



# NEWS

April, 2025

# BULLETIN

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

## VISITATION OF VANUATU

The Vicar Provincial, Fr. Lote began the visitation of Vanuatu from 29th March to April 12th. He started his visitation from Port Orly community at Santo which consisted of Boniface Kevon and Raymond Raupepe. Kolio Misilo and Louis Maite travelled from Tolomako to Port Orly for the meeting. The confreres are well and carrying out faithfully their mission to the people in the two parishes. One of the issues discussed in their meeting was the possible movement of confreres and non-renewal of visas of those not from Vanuatu which might affect the mission at Santo. At the Sector House, Fr. Morlini is recovering slowly from his medical treatment in New Caledonia. He was in hospital prior to Lote's arrival and is back in the house again. Br. Leonard is busy with the fiancé and is in-charge of the running of the house. Fr. Lolesio is the parish priest and together with parishioners have been busy in rebuilding the parish's fence which collapsed during the earthquake.



## ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ The Provincial will direct the retreat of the Fiji Sector beginning this Sunday.
- ◇ The Provincial and Viko will travel to Sydney for the Finance Committee meeting on the 21st to 22nd May.



## VISITATION OF NEW CALEDONIA

The Provincial while attending the installation of Susitino as the new Archbishop of Noumea had time also to meet our confreres there. Since all were present in Noumea for the installation, the Provincial had a meeting with all members of the Sector and later with some members of the Marist Laity. At the Sector's meeting they looked at the Report of the Survey sent from the General Administration. At the urging of the new Archbishop, the meeting also appointed Benedict as the Moderator of the North and Antoine as Superior. In the South, Joselito is the Superior and Bill remains the Sector Leader and Moderator. Kiade also had time to visit some of the places that were burnt down during the crisis including St. Louis. He remarked that the people are slowly recovering and one can still feel the tension there. The destructions are a stark reminder of what the young people are capable of doing in madness.



## NEW ARCHBISHOP OF NOUMEA

On Saturday 12th April, Monsignor Susitino Sionepoe of Wallis was officially installed as the new Archbishop of Noumea. Formerly the Bishop of Wallis and Futuna, Susitino is the first Pacific Islander to access this key position and become the 10th successor of Bishop Guillaume Douarre the first Vicar Apostolic of New Caledonia. The inaugural Mass was held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Noumea where the Papal Nuncio, Monsignor Gabor Pinter, eleven Bishops from the region and thousands of the faithful gathered. In his homily, the new Archbishop appealed to all Catholics in New Caledonia, a country that has seen destructive riots and burning last year to be "artisans of peace." Susitino succeeded Archbishop Calvert who has held the office for more than forty three years and is now retiring.

Fr. Froncois wrote "Monsignor Calvert leaves his very heavy mission after having steered our diocese through so many particularly strong moments throughout these years. Moments of joy, happiness, greatness humanly and spiritually. Moments of unprecedented violence where the protest was not spared. Days of tears and incomprehension when the diocese was shaken by the worst of cyclones: murderous hatred! We had to face all this without ever losing our course, without ever sinking. Thank you to Bishop Calvet, who humbly, obstinately, firmly held the course to avoid running aground on the reefs of evil where Catholics and Protestants, in spite of their faith, were precipitating the country into irrational fits of madness. Monsignor Sionépoé, after having been consecrated bishop of Wallis and Futuna by Bishop Calvet 6 years ago, received from him the crosier of archbishop of Nouméa. A heavy load awaits him. He will know how to carry it out with wisdom and strength. An uncertain horizon, an unclear future, and strong societal tensions are present. Let us entrust it to the Lord whom he has charged to announce to us".





## LENDING A HELPING HAND

During the Easter Triduum some of us were able to help out in some parishes where there was only one priest. Kiade on his return from New Caledonia traveled to Wairiki to help out 'Epoki. Eneriko had a good walking exercise to the beautiful village of Korovou which is part of the Vanuakula Parish in Naitasiri. Mika Misinale joined 'Aisake at Levuka Parish; Lutoviko celebrated with the students and communities at St. John's College, Cawaci and Sam Tukidia took some of the boys to Navunibitu Parish in Ra.



## ST. PETER CHANEL'S FEAST DAY

Elsewhere in the Province, the Feast Day of St. Peter Chanel was celebrated. In Tonga, Princess Latufuipeka who is the Patron of all Catholic Schools attended the Mass led by Fr. Valu; Fr. Petero and the Tutu Community; Marist College, Suva and the Provincial House.

