



NEWS

March, 2025

BULLETIN

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

THE PROVINCIAL'S REFLECTION—Pilgrims of Hope

In this year's first reflection I would like to share my thoughts on this jubilee year. The jubilee theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". I suppose this is drawn from the challenging experience the world has come through and is happening around us. I wonder whether this theme is related to his autobiography where he specifically titled it, "Hope". As I scanned through some lines, he noted some of the difficulties humanity came through, like the Corona virus, the ongoing migration and so as the wars that is raging in some parts of the world today. This of course includes the crisis climate change has brought to our life. We in the Pacific are feeling the ramifications of the human activities relating to the changes we are experiencing now. And so, the big question is how can we bring hope to ourselves and to those around us. If jubilee implies that we forgive, reconcile and bring new hope and life to others then it is important that we begin where we are. We are reminded that this is "A time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation".



I know in some ways we have been doing our best to respond to this call, but perhaps this year a special effort can be made to bring about some effective ways to mark this jubilee year journey. Perhaps a more evident one we are trying our best to bring to reality is the Dawasamu Project where we hope to bring to realization to a certain extent the teaching of Laudato Si through the awareness program relating to the value of creation and how the nature of interdependence is vital. This is more than just about helping people make good use of their land but to see how they can bring new life to the infertile soil and trees that is slowly wearing out. Streams and rivers which once were sources of protein have now been affected by chemicals from farms and the extraction of gravels. In other words, the whole ecosystem where people work and live is impacted by the ongoing abuse happening around us.

The call to a deeper conversion is demanding us more and more to relook at our relationships in order to renew creation as St. Paul noted in one of his letters. In the movie 'Conclave' the elected Pope Innocent said, "the wars we are fighting is not so much out

there but is within us".

The important thing to know at this special time who has been the victims or affected by my/ our attitude and behavior. In his book, "Weaving a Mantle of Mercy", Francois Drouilly on the theme of Encounter, he writes, "Once again, let us leave aside the formal meetings related to our work, important and necessary as they may be. Let us rather turn to the Gospel, to the considerable time that Jesus devoted to these often-unannounced encounters. The gospel is full of them! Twenty, thirty, perhaps? Jesus never considers them as time wasted; more often than not he does not even know these people. They let their hearts speak, Jesus listen, sets them free with his Word, sometimes heals the body, sometimes the soul, often both" (pg 40). It is the measure we put in that we will receive...Lk.6:38

Yes, it is true to think immediately of the people we serve and the often excuses we make not to attend to their needs, but I would like to suggest to think of our own community first as we so often took each other for granted. Let us begin the jubilee journey from within where we live and encounter one another. If it is difficult to bring the matter to the community, just giving time to a particular member you're close to and share how you felt about your relationship in community life. This journey of Hope if it is to be authentic it is important that we get to feel what it means to live that brotherhood in our own settings. And of course it must continue on from there. We can even go on to say maybe the crises of our vocation today has much to do in the example we are witnessing in community life. The comm and unity have drifted apart because of our own doing. We hold the key to bringing things together again unlike Humpty Dumpty....

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ The Provincial will be attending the installation of Bishop Susitino Sionepoe as the new Archbishop of New Caledonia.
- ◇ The Vicar provincial is currently visiting the confreres in Vanuatu.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Following the Footsteps of St. Joseph

From March 20th to 25th, the Archdiocese of Honiara held a three-day gathering for men at the St. Mother Theresa Family and Youth Center at Aruligo. Under the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope: Following in the footsteps of St. Joseph", the event gave men an opportunity to reflect on their roles as fathers and leaders and renew their commitment to their families, the church and communities.

There were more than 2,500 men attended from all parishes of the archdiocese. Our two parishes, Queen of Martyrs from Wainoni and Holy Name of Mary, Tanagai were well represented with the full support of their parish priests, Fr. Viko and Fr. Jacob. The men from Wainoni were hosted for few days at Tanagai before they traveled to Aruligo.

Throughout the program, different speakers spoke on varied topics which includes the role of men as spiritual leaders in the community, the spirituality in the life of St. Joseph and health and spiritual wellness. There were times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Station of the Cross and a cultural night performances and fellowship. The final day was the celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph which was led by Archbishop Chris Cardone. In his homily he encouraged the fathers to follow the example of St. Joseph by being humble, prayerful and protective. The faith-filled gathering reinforced the commitment of the Archdiocese to empowering men to be responsible and spirituality grounded fathers following the example of St. Joseph.

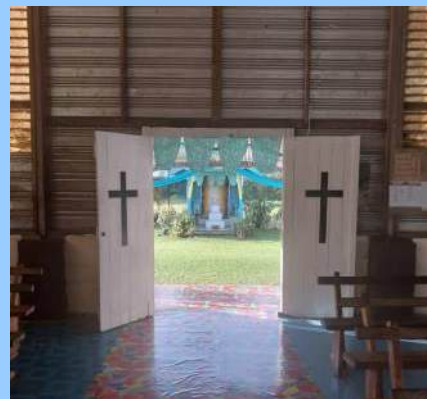


PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Buin

Once a month the parishioners of Turipoiru, Tabago, Piano and Tokaino in Buin, Bougainville, made a pilgrimage led by the Holy Eucharist to Buin town Mass center where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration. This month, the pilgrimage led by Frs. Wesley, Robert Taria and Steven Posirou began from entering the door of the church at Turipoiru then to Buin Mass center. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered as well as catechesis for the faithful.

Fr. Wesley wrote that this was a very prayerful gathering and it was encouraging to see so many people gathered to witness to their faith.

May this Jubilee Year be an opportunity for the people of Buin to be renewed in hope in a God who does not disappoint.



ST. THERESA PARISH, LEPEA

The Parish Priest of St. Theresa's Parish, Lepea, Fr. Mikaele Tuimavave have recently bought musical instruments for the youth in the parish. He wrote: "Our students have embraced with gratitude and gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Marist Mission Center in funding the project. These young boys and girls will surely enhance our Sunday Worship through their talents of playing and singing in church."



HOLY CROSS COLLEGE RETREAT—Taveuni

Br. Makario Ulavucu sm recently conducted a one day retreat for the prefects of Holy Cross College in Wairiki. Under the theme: "View the outer from in depth spiritual realm", the prefects were led into deep waters where they were helped to see teachers as builders of the College while prefects are the backbone that holds the building together. Prefects were challenged to contribute to building a College environment conducive for learning. It was emphasized that unless you have the willpower to lead your own life you cannot lead another for no one can give what one does not have. A shining role model is what they are challenged to be.



WELCOME SAM

The seminarians at Marist College and the Rector, Fr. Sipiliano were delighted to welcome back Fr. Sam Tukidia to the formation house. Sam has just returned from Rome after completing his Licentiate. The Rector of the seminary is also relieved to have Sam back in the teaching staff. Apart from formation work, Sam is also teaching Philosophy.

WELCOME SIONE

We welcomed Fr. Sione Hamala at the Provincial House with a bowl of grog. Sione has been the Socius in the International Novitiate first in Italy and later for the past two years in the Philippines. Sione has been appointed for the time being to the formation house at Marist College.

