

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



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
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Marist Asia – Celebrating 40 Years

Forty years ago four Marists set out to start a Marist Mission in the Philippines during the time when Fr. Bernie Ryan sm was Superior General of the Marist Fathers. Two of these Marists were from NZ, one from Tonga and the other from Ireland all with a commitment to serve the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the spirit of Mary.

The mission was founded on the southern island of Mindanao and since that time over thirty Marists have made a commitment to this mission. The mission has been blessed with vocations from the Philippines and is now known as the District of Asia with an outreach in Thailand.

Fr. Chris Ganzon sm, a Filipino, is their leader. The mission has included ministries to refugees, street boys & girls, prisons, youth, a Parish, chaplaincies to the University and people with mental disabilities, inter-religious dialogue and vocations.

Sr. Juliana Toluono smsm at the Anondo Neer Centre, Dhaka City, Bangladesh conducts a program for children/young adults with multiple disabilities and their families. These people are mostly ignored, rejected and considered as a curse in their culture and as a source of shame to their family. The Centre steps in to embrace these children of God to provide them with a safe haven full of love and peace.

The motto of MMC is "Sustaining Hope". Another example of this motto is the Agri-Poultry project in Cameroon, Africa, initiated by Fr. Luigi Savoldelli sm from Italy. Fr. Luigi grew up in a farming community near Brescia and has now taken these skills to create a unique project in poor rural communities. Building self-sustaining communities strengthens the identity of the local community and avoids the pressure on young people to leave their villages to become vulnerable refugees seeking their future in Europe.

I wish you and your family abundant blessings as move into the season of Lent and Easter.

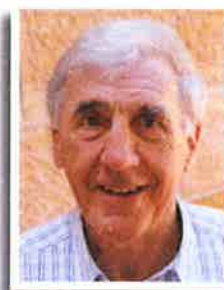
With our thanks for your on-going heartfelt generosity.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm

MMC Executive Officer



Above: Fr Chris Ganzon sm



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



Celebrating Marist Presence and Mission in Asia – 40 Years

— AMCOA Project —

The Marist presence in Asia was enriched in 1998 with the arrival of two Marist Sisters from Fiji. Sr. Torika and Sr. Veronica joined the Marist mission on the southern island of Mindinao near Davao City. Mindinao has a rich history that includes indigenous, ethnic and diverse religious groups with significant underlying tensions and conflicts. A special feature of the mission is an outreach to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Philippines - Balay Banaag – Street Girls – Marist Sisters

Young girls are especially at risk of abuse and exploitation when they take refuge on the Streets to escape family problems. Balay Banaag means “First Ray of Light of the Morning Sun” and offers hope in the midst of darkness. These young girls are willing to assist others in time of need.

Right: Typhoon Emergency Food supplies



Philippines - Balay Pasilungan – Street Boys – Marist Fathers

Due to poverty, family violence and mental health issues, young boys take refuge on the streets of Davao City for food and money only to be placed at further risk of abuse and exploitation. The Centre offers a safe place to live and find hope.

Right: Finding Safety and fun



Both Centres provide a safe place of living and learning and where possible reconciliation with their families.

Thailand – Ranong - Marist Asia Foundation – Marist Fathers



In the 1990's the Marists in the Philippines discerned that they were called to be missionaries and so decided to open a Centre for refugees from Myanmar in Ranong, Thailand. These refugees are escaping war and poverty in Myanmar only to be confronted by discrimination and poverty in Thailand.

The Marists offer education and health programs to young people and their families.

Left: Learning During Covid

House of Joy

— AMCOA Project —

Bangladesh – Daka - Anondo Neer - SMSM

Anondo Neer means 'House of Joy' with Sr. Juliana Toluono SMSM from Samoa as Leader of the Program. The Centre supports young people who experience multiple disabilities and offers them dignity, inclusion and hope. Covid has had a significant impact on the capacity of the Centre to keep contact with all who need support. Sister Julianna shares some of the challenges and good news stories from the House of Joy.

A 20 year old young man who is physically and intellectually challenged. He is bedridden and cannot provide self care or do anything by himself. His father has abandoned both him and his mother and so it is very difficult for his mother to care for him as he grows older. During Covid times the Centre has assigned a male assistant and female assistant to help with massages and exercises to support him while he is confined to his home.



Right: Lovely smile



An 11 year old girl with Down Syndrome. She can be very demanding of others and especially of her mother who is herself unwell to do things for her at home. She is aware of all the Covid safe practices and is able to ensure that others follow Covid instructions such as washing hands, keeping safe distances and showing affection in ways that do not involve physical touch.

Left: Mother and Daughter

A 32 year old woman with physical and intellectual disabilities and epilepsy. She has limited mobility and falls easily. She likes to do colouring and writing but because of her vision impairment is finding it difficult to continue with these activities. Her mother is a nurse and is struggling to cope with her at times her demanding behavior. She enjoys company, doing physical exercises within the house, taking short walks and receiving phone and video calls from the Centre during Covid restrictions.



Above: Enjoying physical exercises

CARE OF OUR SPIRIT

— MFIM Project —

Tonga—Volcanic Eruption and Tsunami—Emergency Aid

Fr. Ekuasi Manu sm writes from Tonga - "How Tonga survived the catastrophe remains vague! Anyway, we are still here and kicking". Our Marist College and Parish avoided major damage however all the people are involved in a massive community clean-up. Our Marist Emergency Aid is being organized from Suva, Fiji.



Right: Fr Sete the Marist Provincial with helpers

Solomon Islands—St John Evangelist Dala



The old church built in the 1950's was deteriorating and was too small for the four thousand parishioners. The local community was actively involved in funding and building their church. Fr. Peter Puamae sm thanks our Marist donors for their generous support in co-funding their new church together with the Parishioners and a UK Legacy.

Left: Church Opening

Africa – Cameroon – Agri-Poultry Project

Fr. Luigi Savoldelli sm is a sower of the Seed as well as a sower of the Word. He grew up in a farming community in Italy and is now taking his home grown skills to bring hope and dignity to poor in the region of Nkoloman. In 2017 Fr. Luigi with the local community reclaimed half a hectare of marshy land and has now created a beautiful garden with vegetables and fruit trees as well as raising chickens, pigs, rabbits and fish to be sold at the markets. This offers a future with hope and dignity for the youth of the community.



Above: Fr Luigi and friends preparing for the market

MMC has recently introduced a new Donations program and we apologise if donors have experienced any problems in making on-line donations or a delay in their receipting over the last few months. For more information please contact MMC.



'Gift in your Will'
Supporting the Marist
Mission Centre

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