge coupled with our own reasons to justify our stand. But, life seems to take its nature, unfolds progressively, and allows each individual to be drawn to be the best can be.

Being in the Philippines was a new experience for each of us. Pastoral immersion to Marist community families helped us in our relationships with others in society. Tasting foreign delicious

foods, hearing a new language and wondering what was said were some of the never to be forgotten experiences that I have cherished and valued.

Visiting new and prominent places, engaging in big great events, associating with people of different status, from the most dignified to the least fortunate in society. These all contributed to the forming of the person to be a Marist in soul, heart and mind.

While we are many and varied, unique and special, with our own distinctive characters, personalities, capabilities and talents, each searched to answer the question "What do I want in Life?"

Working together with the other novices helped us to grow closer to one another as strong bonds were formed.

Working on the Grotto and the playing

field were significant projects that helped improve Eden and helped us in our relations with each other.

By the grace of the risen Christ I wish to acknowledge the great and supporting people who have walked with me through the novitiate. The Marist Family in all its branches and units, the Marist Laity who became our language teachers and tour guides and who helped us in our pastoral areas. The families whom we consider as our own families (Digos), Nanay and Tatay who have cooked and looked after us and to all my brothers who journeyed along with me with the help and wisdom of the novitiate team.

This I will confidently assert was a year that I for one, will always cherish and value with privilege and honour. May this dedicated Year for the Consecrated Life be a special and life giving year for one and all, in honour of Mary the Mother of God.

Pio Ravu sm



New Marists Profession Day January 2015

Culture Shock

It's a pleasure for me to write something on this Salusalu (newsletter) for the first time. Different cultures that I meet here in the Marist College in Fiji always give me a shock, because it was the first time for me to experience it. There are many things that I want to share but I'll just mention some that really makes me think and compare to my own culture. So far "I can only draw what I see," just like what I believe in my life.

The 'ava presentation.

In Samoa we call it 'ava, Tongan call it kava and for the Fijians it is grog or the yaqona. Different names, different taste but same feeling at the end. I thought it's only Tonga, Samoa and Fiji that have the 'ava, but no.

This is the first time for me to see

presenting but the reason why they use 'ava is all the same. They use it for special occasions or for the welcoming and farewelling of guests.

I thought that for every Pacific Islander, English was their second language. But I just realized here, that for some people, English is their third, fourth or even fifth language. I can't believe but I was just observing it silently. No wonder why most of them are smart because the more they know the more they experience. They can use different languages with a different thinking to get ideas. Wow! I wish I can speak three or four languages. It's a big challenge for me to have the courage to learn more to get more. What a small world it was before.



there are other countries like Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Caroline Islands, and they also have different ways of presenting the 'ava in their own culture. What a shock. Some they chew the raw 'ava and then drink but for Caroline Islanders they use the oil to oil the quest after drinking 'ava in their presentation.

It's just the difference in ways of

The common thing is respect. But also different ways of respect that I learn from here. Sisters are the apple in our eyes, we never allow them to drink together with us but here in Fiji it's the opposite. That's all I can draw from my view of perspective.

Fa'afetai tele lava
Iosefa Misoata setu.



Marist Mission Experience Paulo Year Six

I give thanks to God for his great love as I reflect back on my Pastoral experiences in the Solomon Islands. I did my pastoral in Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Dala South. Dala South is a village in the northern part of Malaita. As I typed my pastoral reflection I recalled the moment Fr. Vaioleti told me, "Paulo this is Dala." I looked to the left and to the right as we drove through the village. It was a totally new surrounding, but to this moment it is a place that I call home or luum as the Kwara'ae people of Dala would say.



My life was never boring because of my work in the school as a teacher and as Bursar. I was also assigned to the Parish. There I was involved as the youth coordinator, I gave seminars to various prayer groups like the Legion of Mary, Pioneer groups, Charismatic, Sunday school children and other groups like young women's group, women's group and altar boys, running recollections and visiting the people in the village.

Sometimes my work was very challenging, but I am happy that I had such a wonderful community that supported me and encouraged me and challenged me to go the extra mile. I am also grateful to the people for their support, for their kindness, hospitality, and love and acceptance.

Every day there were two Masses, singing practice, various meetings, teaching, and preparing seminars. We were also determined to keep our community life going. I was there with Frs Vaioleti, Valu and Deacon Sam who was ordained to priesthood at the end of last year.

