



OCEANIA NEWS BULLETIN

February 2023

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NEW PROVINCIAL AND COUNCIL



Fr Milikiade Rayalu SM
Provincial



Fr Lote Raiwalui SM
Vicar Provincial



Fr Lutoviko Manu SM
Councilor



Fr Jacob Aba SM
Councilor

IN ADMINISTRATION



Fr Aisake Vaisima SM
Bursar



Mr Lawrence Cakau
Accountant



Ms Francine Rodan
Secretary

23rd PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



“Journeying together in detachment, discernment, and commitment to mission”

The 21 Capitulants for the 23rd Oceania Provincial Chapter were welcomed on the evening of the 7th of January at Marist College. Fr Lote Raiwalui led them on a recollection day the following day then on Monday the reality of the missions of the Society of Mary in Oceania was clearly painted to us through the reports of Fr Provincial and the Provincial Bursar. This was further enhanced by the reports from the different sectors in the Province. The rest of the Chapter were dedicated to what Constitution no. 171 mandated us “to review the apostolic and spiritual progress of the province, to decide on policy for its life and activity.” The Chapter was closed with a thanksgiving Eucharist.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL



During the Chapter, the Superior General formally announced the result of the election of the new provincial, Fr Milikiade Rayalu SM of Fiji to replace Fr Setefano Mataele SM of Tonga who was elected to one of the General Assistants in Rome. Fr Milikiade was the Vicar Provincial in the previous provincial administration. He brings with him a wide experience in spirituality and formation. A special function after the Chapter was held to thank Fr Setefano and to welcome Fr Milikiade, and also the Superior General into the province.

TO GENERAL CHAPTER 2025



During the Chapter Frs Aisake Vaisima and Ekuasi Manu were elected to join Fr Milikiade, the Provincial to the General Chapter of 2025.



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SUPERIOR GENERAL'S VISITATION



The Superior General, Fr John Larsen joined the Chapter after his visitation of the Francophone sectors of Oceania and later had time to visit places where Marists are serving in Fiji—Levuka, Wairiki, Tutu, and Nadi. He also had time to visit the Dawasamu Marist Eco-Center.

RENEWALS



LA NEYLIERE:

Attending the Colinian Renewal at La Neyliere, France from the province are Frs Valu Siua, Richard Harui, Steven Posirou (what snow??), Sipiliano Faka'osi, and Br Leonard Hirvirkon. Fr Donato Kivi is also one of the moderators of the program. During the six months of their program they will have time for retreat, to pray and reflect on the lives of our founder and early Marists as well as visiting Marist places of origin.

EAPI:



From the snow of La Neyliere to the warm weather of Manila are Frs Chris Hifo, Robert Taria, and Br Berenado Petero on a pastoral renewal program at EAPI. Both renewal programs run for six months.

END OF A 70 YEAR SCHOOL MINISTRY



As part of the prioritization of ministries in the province, the provincial administration after appropriate consultations, chose to end the seventy-year long commitment to education at St John's College, Cawaci, Fiji at the end of 2022.

St John's college was first established in 1894 by the Marist brothers. The first St John was closed in 1951 and was relocated to another site in the main island of Fiji. Bishop Foley then rebuilt Cawaci and in 1952 re-established St John's college for boys only under the care of the Society of Mary.

On the 28th of January 2023 the ex-scholars and parents gathered at the college to fare-well and to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of the Marists towards the establishment, development and above all the education of the youths of the school in the last 70 years.

