



# NEWS

# BULLETIN

January, 2025

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

## PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FR. CAMERON MOTA

On the 9th January, Bishop Darius Kaluza of the Diocese of Bougainville ordained Deacon Cameron Mota to Priesthood at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Assumption in Buka, Bougainville. Later, Fr. Cameron travelled with the Marist confreres to celebrate his first Mass at St. Aloysius Konzaga Parish in Tabago, Buin. Fr. Cameron did his seminary formation both at the Pacific Regional Seminary and at the International theologate, Rome. Cameron has been appointed to the Marist Community at Queen of Martyrs Parish, Wainoni in the Solomon Islands. Congratulations Cam!



## 40th ANNIVERSARY OF FR. MAKARIO'S ORDINATION.



On the Feast of the Epiphany, the family, relatives, Marist confreres and the parishioners of Wairiki celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Fr. Makario Waqanivalu's ordination to priesthood. Joining in the celebration was Fr. Kusitino Cobona who was ordained together with Makario as a Marist but now a Diocesan priest working in the United States. On his right is Iosefo Ogolea who was also ordained on the same day as a Marist but is now laicized. Makario, Kusitino and Iosefo are all closely related and are all from the 'Garden Island of Fiji', Taveuni. Congratulations Makario.

## ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ Fr. Lutoviko visited the Solomon and has returned to 'Raiatea'.
- ◇ Fr. Lote is currently visiting the confreres in New Caledonia.
- ◇ The Provincial will travel this week to Rome for the Pre-Chapter Committee meeting.



## BLESSING OF THE HOLY NAME OF MARY CHURCH—Tanagai, Solomon Islands.

On the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Archbishop Chris Cardone blessed and opened the newly built church of the Holy Name of Mary at Tanagai. It is one of the only two parishes looked after by Marists in the Archdiocese of Honiara. The key man behind this work is Fr. Jacob Aba SM, standing close to Archbishop Chris in the photo. He is the parish priest, Sector Leader of the Marists in the Solomon and a councilor in the Provincial Administration. Jacob has expressed his gratitude to the Marist Mission Centre, benefactors, friends and Marist confreres for their financial support. Most of the fund, however, was from the parishioners fundraising drive. The architect and carpenters are all from Tanagai parish and the village of Dala in Malaita where Jacob comes from. The statue of Mary at the front and of Jesus at the back where the tabernacle is inside the Sacred Heart plus the Stations of the Cross were the works of a talented artist from Dala village too. According to Jacob, the church is a ship, MV 'Raiatea' which is written on the railing in front of the statue of Mary the captain of the ship. The statue of Jesus at the back is the main 'engine room' where the tabernacle is. The completion of the church is indeed a source of pride and joys for them. It is a testimony to their resilient, sacrifices and above all their faith.



## VISITATION OF THE SOLOMON ISLAND

Fr. Lutoviko, representing the Provincial at the blessing of the newly built church of the Holy Name of Mary also took time to meet the confreres. All members of the Sector were there at Tanagai to witness the opening of the new church and to be present also for the Sector meeting. The three communities gave a report of their work and community life. Bro. Kanai, the Vocation Promoter gave a report of the Vocation Program. There are three preparing to go for the Propaedeutic Year at Marist College this year seen here in the photo. For the very first time we have a candidate from the Western Province and Makina Parish. Two are staying with the St. Martin Community and attending Nazareth Apostolic Center. Four who have all completed Form 6 will spend six months with the Wainoni Community. Bro. John also gave a report of the plan for St. Martin's farm. The confreres are also very much involved with the Marist Laity. In the photo is Bro. Kanai visiting the Marist Laity at Makina Parish.



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## JAMES HABUAK GOLDEN JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION—Pororan, Bougainville.

On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Fr. James Habuak celebrated in his own island, Pororan the Golden Jubilee of his religious profession in the Society of Mary. Joining him were our Marist confreres and all other Religious working in the Diocese of Bougainville since it was also the World Day for Consecrated Life. Fr. Habuak made his first profession at Lura Novitiate in Tutu. He is retiring now at the Sector House in Hahela. Congratulations James.



## PROVINCIAL COUNCIL EVALUATION AND PLANNING WEEK

The Provincial Council met in the third week of January at the Provincial House to evaluate goals and strategies set out by the last Provincial Chapter. Since this is our last year it is vitally important to assess what we have fulfilled so far and put down plan of actions for this year. We examined our ministries throughout the Province and the ongoing need to prioritize. We looked at the numbers in the various communities we have and since some of our confreres have died young or work elsewhere in the Society we may never achieve the desire to have 4 or 5 members in a community. Perhaps a matter of serious concern is the low average lifespan of Oceanians and the effects of unhealthy lifestyle which contributed to loss of young Marists and early retirement not because of age but of health. We finally confirmed some appointments and plan the movement of council members in the coming months.