Fr Vaioleti is a great Marist and a good model, a great priest and a wonderful brother. I learned a lot from him, the way he lives his life, his principles, his love for the sacraments and his commitment.

Valu is a great leader in school often listening to others ideas before making his point and he is well organized.

Sam also taught me to be courageous in speaking out the truth and to preach the word of God without trying to please people.

Our community program began with Mass every morning followed by morning prayer and breakfast. We don't normally come back for lunch so we usually took coconuts and biscuits for lunch. There was a community meeting each month. The community gathered for a day of recollection on the first Saturday of the month too. I enjoyed the recollection because we took turns preparing the talks and leading the recollection. We took turns in cooking our own food and spent our meal times talking and sharing about different issues or experiences and we often had a good laugh about it especially recalling our experiences in novitiate and in Marist College.

My goals last year were to learn as much as I can from my Solomons Experience. I wanted to explore my



talents and capabilities, to discover how best to journey with the people, encourage them in their faith journey and to discern whether I have a Marist vocation.

I believe I managed to achieve these goals. At times when things seemed impossible I found myself trusting God and offering everything back to Him because I believe that it is His work that I am doing and not my own.

Overall I really enjoyed the experiences I had in the Solomons, and I pray that the Lord will continue to bless the wonderful people that I have encountered in my pastoral. Rodo Lea, Rodo Diana, Bonisiani and Vinaka Vakalevu!



The Holiday Experience Cameron Mota

Anticipation

And so it started in the month of November. "A few more weeks to go and we will be there." And then when the actual time appeared the air was totally filled with joy and laughter.

The journey

Our journey to the land of the unexpected (PNG) begins when we departure bula land (Fiji). It is my second time to be on an international flight. I allowed myself to sit quietly and patiently and continued to pray in silence with my whole heart for our safe arrival to the land of the unexpected.

As soon as we arrived and the door of the plane pushed open, allowing me to set my foot on the land of the unexpected, I automatically looked up into the clear blue sky with a huge smile and the joy of relief. At last we had arrived, I commended, thanks to Mother Mary for bringing us safe to our destination. Coming out from the international terminal we got sight of Fr. Sione Hamala sm who was standing there innocently under the heat of the midday sun waiting patiently for us.

He drove us to Marist College Bomana where we met all the Marist priests from the province of Bougainville having their meeting with the provincial superior Fr. Ben McKenna and Fr. Sete.

Bomana

The final Mass for the closing of Marist College Bomana was led by Bishop Bernard Unabali, the bishop of Bougainville. In his homily he thanked and acknowledged the Society of Mary for the role it has played in the development of the church in Bougainville and PNG. This place has produced some fine priests and ex-seminarians who help in the development of the church in one way or the other. Looking to the Marist priest and seminarians present on this occasion, for some of them it was the last time to gather in this place and for

some it is all over now.

Regional House of Bougainville

During the holiday at the Regional House, I had the chance to visit the house of the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. While sitting there at the round table having this delicious meal and as usual sitting quietly listening to beautiful conversation with the president of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville chief Dr. John Momis and Fr. Manu, another priest from Filipino, the missionaries of Philippines to PNG, and a important man from United Nation. I was so inspired by the way they approached each other during the conversation, mostly they were talking on politics and theology in today's context. That evening was a memorable moment for me.

Arriving home

On our way to my home which is six hours drive from the northern part of the island to the southern part, my eyes started to catch a glimpse of the unique nature of Bougainville.

Breathing the fresh air once again and listening to the birds as the trees swing and dance to the tune of the eastern winds gives comfort in the places which I love most. My sweet home right in the west Pacific ocean, the home of rising sun with many clear fast running fresh rivers that shines to reflect its beauty into the natural world and the mountains that echo the identify of her beauty to the visitors.

I was woken by the bell from the church. Suddenly to my surprise I saw my small cousin brothers playing cards just beside my bed. I was so happy to be back to my home Parish, Tabago parish, Buin in south Bougainville. The parish comprises a health centre, a primary school and a church. This is where both my parents live. Our home is just 30 minutes walk from the parish mission. My parents were very proud to see me again and so were my relatives. Staying in the city and



Cameron and Emil

coming to the country side draws different pictures because all you can see in rural areas like this are the tall huge trees, thick tropical rainforest and mighty mountains and in the city are the skyscrapers and stadiums.

