



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2023 VOL. 74 NO. 2

MARIST MISSION CENTRE (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250

The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

ABN 87 382 823 140

CARING FOR EACH OTHER & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Caring for each other as brothers and sisters is at the heart of the Scriptures and of our mission. This call begins in the book of Genesis, is expressed in the parable of the Good Samaritan and is reflected in the actions and words of Pope Francis. See his letter *Fratelli Tutti* Brothers and Sisters Together.

Pope Francis has a gift with words, has the courage to visit countries where there is poverty and war and has a willingness to engage with other world religions. His principles of Catholic Social Teaching set out clear foundations for the mission of the church and a guide for our daily lives and ministries.

Five foundational principles of Catholic Social Teaching are:

- Care for the dignity of each person
- Care for the poor especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
- Care for justice, truth, integrity and peace
- Care for the common good and creation
- Care for the participation and partnership with local stakeholders.

These foundational principles together with the Spirit of Mary shape the mission of the Marist Mission Centre and help determine the choice of the projects that are supported by MMC. These same principles foster sustainable development within the community.

This MMC Newsletter includes stories of the Anondo Neer Centre in Bangladesh for children and young adults with disabilities being cared for by the SMSM Sisters, professional staff and carers.

Our focus then turns to Oceania where MMC has funded the upgrade of a kindergarten in Tonga and a Restoration & Reforestation Project in Fiji supported by the Marist Sisters who are working with the local community.

In these challenging times, we are most grateful for your heartfelt and generous support. A breakdown of the projects and allocation of funds for the 2022 year is tabled on the back page.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



Right: Birthday celebration at Anondo Neer



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



BANGLADESH: ANONDO NEER HEALING AND HOPE

Anondo Neer means 'House of Joy'. The Centre is for young people and adults with physical, social and intellectual disabilities and is conducted by the SMSM Sisters. In the local culture, disabilities are regarded as a source of shame and exclusion for the individual. The mother is often blamed for the disability, abandoned by her husband and/or subject to violence. The program is located in Dhaka city and has three outreach Centres as well as home visits.

There are two activities taking place in this photo.

In the background several young students are receiving reading and writing lessons from a staff member and a staff helper with a disability.

In the foreground a young child is receiving physiotherapy while the mother is sitting beside them learning the massage technique to be conducted at home.



Above: Learning and Healing

The program includes a variety of basic life skills such as: physical exercise, washing hands, feeding, dressing and showering oneself, performing household tasks, making crafts and social skills such as good manners and behaviour towards themselves and others.



Right: Physical Exercise



Above: Reading and Writing

Staff member, Sujata, in the centre of the photo, is conducting a reading and writing activity with young adults. The gift of reading and writing opens the minds and hearts of these young people to a new world beyond their disability.

A key feature of the program is the involvement and participation of family members who can continue with the program activities and skills in their own homes.

TONGA: PARISH OF ST JOACHIM & ANNE - KINDERGARTEN

The parish of St. Joachim & Anne serves three villages and is conducted by the Marist Fathers. The parishioners are concerned for the education and faith of their children especially in light of the sociological changes taking place in their country. The Parish Council plan was to respond to these issues by the restoration of an existing old building to be used as a new kindergarten. Initially the kindergarten will cater for 25 boys and girls.



Above: Old Classroom Buildings

The old building was previously used for education purposes and will now be restored for the education of children and the building up of faith within the community.

The new building is surrounded by an open area suitable for play and other activities for a kindergarten.



Right: New Buildings

The Parish Council was actively involved in this project. They are addressing the challenge of social changes in Tonga and have decided to invest in the education of children, beginning with kindergarten education. They have made a local financial contribution to the project and were actively involved in supporting and monitoring the project.

FIJI: YASAWA ISLANDS - RESTORATION & REFORESTATION

The impact of climate change is a major issue facing our near neighbours in Oceania. The Yasawa Islands are located off shore near the Nadi International Airport where the vegetation and waterways have been devastated by local development and tourism. Sr. Lora sm whose family comes from this island is working with other local families for the restoration and reforestation of their island home.

MMC has funded plants and seedlings and the building of a house for families to live in while they work on the restoration of their island home.



Above: A Place to live & work

MMC Marist International Mission Projects 2022 Generous hearts supporting projects

African Projects	\$ 123,222	Educational and Community Assistance
Bangladesh	\$ 34,601	Educational Assistance
Bougainville	\$ 70,200	Education and Health
Cambodia	\$ 85,016	Marist Solidarity - Health and Education
East Timor	\$ 36,571	Environmental Sustainability
Fiji	\$ 74,750	Community Education and Support
Myanmar	\$ 25,750	Educational—Accommodation Assistance
Oceania and Rome	\$ 442,425	Seminary Support and Marist Missions
Papua New Guinea	\$ 24,000	Community Education and Assistance
Philippines	\$ 108,792	Balay Pasilungan and Balay Banaag programs
Samoa	\$ 20,000	Community Assistance
Solomon Islands	\$ 326,470	Community Education and Support
Tonga	\$ 29,993	Community Education and Support
Thailand	\$ 115,011	Marist Asia Foundation—Health and Education
Ukraine	\$ 20,500	Refugee Assistance
Vanuatu	\$ 35,837	Educational Assistance
Total Project Funding	\$ 1,573,138	
Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)		\$ 653,798
Marist Fathers Overseas Mission (MFIM)		\$ 919,340



**Donations over
\$2.00 to AMCOA
are tax deductible**

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