



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
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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

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

Our church and our world are experiencing significant changes and challenges. The disciples in the early church, locked in the upper room were fearful and hesitant to trust in the gift of the Resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mary Magdalene was the first to be greeted by Jesus in the garden and be open to his resurrection and the first to go out and announce it to the disciples. It was Mary the Mother of Jesus whose presence and prayer would support the disciples as they awaited the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In our world, we are also experiencing significant political and economic changes in the international and national scene that affects families and individuals. These times can be both a challenge and an invitation to the gifts of the spirit. In our church, we say farewell to Pope Francis in a spirit of gratitude and we welcome Pope Leo in a spirit of hope for his leadership in our church and world.

Trusting in the Spirit in times of change can be both challenging and fruitful. MMC is working closely with our Marist partners and networks in Oceania and parts of Asia to discern their changing needs and especially to address the underlying causes of poverty.

In Cambodia, MMC supports a program for young people with various disabilities who experience disadvantage and discrimination.

In the Solomon Islands, MMC is supporting the building of a Hostel conducted by the DMI Sisters for young women to enable them to gain an education and employment in order to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

In the Philippines, MMC is supporting the work of our Marists at St Michael the Archangel Parish, especially their youth ministries. This is a very active parish with a variety of programs including an outreach to the poor.

MMC finances for 2024 have been audited and an overview of MMC projects funded in 2024 are tabled on the back page.

We appreciate that all families have been experiencing numerous pressures on their resources and finances in the last few years. We are most grateful for your generous and on-going support of our mission.

With our thanks and prayers.



**Above: Sr Goreti Iramata DMI
Mother Superior General**



**Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer**

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



CARING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

CAMBODIA — LA VALLA : VOCATIONAL TRAINING

La Valla provides support for students with disabilities to enable them to participate in educational programmes including accommodation, food, transport and school costs. Disabilities in the local culture are regarded as 'bad karma' and are the source of exclusion, disadvantage and discrimination.

Most of the students come from poor families and local rural communities where there is isolation and prejudice with limited access to wheelchairs and opportunities for transport and education.

The school also has an agricultural program and access to a vocational training program, an onsite primary school and some senior students attend local colleges.

These activities enable the students to feel accepted into the local regional community.



Right: Exploring and Learning

There are 153 students on the campus and 45 staff who also provided special support services such as swimming and hydrotherapy. The students love to play sport including wheelchair basketball, playing music and drama. They especially enjoy putting on cultural folk stories and dramas to entertain visitors - especially international visitors.



Above: Eager to Learn and Play

EDUCATION — THE GIFT OF HOPE

SOLOMON ISLANDS — HOSTEL FOR YOUNG WOMEN

The Congregation of Religious Sisters known as the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI's) are a local diocesan congregation of religious sisters in the Solomon Islands and were founded with the support of the SMSM Sisters in 1932.

These Sisters are actively involved in their local communities and are especially committed to the education of young women, the development of the local church community and the service to the poor.

The Sisters are located in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Maikira and Ulawa.



Above: The DMI Sisters

MMC is funding the construction of a Hostel in the Centre of Honiara located on DMI property. This Hostel will be a safe place for young women from rural communities to live, study and find part-time work while they undertake vocational and related programs.

This will break the cycle of poverty for these young women and give them the skills for future employment and support of their families.

The Solomon Islands has a very high proportion of their population under the age of thirty five years and so young women are at risk for exploitation and disadvantage if they do not have a safe place to live and the opportunity for education and employment.



Above: The Hostel is underway Hope for the future

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

PHILIPPINES — ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

Fr John Guo sm writes: "Thanks to your support we are able to organise a wide range of programs and activities including liturgy, leadership, youth programs, catechism, scripture studies as well as fund raising to support poor families."

Right: Parish Youth Group



MMC - Marist International Mission Projects 2024		
Bangladesh	\$ 31,072	Anondo Neer - Education and Health
Bougainville	\$ 114,370	Church and School Construction
Cambodia	\$ 50,000	Marist Solidarity - Education and Health
FIJI	\$ 46,943	Community Support
Jamaica	\$ 45,000	Parish Youth Programs
Myanmar	\$ 53,975	Education - Living Assistance
Oceania and Rome	\$ 469,518	Seminary Support and Marist Missions
Philippines	\$ 183,628	Balay Pasilungan, Balay Banaag and Outreach Programs
Samoa	\$ 17,000	Parish Youth Programs
Solomon Islands	\$ 454,697	Community Education, Church construction and support
Tonga	\$ 50,000	Parish Youth Programs
Thailand	\$ 15,000	Marist Asia Foundation - Health and Education
Vanuatu	\$ 20,100	Community Assistance
Total Project Funding	\$ 1,551,303	
Funding by:		
Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)		\$ 513,686
Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)		\$ 1,037,617



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

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