Catching up with family

After staying in the village for a few weeks with my grandmother and my father's brothers I decided to go and stay with my parents at the parish station compound. There I met my brother and sister just arrived back from school after a year away from home. My parents were very happy to see the three of us again (me, my brother and my sister.) It is a blessing to be part of such a family like this and I thank God for giving me such a family. We share our different experiences with our parents and they were very happy and listened very attentively to what we have discovered from the world outside.

With Fr Philemon

The most interesting part of my holiday was the journey to the mountain community with Fr. Philemon Korake, a diocesan priest. There were a number of fast flowing rivers to cross. The mountain track too, in some places, is so narrow that only one person can walk through. During the Mass I was struck by the faith of the children who were baptized and made their First Communion at this time. After the mass I was allowed to give a little speech on my vocation and my experience at Marist College in Suva.

Year of Consecrated Life



Reflections on the Consecrated Life

We, as Marists, are people who lead a Consecrated Life. We sometimes think of it as a demanding sacrifice but, in reality, it is a life we actually want to live. It is one in which we can work explicitly full time for the Lord.

We hear about Liberation Theology in terms of an option for the poor and the fight against poverty. But we must remember poverty is not just material but cultural and spiritual also. In fact, it is often spiritual and cultural poverty that is at the root of material poverty. (I am using the term cultural poverty in the broad sense of our world view and our actual life and lifestyle).

The Consecrated Life seeks first a liberation through our cultural and spiritual fulfilment and a sharing of our own freedom from darkness through the empowerment that the Faith brings.

Our Constitutions remind us of the purpose of the Society which is our own spiritual fulfilment and growth and, through this, the service of others in union with the Church.

We should then, be very grateful to the Society of Mary for making possible the privilege of spending our whole lives in the service of the Lord in the spirit of Mary and under her protection. We recognise that it is a blessing to be able to take the three vows and to have the graces to live this life and really enjoy the life that

it makes possible,

We are not, of course, saying that we have joined the 'club' and can now sit back and enjoy its resources in a material way. But yes, we are members of the Society and proud of it. We are grateful for its spiritual riches which we receive through the training we get and the support we receive from our confreres. This support is not just one of friendship and real example but also the support of our administration, from Rome down to our own community, which allows us to bring those riches into play.

Fr Kevin McGuire SM



Emil sm, Lopez (Chuk), John ss.cc



Renovations



May Retreats



During the May holidays the seminarians had their annual retreat. Fr Sione led a retreat at the Ashram for the Year Two to Six seminarians.

Fr Tony preached a retreat for the Year One seminarians and Dennis from Year Seven at the Nazareth Prayer centre.



Profession and Deaconate



*Receive the Gospel
of Christ, whose
herald you now
are.
Believe what you
read, teach what
you believe and
practice what you
teach.*



Deacon Dennis and his family



Sr Valerie sm, Br Dennis sm, Sr Sela smsm



Fr Larry Duffy sm and Deacon Dennis

From Home to Home!

It is a privilege and an honour to contribute to the Salusalu Newsletter for 2015. I was asked to write an article on the topic "Back Home" meaning coming back to Marist College and to the formation house. Nevertheless, I decided to give these few words the title of "From Home to Home."

As I was growing up I saw home as very much associated with family and with blood relations. However, "Home" is where I belong. A place where people belong to one another and a sense of belonging to the same purpose is where home is.

Coming back, to Marist College, from my pastoral years is like moving from one home to another. During my pastoral years at Corpus Christi Teachers College (2013-2014) I had a few places that I called home. It is because of the sense of belonging to one another and to the same purpose of life that is there to share with others.

I spent my two years living at the Fiji Regional House which is home for me. It is a home where we, (the community members), look after one another as brothers and Mary is our Mother. It is at home that my worries are shared, my challenges are encountered, my joys are proclaimed and my successes are harvested. It is at home that I learnt how to be Marist.

I owe a lot to my family (community) of the Fiji Region. In whatever community I went to and especially to my brothers at the Regional House for giving me the opportunity to be at home with you.

Two of my elder brothers who have helped me and my brother Louis Melsul sm in many unlimited ways that we would like to pay our special respect and sincere thanks, who have passed into eternal life are Fr Larry Hannan RIP and Fr Lui Raco RIP. You have taught us how to be Marists through the example of your lives and we are grateful that we once shared your lives.

