



NEWS

June, 2025

BULLETIN

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE

On Sunday evening the Sector Leaders were all welcomed at 'Raiatea' by our seminarians from Marist College, the formators and our Marist confreres from the Sector House, Varani. The meeting began with the Provincial's Report on Monday and for the next few days we hear more reports from the various sectors, the formation house and the financial report of the Province as well as of the sectors. There were discussions on issues emerged from those reports. On Tuesday morning, a team led by Mrs. Elizabeth Fong talked to us about stroke awareness, prevention and other related health issues. Prior to that all members had their blood pressure check up. On Wednesday afternoon, Fr. Sione Hamala led a session on the Code of Professional Conduct for the members of the Oceania Marist Province. He emphasized the need to be always conscious of it wherever we work. On Thursday, the delegates to the General Chapter, Frs. 'Aisake and Petero were invited to hear the voices of the province on synthesis of the survey sent from the General Administration. Other issues discussed includes the preparation for the Oceania Marist Laity Convention next year and Vocation Promotion. We were challenged to look seriously at our declining numbers and how best to attract vocations. We asked the question: Why elsewhere in Oceania there are more vocations to the Diocesan and not us? The meeting ends with the Provincial thanking all the delegates for their work, urging them to be courageous in their mission. We also would like to thank our cooks, Deidre, Teresia and Raquel for the wonderful job of making sure that the participants are well fed.



ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ The Provincial and the Vicar are both in the house.
- ◇ Fr. Lutoviko is visiting the Tongan Sector and also give the annual retreat for both the Marist Fathers and the SMSM.

MAP MEETING

The Provincial and the Vicar recently returned after attending the 2025 MAP (Marist Asia-Pacific) meeting which was hosted by the District of Asia in the Eden Nature Park, just outside Davao City in the Philippines. The annual meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to share information on what is happening in their units and discuss other topics of interest such as the International Novitiate and theologate, Education Ministry, the upcoming General Chapter and the continued collaboration among the three units. The participants also had time to visit Fr. Xavier Xariman and the novices at the International Novitiate. They also spent time with the nineteen candidates currently in their Come and See program. Both Kiade and Lote were impressed with how well Fr. Kevin Medillo, the District Superior and his men hosted the meeting.



A MARIST MISSION IN SAMSUN, TURKEY.

On December 14th, 2023, Fr. Donato Kivi arrived in Samsun, a city on the northern coast of Turkey to be part of a shared mission of two Marist religious communities, the Society of Mary and the Sisters of the Missionary Society of Mary. The community consisted of Fr. Arnaldo, SM (Brazil), Fr. Donato SM (Fiji), Sr. Juliana, SMSM (Samoa) and Sr. Irene, SMSM (Rwanda). They served under the Vicariate of Anatolia—a vast territory covering Eastern Turkey, from the Black Sea in the north to the Mediterranean in the south, bordered by Syria, Iraq, Iran, Armenia, and Georgia. Together, they live a shared life of prayer, hospitality, and mission to a small but vibrant and international community of Iraqi and Iranian refugee families awaiting resettlement, African university students and local Christians and catechumens preparing for baptism. It is indeed a mission far away from home and in a strange land. But Donato wrote that despite the challenges he was “filled with a quiet conviction that Mary’s hand was gently guiding and her presence is tangible here: behind the altar stands a striking statue of Our Lady of Sorrows, and above the sanctuary, the ceiling bears a powerful Latin inscription: “Gemitus Matris Tue ne Obliviscaris” — “Do not forget your Mother’s sorrow.” As a Marist, these words moved me deeply. They echoed our call to share in Mary’s compassionate gaze—to see the pain of our world and respond with tender, courageous presence”. The full article of Donato’s reflection will appear in the ‘Conch Shell Newsletter’.

