



MARIST MISSION CENTRE (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

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The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

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MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
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WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Pope Francis recently celebrated his annual World Day of Peace. His message was addressed to all people of goodwill with the following encouraging words:

'Our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. None of us can be saved alone'.

The earthquake in Turkey and Syria is a painful reminder that we need to care for each other and to work together. Solidarity with one another and especially with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, is at the heart of the gospel and the mission of MMC.

Fr. Enricko Nacolarara sm has managed to complete the building of a new classroom block at Big Bay, Vanuatu. This was a very challenging task due to the isolation of the mission community. A new classroom is a source of new hope for the whole community.

The LaValla education and health program in Cambodia for children and young adults with disabilities has been supported with the upgrade of buildings and facilities. These young people who experience isolation and exclusion from their culture now have a place where they call home.

The Catholic Womens League Conference held in Fiji was a practical example of this call to solidarity. The purpose of the gathering was for the women to discuss and respond to the urgent needs of the people in their local parishes. This is leadership from within the community. MMC is supporting the "Sustainable Development" of these communities.

The Marist Mission Centre is most grateful for your generous on-going support of our Marist Missions.

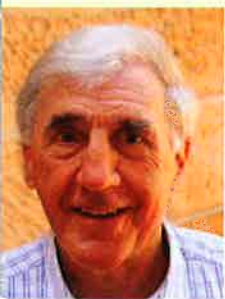
With our kind regards and prayers.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm

MMC Executive Officer



Right: Pope Francis
"Peace be with you"



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



VANUATU : TOLOMAKO MISSION—BIG BAY

This project was our Cycling for Children Appeal 2022. Congratulations to Fr. Eneriko Nacolarara sm and the local community for completing this project under challenging circumstances.

Big Bay is located in a remote and isolated area where the villages are scattered both on the coast and inland. There is no access by road and it is difficult and dangerous to access by sea.



Above: Little people with big hopes



Above: Fr Eneriko opening the new building

The people at Tolomako mission were actively involved in the transporting of the building materials and the building of the classrooms.

The opening and blessing of the new classrooms was an occasion of great celebration for the community. The local community value education for their children and the whole community has experienced a new sense of morale and dignity.



Above: The old and the new

LA VALLA SCHOOL—CAMBODIA

LA VALLA is a safe place for young people with disabilities to live and learn.

LA VALLA School is for young people with physical, social and intellectual disabilities. These young people experience exclusion, isolation and disadvantage due to cultural issues in Cambodia. Disabilities are seen as a source of 'shame and blame' for these young people and they are usually excluded from educational and social opportunities.

Summer heat can be very hot in the school buildings. MMC has recently funded a project to replace the old roofing on two buildings housing the Computer Classroom, Library and Administration Offices with new roofing material and to insulate the buildings.



Right: Students receiving new prosthesis



Above: New replacement of roofing and insulation of buildings

In December 2022 there were 28 female and 25 male students attending the school from the local communities including 3 University students and 5 involved in Vocational training.

There were 38 female and 29 male students staying in Hostel accommodation at LA Valla.



Right: Students leaving for High School

SUVA - FIJI

MMC helped to sponsor the Catholic Women's League, Fiji, Annual Conference held in Suva on October 7-9, 2022. Approximately 3,000 women from all Parishes in Fiji attended the Conference. One key aim of the Conference was the empowerment of women at all levels in their communities and parishes.



Above: Sharing and supporting each other



A particular focus of the Conference was issues such as: the eradication of violence against women and children, the impact of climate change and caring for creation, developing leadership and social skills, supporting local Church programs and promoting the dignity of women and other human rights issues.

Left: A time for prayer

Sr. Mariana Tevurega sm played an active role in the preparation and running of the CWL Conference.

The CWL Conference and the Federation of Catholic Bishops of Oceania Conference held recently in Suva are both responding to the call of Pope Francis for a Synodal Church. The Pope reminds us that we are 'Siblings All' and that we are a Church that listens. He identifies four foundational principles to guide our ministry, namely: respecting the dignity of each person, care of the poor, care of creation and care of the common good. These principles underpin all our work at the Marist Mission Centre.



**'Gift in your Will'
Supporting the
Marist Mission
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