Marist College is home since the first day I entered in 2008. In the year 2013 I left home and this year I returned

home. According to Heraclitus it is impossible to step twice into a river, meaning that change is permanent. I witness to this; the Marist College that I knew when I left in 2013 for pastoral is no longer the Marist College of today.

Things have changed in the past two years. However, I am pleased to meet new smiling faces at home and to meet the new members of the formation team this year. There are changes in the programmes, in the people, in the atmosphere and in its traditions. These changes gave me good times to adapt myself to them through the feelings of frustration, lost, happy and excitement.

But the fact remains that the purpose of the formation house stays the same. Whatever changes that I have experienced, all are contributing to forming me to serve the aims of the Society. All the values that were fostered in the past three years are still fostering now at home.

I am glad to return home after my two years of Marist Mission Experience to be home together with the rest of my brothers to share in the goodness that our home offers us. I am looking forward for a fruitful and joyful year together with new things, new minds, new atmosphere and new achievements. I love to back from home to home! God Bless and 'Ofa atu.

Lutoviko



Lutoviko and Louis



The Marist College Community 2015



**Year One: Gabriele Saunivalu, Timothy Hare,
Iosefo Setu, Pio Tabuasei**



Propaedeutic Students: Paul Croker, George Rionimae



Year Two

James Mafi, Emil Kenewata, Cameron Mota, Iosefo Amuri



Year Seven: Dennis Levi

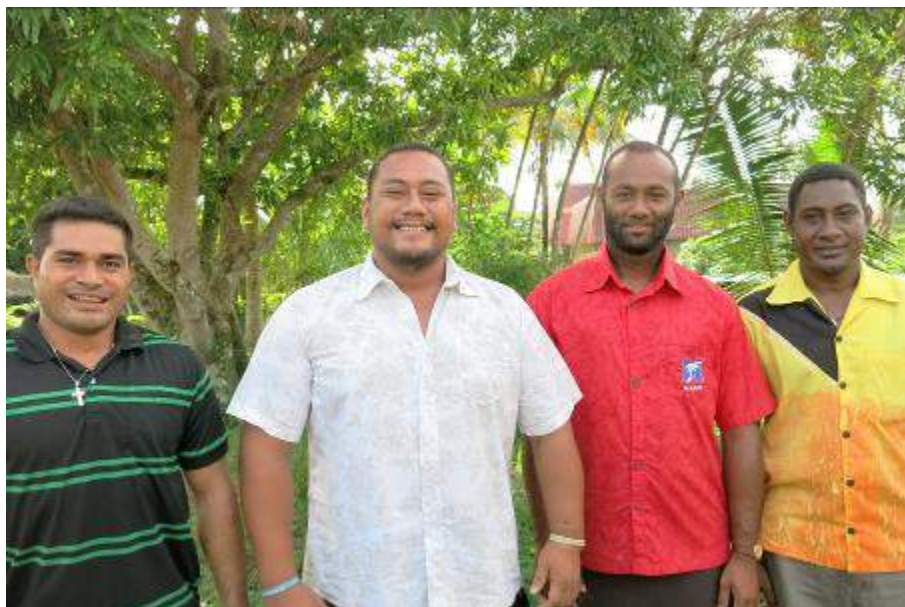


Year Three: Dick Tawake, Mika Misinale, Brad Chadwick





Angie



Year Four: Iosefo Vili, Maselino Kolio, Pio Ravu, Peter Puamae



Year Six

Lutoviko Olie, Paulo Ravunakaidere, Louis Maite, Cletus Banak



Helen and Sova



Adrea



**Fr Sione Hamala, Fr Soane Ahohako, Fr Tony Kennedy,
Fr Kevin McGuire, Fr Andrea Volininno**

Conferral of Ministries: Marist and Picpus



Mika, Sefo, Pio and Jeremy



Two Provincials: Fr Johnathon and Fr Ben

Pacific Regional Seminary Graduation



Dick, Mika, Brad

Diploma of Theology with Distinction



Dennis

Bachelor of Divinity

Renewal of Vows



Lutoviko, Peter, Paulo, Mika, Pio, Iosefo

Renewal of Vows



Louis

Renewal of Vows