



NEWS

BULLETIN

February, 2025

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

VISITATION OF NEW CALEDONIA

On the 7th February, the Vicar Provincial Fr. Lote Raiwalui began his visitation of the confreres in New Caledonia after his flight was delayed for few days in Port Villa much to the delight of the community at Paray to invite him for some kava. At Ma Maison he met Bernard Gidrol, at 93 he is the oldest who still enjoyed his twilight years helping retired Bishop Ghislain to say Mass at the retirement home. Lote was able to see Archbishop Calvet. He is in good form and is looking forward to handing over the archdiocese to Susitino Sionepoe. While there, he caught up Fr. Francois wearing a beard which was unusual for him. He had mentioned that it represents the day the crisis had started in Noumea, and he will only shave when there is peace accord signed. Despite busy with finance he has thoroughly enjoyed his ministry to the outer islands of Lifou and Ouvea.

Bill Herkert and Steve looks after the mission in the South and there is suggestion that they should move to La Conception as the church and presbytery at St. Louis, as you can see in the photos are beyond repair. The church was burnt and the presbytery was looted and burnt too. In the North, Benedict and Joselito lives together at Koumac and serving also the people at Bonde and Belep. Visisio is well and is manning the Sector House.



ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ The Provincial have just returned from Rome after attending the meeting of the Pre-Chapter Committee.
- ◇ All members now of the Council except Jacob Aba are in 'Raiatea'.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

At the beginning of this month, most secondary schools where our confreres are working had their Opening Mass for this academic year. During Mass, the new prefects were inducted and the staff read out their commitment. Fr. Dylan led the celebration at Wainoni, Fr. Epoki at Holy Cross, Fr. Valu at Apifo'ou and Fr. Vaioleti at Hohola. We wish you all the best in your ministry and remind you the words of Jean Claude Colin, our Founder: *“We contribute with God to forming a man, in real way. When a man leaves the hands of his nurse, he is only sketch in rough. We must make him into a man, form his heart, his character, virtue etc...That is what education does. Nothing is more lofty. You give him as it were a second creation.”*



TUTU FORMATION STAFF

The staff of the Marist Rural Training Centre in Tutu had its annual seminar in the first week of February which marked the beginning of a transformative journey for six new members. The seminar provides opportunity for deep reflection, learning and alignment with the Centre’s vision and mission.

The week began with three day retreat conducted by Bro. Makario Ulavucu on Marist Spirituality. It focus on helping all staff to immerse themselves in the foundational value of serving with humility and simplicity.



OPENING MASS PRS

Our seminarians joined the Pacific Regional Seminary’s Opening Mass to mark the beginning of this academic year. The main celebrant was Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, who was joined by the faculty of the seminary.

There are three in Y1, two in Y2, four in Y3 and one Y4. Bro. Leone who renewed his profession towards the end of last year is also part of the community. At the writing of this bulletin, Fr. Xavier the former rector has left for his new appointment as the new novice master of the International Novitiate in the Philippines which left Fr. Sipiliano as rector and the only formator at Marist College.

ST. THERESA PARISH, LEPEA

Fr. Mikaele Tuimavave, the new parish priest of Lepea and Tula'ele in Apia, Samoa has embarked with his assistant, Fr. 'Ofa Vaihu on delivering seminars aimed at deepening the knowledge and faith of all those who actively involved in the pastoral ministry of the parish. Earlier on, young musicians in the parish had workshops with George Te'o on the proper contribution of music to the celebration of the liturgy.



EAPI RENEWAL

Currently, Frs Iosefo Vili, Steven Lugabai and Godfrey Paasi are thoroughly enjoying the six months renewal on Pastoral Leadership for Mission at EAPI, Manila, Philippine. The program is 'designed to enhance the leadership and management capacities and the personal and spiritual development of pastoral missionaries in response to the demands of the contemporary Church.' They can dance too.



NEW RECTOR PRS

Fr. 'Okusitino 'Ulupano was officially appointed on the 21st February as the new Rector of the Pacific Regional Seminary. He has been vice rector, interim rector and now Rector. We are confident that his experiences of thirteen years working in the seminary will equip him to enhance the formation of our seminarians. Congrats Tino!



FAREWELL XAVIER

The seminarians returning to Marist College this year was greeted with the news that their Rector, Fr. Xavier Sariman has been appointed by the General Administration to be the new Novice Master of the International Novitiate in the Philippine. He has been the Rector of Marist College for only one year. We wish you well Xavier and be assured of our prayers and support as you take this new role.

