

# Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission Fund (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250

and

The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid Fund  
(AMCOA)

ABN 87 382 823 140



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## The Dignity of the Person and Human Development

Pope Francis sent a message to the world leaders gathered for the World Economic Conference in Davos, Geneva in January this year calling on the world leaders: 'to safeguard the dignity of the human person, in particular by offering to all people real opportunities for integral human development'.

Pope Francis stated that: "men and women risk being reduced to mere cogs in a machine that treats them as items of consumption to be exploited, with the result that – as is so tragically apparent – whenever a human life no longer proves useful for that machine, it is discarded with few qualms".

The stories in this Newsletter are wonderful examples of safeguarding human dignity and fostering integral human development with a deep spirit of compassion and justice. The program in Bangladesh for children with disabilities is called: Anondo Neer, meaning 'Nest Joy'.

The families who bring their children to the centre learn the skills to help with their child's development. Not only are the children benefiting from the physical therapy given, the mothers are also finding much support and joy in being together.

Thanks to your support and generosity the Marist Mission Centre is able to bring joy and hope to the most vulnerable and needy in the Pacific and Asia regions. With our thanks to you and your families for your continuing help.



Mother and Child, Bangladesh



ACFID  
MEMBER

Fr Paul Sullivan sm, Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website: [www.maristmissions.com](http://www.maristmissions.com)

## Bangladesh - Daka Anondo Neer Project

AMCOA project

'Nest of Joy' is the name of the program conducted by Sr. Julienne SMSM for children with disabilities. The mother of this young boy often said: 'If only my son would say something, anything, what joy it would bring us'. Finally, at 15 years of age, PC, with severe autism started saying "just keep quiet" and he said it all day every day. Now he is trying to sing.

**Right:** Learning to talk and sing



**Above:** Jo after his operation

Little Jo, who lives in a makeshift shelter by the rail-lines, has hydrocephaly as well as intellectual impairment and has had to undergo many operations. He is now recovering at 'Nest of Joy' and showing his beautiful smile.

## Thailand - Ranong

AMCOA project

### Marist Asia Foundation

#### Education alleviating poverty

Refugees and their families from Myanmar are unwelcome in Thailand. They are treated like outcasts within the community. These children now have a safe place for play and learning together. The Marist Fathers conduct educational and health programs for children from kindergarten to on-line Diploma Courses with the Australian Catholic University for senior students.

**Right:** Kindergarten Children, Thailand



# Fiji - Suva

## Nazareth Prayer Centre

MFIM project

### 'Come & See' Program

The Nazareth Prayer Centre is located by the sea and is an ideal place for some quiet time and prayerful reflection. Sr Denise smsm with a support team conducts the prayer centre for community leaders, adults and young men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. She also conducts a meditation program for children in schools.



**Above:** Groups of adults from the community and surrounding islands come and stay for a day, a week or a month at the prayer centre to enrich their lives with prayer and meditation.



**Left:** The 'Come & See' program helps young men to discern their vocation in life. In a prayerful atmosphere, these young men are discerning if God is calling them to the priesthood or religious life.



**Right:** The beautiful gardens and statues within the grounds of the Nazareth Centre are ideal for prayer, relaxation, meditation and enjoying each other's friendship and company.



## Senegal - Dankar

MFIM project



Looking to the future with hope - the Marist Sisters conducted a Leadership Program for thirty eight Sisters under 60 years who are currently working in various mission countries. MMC sponsored some of the Sisters to attend this four week program.

**Left Back:** Regina de Oliveira and Conceição de Lacerda (Brasil), Kate McPhee (Australia)

**Left Front:** Terube Ata (Philippines) and Amedee Kantoussan (The Gambia)

## Tonga - Cyclone Gita - A'pi Fo'ou College

Gita went over Tonga on the night of 12 February 2018 and left destructions never seen before on the Island. Most of the people are safe. However, the school buildings at A'pifo'ou College were not spared. A lot of work and help are urgently needed.

Right: Tonga classroom



### Book for Sale

*A Song For Nagasaki*, by Fr. Paul Glynn sm

**This popular book** has sold over 100,000 copies. A deeply moving story of Professor Takashi Nagi's spiritual pilgrimage profoundly affected by the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Sold over 100,000 copies in 17 languages. Slightly aged copies \$5.00, New copies \$10.00. All proceeds to the third world poor. Contact Marist Mission Centre for details at [admin@maristmissions.com](mailto:admin@maristmissions.com)

Two other books for sale by Fr Paul Glynn are: *Healing Fire & Frozen Earth*, and *Like a Samurai*



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**Bougainville**

MFIM project



**Above:** Community leaders gather to develop an Alcohol Awareness Program.

**Prayer**

Blessed are the poor in spirit  
 Blessed are the gentle  
 Blessed are those who mourn  
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness  
 Blessed are the merciful  
 Blessed are the pure in heart  
 Blessed are the peacemakers  
 Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness  
 They shall see God

- Matthew: 5:3-10



MFIM project



**Above:** Kobo has been the gardener at the Nazareth prayer centre in Suva for twenty years. MMC helps to fund his important role in creating the peaceful atmosphere at the centre.