



NEWS

BULLETIN

November, 2023

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

CLOSING OF THE DALA MISSION, MALAITA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Fr. Chris Kamphuis, arrived in the Solomon in 1947 from Holland was a parish priest of Dala told this story. Once he hosted the Papal Nuncio at Dala for two days. Acclimatized to the hot weather, he picked up the Nuncio from Auki wearing only a short and a shirt. The Nuncio was dressed formally in black suit and Roman collar. He was embarrassed. The next day they visited some places and he decided to wear his black suit and Roman collar which he hasn't used in years. The Nuncio came out of his room wearing only a short and a shirt, adapting fast to the weather. Fr. Siebo Leppen, another Dutch and a parish priest of Dala for many years and who established St. John's the Evangelist's school in the parish. He woke up any time in the night to take patients to hospital. He doesn't eat chicken but loves the egg though and so the people made sure that enough eggs for him and took the chicken. Those are only part of the countless stories from Marists who have laboured long and hard at Dala.

Last Sunday, Fr. Jacob Abba, a son of Dala and Sector Leader of the Solomon celebrated the last Mass together with Frs. Dylan, Viko and Diocesan clergies thus signaling the end of the Marist missions in Dala. Fr. Dylan, the Superior of the community summed up the occasion: *"It is with great honour that our past and present Marists who tirelessly served the Gospel to this vibrant parish with resilience has now come to a close. We have fulfilled our mission and now it is time to let go to the local church to continue to nurture the seed of faith. We pray for the local clergy to continue this work that the Marists has begun for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary"*.



DAWASAMU ECOLOGICAL PROJECT

Our Statutes Number 57 stated: "All Marists entering the Marist Sustainability Covenant should find expression in establishing centres that provide ecological renewals....." Recently, Frs. Milikiade, Petero, Donato, Samu and Bro. John visited Dawasamu and spent a day there praying and looking at works still needed to be done. They have put a time frame to carry out this work and hopefully it will be ready to be utilized for ecological renewal, retreat, on-going education and formation at all levels.



ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- The Provincial is currently in Rome and will return second week of December.
- Lutoviko is manning the House.

Anniversary of Ordination—Ad multos annos!

- Fr. Lasaqa—24/11/1992
- Fr. Susitino—28/11/1993
- Fr. Dakai—12th Nov 1994
- Fr. Milikiade—12th Nov 1994
- Fr. Lote—18/11/1995
- Fr. Patolo—27/11/1999

EAPI CULTURAL NIGHT

Frs Patolo, Patelisio, Ignace and Puamae are nearing the end of their 4 months Pastoral Renewal for Discipleship. Set in the rich tradition of cross-cultural Asian experience at EAPI, the program offers on-going formation and renewal designed to inspire pastoral leaders and missionaries with a deeper understanding and appreciation of what discipleship of Jesus means today and to equip them for the mission of the Church. Part of the renewal program is the participants showcasing their culture either in dance or dress code. Here our confreres enjoying themselves with other participants especially Sr. Lavalea and Fr. Sefo both Salesians from Samoa.



HAPPY ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

The wounds from the Bougainville crisis years ago are still felt in most places. Here, Fr. James Habuak tries to bring healing and reconciliation to the people of Nova which is part of Hahela Parish, Buka.



ENDING THE OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Reports from different sector about the Month of the Rosary. At Apifo'ou College, each class took turn to recite the rosary at the newly blessed statue of Mary at St. Mary's Campus. In Pararay, Port Vila, Fr. Lolesio and members of the parish recite the rosary everyday with the Blessed Sacrament exposed and end with Benediction. At Hohola Parish, PNG, the Marist Laity led daily the rosary.



ONGOING ECOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

At Marist College, Suva their ecological activities was not only done during the season of creation but was part of their normal programme. Every 4th Wednesday of the month is ecological Wednesday. The first Wednesday started off with watching and discussing the movie "The Letter: A Message for our Earth" which tells the story of Laudato Si' encyclical by Pope Francis. They then started from inside the community and then reached out outside to other communities. Over the other ecological Wednesdays they started cleaning and beautifying around Marist College. Finally they moved out to help the old St. Vincent de Paul's House by cleaning, planting cassava and vegetable garden. At the beginning or end of each Wednesday they celebrated the Holy Eucharist in a special manner.



GRADUATION AT PRS

On Wednesday, 22nd the community at the Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva held its Graduation ceremony. Four of our Y3 seminarians at Marist College received Diploma in Theology. They were Adriano, Maciu, Mikaele and Iowane. The Chief Guest was Mr. Steve Chand the Chairperson of Fiji's Higher Education. The theme of the graduation: "Witnessing Christ in a Synodal Church". Congratulations brothers.



FAREWELLING FR. DONATO KIVI SM

On the anniversary of the birthday of our Fr. Founder, the family, relatives and the Marist community farewell Fr. Donato at Marist College. It started with prayers in the chapel before we moved to the dining building for a shared meal. In his speech Fr. Lutoviko said that this is a big loss to Oceania. But lest we forget, our Founder always sent the best to Oceania. And so it is fitting that we do send our best, a fitting birthday gift to Colin. Moce Donato.

