



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2024 VOL. 75 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

## MMC CELEBRATING 75 YEARS - THE GIFT OF COURAGE

Pope Francis recently said: 'A Christian without courage, who does not turn their own strength to good, who does not bother anyone, is a useless Christian'. He then added that 'most of the fears that arise within us are unrealistic and do not come true at all'.

We have witnessed extraordinary acts of courage within our country in recent times where individuals have stood their ground in the face of violence and responded to the care of their neighbour in life threatening situations.

Fr. Lionel Marsden sm responded with courage 75 years ago when as a serving army chaplain on the Thai-Burma railway he decided that if he survived the war he would go as a missionary to Japan.

In the years that followed, MMC through your contributions has given support to many courageous people and their works.

For over 40 years, MMC has supported the mission of the SMSM Sisters in Bangladesh. This mission originally started as a Health Clinic and has developed into the Anando Neer Centre for young people with disabilities.

For over five years, MMC has supported the mission of the SM Sisters in the Philippines at the Balay Banaag Centre - a safe place for young girls who need Special Protection.

MMC is funding a new program feeding for the poor and those in need at St Michael's Chapel Community conducted by the Marist Fathers in the Philippines.

MMC supports many other works with the assistance of our generous donors as we carry out our mission.

MMC fosters Community Development Projects and Religious Purposes Projects including the International Formation of Marist priests.

MMC values every donation and takes care to distribute your donations responsibly and with transparency.

MMC finances for 2023 have been audited and an overview of MMC projects funded in 2023 are tabled on the back page.

It is because of Fr. Lionel's courageous gift of himself and the gifts from our many donors over the years that MMC will celebrate our 75th anniversary in November. Details of this celebration are included on the back page.

MMC is most grateful for your generous and on-going support of our missions.

With our thanks and prayers.



Above: "The Gift of Rice"



Fr Paul Sullivan sm  
MMC Executive Officer

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



# CARING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

## BANGLADESH: ANONDO NEER

AMCOA PROJECT

Anondo Neer means 'House of Joy'. The SMSM Sisters opened a Health Clinic in the city of Dhaka, Bangladesh over 40 years ago in response to the health needs of the local community. The needs of the community changed over time and the Sisters identified the special needs of children and young adults with physical, social and intellectual disabilities.

In the local culture, disabilities are regarded as a source of shame and exclusion for the individual and family. The mother is often blamed for the disability, abandoned by her husband and subject to violence. The Centre offers a safe place, care, hope and healing.

Birthdays are a special occasions for a celebration at the 'House of Joy'. The community gathers and celebrates as a family.



Above: Celebrating Birthdays

Family picnic days are social days and foster a sense of belonging in the local community.

Family support and participation is key component of the program. The program is a safe place for families where they can learn and share their experiences with each other. This experience offers the mothers and families a place of welcome and belonging versus exclusion and shame.



Above: Enjoying a Picnic



## ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY FEEDING PROGRAM

This program is conducted by the Marist Fathers at the St. Michael's Chapel Community in the outer district of Davao City. The Parish has an active youth ministry program who support poor families in the surrounding villages with food as well as a weekly breakfast program for the children at the school. The youth program is also actively involved in clearing and replanting the local vegetation as part of their Caring for Creation program. MMC has funded resources and equipment for their Chapel and programs.



Above: Breakfast Program



Above: Caring for Creation

## BALAY BANAAG: GIRLS IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION

Balay Banaag means – 'the first morning light' and is a program for girls who need Special Protection due to community and family issues of poverty, violence and abuse.

The Centre conducted by the Marist Sisters offers these young girls hope, healing and a safe place to live and learn. The girls attend the local school for education and are enjoying a day at a local Theme Park.

Below: Jumping for Joy





# MMC CELEBRATION 75 YEARS

MMC will celebrate 75 Years with a Morning Tea at the Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall, 3 Mary Street Hunters Hill on **Thursday 7th November at 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

Our aim is to celebrate our history, to thank our generous donors and supporters and to pray for deceased friends, family and supporters of MMC.

Please save the date, an Invitation will be sent to you with our next Newsletter in September.



## MMC - Marist International Mission Projects 2023 Generous hearts supporting projects

African Countries	\$ 83,969	Educational Assistance
Bangladesh	\$ 35,783	Educational Assistance
Bougainville	\$ 21,500	Education and Health
Cambodia	\$ 50,000	Marist Solidarity - Health and Education
Fiji	\$ 115,779	Community Education and Support
Myanmar	\$ 29,500	Educational—Accommodation Assistance
New Caledonia	\$ 12,000	Community Assistance
Oceania and Rome	\$ 519,571	Seminary Support and Marist Missions
Peru	\$ 22,000	Community Education and Assistance
Philippines	\$ 122,742	Balay Pasilungan and Balay Banaag and outreach programs
Solomon Islands	\$ 187,683	Community Education and Support
Tonga	\$ 84,300	Community Education and Support
Thailand	\$ 185,000	Marist Asia Foundation—Health and Education
Vanuatu	\$ 12,500	Educational Assistance
Wallis et Futuna	\$ 42,379	Community Assistance
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>\$ 1,524,706</b>	
<b>Funding by:</b>		
<b>Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)</b>		<b>\$ 538,846</b>
<b>Marist Fathers Overseas Mission (MFIM)</b>		<b>\$ 985,860</b>



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

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