



NEWS

BULLETIN

July, 2024

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE, SUVA, FIJI

From the 24th to 29th June, the Council of the Province which consisted of the Provincial, his Councilors and Sector Delegates gathered at 'Raiatea' for the annual COP. Because of Covid-19, this is the first time they are able to meet face to face since 2019. Also present as observer was Fr. John Harhager, the link person from the General Administration to Oceania. Unfortunately, the Sector leader from Wallis and Futuna was not able to attend and the councilor Fr. Lutoviko was away in India for medical treatment. The meeting and celebration of the Eucharist were held at the Provincial House. The Provincial report as well as the report from each Sector delegates and the formation house were presented and discussed.

Other issues pertaining to the work of the Society in Oceania and internationally were also explored. The Provincial had expressed his joys of meeting the delegates and his gratitude for their work.



FARWEWELLING JOHN VOTAIA

On the 17th July, the Marist family gathered at Marist College to farewell Bro. John Votaia. Bro. John has been working in formation houses for many years. The Provincial expressed the gratitude of all for John's dedicated services in forming young men in the Province. He returns to the Solomon to take up new appointment there. In the photo, John is all smiles as he's welcome back at Tanagai Leafhaus with more prog.



ROB AND HIS BIKE

Fr. Robert Taria is part of the Marist community which looked after the Buin Deanery in Bougainville. Under his pastoral care are two parishes, Tabago and Kulula. Kulula is quite far hence the importance of the motor-bike. He goes there for pastoral visitation every month, spending times with the people and administering the sacraments. He then returns to the Marist base at Turiboiru to spend times with the other two members of the community, Frs. Wesley and Posirou. Tenkyu Aga.



ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ Fr. Milikiade has returned from Rotuma after attending the centennial celebration of the Church of Our Lady of Victories.
- ◇ The annual retreat of the Sector of the Province will start on the 11th till the 16th August. Fr. Carl Telford from the New Zealand Province will direct the retreat which will be held at the Prayer Center, Wailekutu.

VISITATION OF THE TONGAN SECTOR

The Vicar Provincial, Fr. Lote visited the confreres in the Tongan Sector in the first week of July. He met all the confreres at the Sector House, Longoteme and those at 'Apifo'ou College except Pila Kiola who was sick. Ika Kaihea flew in from Vava'u to be there also. Patelisio Kiutau arrived too and has taken up his new role as Parish Priest of Kauvai. We are grateful to 'Anaua Finau who had hold the fort for number of years and for his dedicated services to the people of Kauvai. He is preparing now for a well-deserved Sabbatical year.



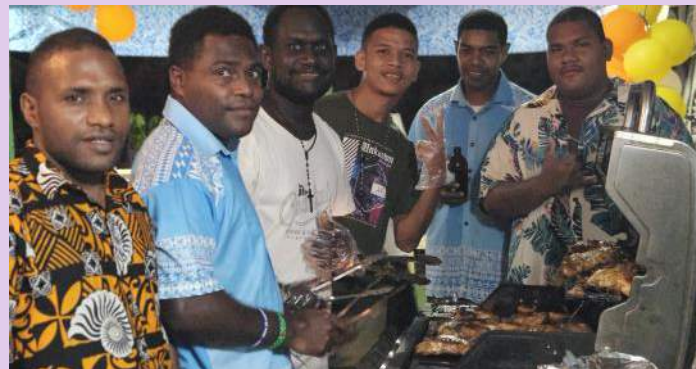
NURSING STUDENTS AT APIFO'OU COLLEGE

It's a new beginning for Apifo'ou College to be the first school in Tonga for nursing students from the Ministry of Health to do their practicum there. Already the school has a clinic which is managed by Ms. Gladly Leger, a very capable retired Tongan nurse who has worked in Australia for many years. Hopefully this project will enhance health of the students for indeed 'a healthy mind needs a healthy body'.



CELEBRATING FOURVIERE DAY—Marist College and Provincial House, Suva.

Fr. Gaston Lessard, in his article *'The Four Voices'* said that the text of the Fourviere Pledge is only the skeleton of the Fourviere event. What gives it flesh and blood were those who signed their own personal stories of experiencing God's call, the events that shaped their lives and what inspires and motivates them to make the pledge. The late Fr. Michael Fitzgerald writing on the *'Maristica'* talks about the 'Existential Impact' of the wish of our Blessed Mother it had on the founding fathers of the Marist family and the women that later joined. And this is where we come in as Marist today. The wish of our Blessed Mother cannot be limited only to those who signed the Fourviere Pledge on 23rd July, 1816. It includes all those over the years who have allowed themselves to be taken up with the words of Mary 'here is what want'. We joined because like the early Marists we are convinced that this is what Mary wants of us. We too, today are also caught up with this call and commitment of our founders to bring to life once again the Fourviere Pledge. Happy Fourviere Day!



NEW BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF TARAWA AND NAURU

After 5 years of praying and waiting, on Saturday 27th July, the people of the Diocese of Tarawa (Kiribati) and Nauru rejoiced and give thanks to God for the Episcopal ordination of their new Bishop, the Most Rev. Simon Mani MSC of Fiji. The principal consecrator was Cardinal Mafi of Tonga and assisted by Cardinal John Ribat of Port Moresby. Bishop Simon was the former Rector of PRS. Representing the Marist were Fr. 'Okusitino 'Uluapano, the Interim Rector of PRS and Fr. Xavier Xariman, Rector of Marist College.



CONFIRMATION AT QUEEN OF MARTYRS PARISH, WAINONI

The Archbishop of Honiara, Most Rev. Chris Cardone visited three communities, Pihuru, Baro and Wainoni at the Queen of Martyr's Parish in the island of Makira, Solomon Islands to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. According to the Parish Priest, Lutoviko Olie, there were total 220 candidates receiving the sacrament. The Archbishop gave each a Rosary and said this is your new mobile phone which needs no top up and no charging to connect you to God, to our Blessed Mother and to one another.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH, ROTUMA

Between July 24th—30th, hundreds of Rotuman from all over Fiji and with those in the island celebrated the centenary of the Church of Our Lady of Victories. The first Mass in the island was celebrated by the Marist pioneers, Frs. Vern and Villien on Christmas Day, 1846. Because of continuous quarrel with the Methodist who were there first, the foundation stone of the church was only blessed by Bishop Vidal in 1895 when there was peace in the island. The architect of the church was Fr. Griffon and assisted by local carpenters, Fimaoli, Armanaki and Petero. In 1902, Bishop Vidal blessed the church. In 1914, another Marist, Fr. Bourdier was in charge of the extension of the church and was consecrated by Bishop Nicholas on 26th July, 1942. Archbishop Peter Loy Chong was the Chief Guest. He exhorted the people that "jubilee is a time to reset, restart and reconcile". Representing the Marist was the Provincial, Fr. Milikiade who was Parish Priest there for 5 years. As part of the prioritization of ministries, the Marist closed down its mission there in 2019.

