



# NEWS

# BULLETIN

November, 2024

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

## GRADUATION—MARIST COLLEGE

On Wednesday 13th November, the Pacific Regional Seminary had its Closing Mass and Graduation Ceremony for the year 2024. The main celebrant of the Mass was Fr. Donald Maldari SJ, the Dean of Studies. This is his final year as lecturer at PRS. The Chief Guest of the Graduation Ceremony was Bishop Simon Mani of Kiribati. Two of our Year 3 seminarians, Pouono of Tonga pictured here with his mom and Ignatius of Bougainville with his Fiji parents from Namosi graduated with Diploma in Theology. The Marist family in Suva and friends gathered at Marist College later in the evening to feast and celebrate. Congratulations Pouono and Ignatius and we wish you both all the best in your novitiate next year.



## GRADUATION—TUTU RURAL TRAINING CENTER

On Friday 29th November, 57 Young Farmers graduated from Tutu after the completion of their 3 years program. The Chief Guest was the Australian Deputy High Commissioner. The Provincial joined Fr. Petero, the Director of Tutu as well as parents of the young farmers, relatives and friends in the celebration. No doubt these young men will contribute immensely to the farming and management life skills in their villages. For their contribution back to Tutu each farmer had planted 1000 kava plants in Tutu. Prior to the graduation, the parents of the young farmers had three days formation program in Tutu preparing them to support their sons in implementing the five year plan to ensure its long term success and community impact. Congratulations to the young men and thank you Tutu Team especially Fr. Petero and Fr. Tomasi for holding on even when Fr. Isaia left for renewal and also the passing away of Br. Sefo. Thanks also to Br. Makario for directing the Young Farmers' retreat.



## ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- ◇ The Provincial have just returned from visiting the Wairiki Community, attending the Tutu Board Meeting and the Graduation of the Young Farmers.
- ◇ The Vicar Provincial also attended the Tutu Board Meeting. He is currently visiting the Wallis/Futuna Sector.

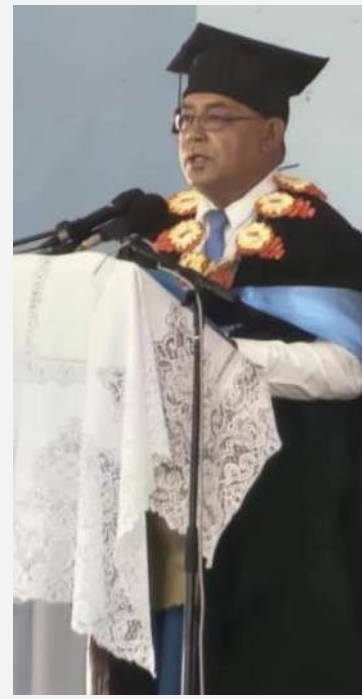
## PRIZE GIVING—'APIFO'OU COLLEGE, TONGA

On the 22nd November, 'Apifo'ou College had its Annual Prize Giving Ceremony at the college hall to mark the end of this academic year. The Chief Guest was the Vicar General of the Diocese of Tonga and Niue, Monsignor Lutoviko Finau pictured here with the Dux of the college, Ms 'Amelia Vaihu. As in all Prize Giving, the teachers and students celebrate their work and achievements of the year. Many parents, ex-students and friends also gathered to rejoice at the academic achievements of their children.



## NEW PRINCIPAL AND OUTGOING PRINCIPAL OF 'APIFO'OU COLLEGE

At the Prize Giving ceremony, the Vicar General announced the appointment of Fr. Valu Siua as the new Principal of 'Apifo'ou College beginning in 2025. Fr. Valu has been the Deputy Principal for the last two years. He was also a principal of St. John the Evangelist School in Dala, Malaita, Solomon Islands. Fr. 'Ekuasi has been the Principal for the past six years ended his tenure this year. With the Form 7 students this is their last year in the college. The Province wishes to thank Fr. 'Ekuasi for leading and rebuilding the school after the extensive damages caused by Cyclone Gitta. We welcome Fr. Valu as he takes up the leadership role and be assured of our prayers and support.



## FAREWELL FR. STEVE

Fr. Steve Lugabai of Bougainville has ended his stint at 'Apifo'ou College. He has taught there for the last six years. During his time in Tonga Steve was able to help out in the parish of Kauvai where the Marist Sector House is. He also celebrated Mass for the Carmelite Sisters from time to time. Steve was able to connect well with students and people in the parish and has made a lot of friends. They will certainly miss him and so with 'Apifo'ou College. Steve is back at home now to celebrate his Silver Jubilee of ordination on 19th January then later join the renewal program at EAPI, Manila. Thank you Steve for your mission in Tonga and we wish you well for what lies ahead of you. Malo 'aupito Aga.



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**GOD HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES—Wairiki Marist Community**

The Marist community in Wairiki consists of Fr. Joe Tora, the Parish Priest, assisted by Fr. 'Epoki and Br. Makario. Earlier in the year, the parish was able to acquire a new tractor partly with help from the Government. They wasted no time in putting the tractor to good use. 'Epoki and the farmers started ploughing the huge parish land to plant water melons and other root crops like kumara, cassava and taro. The water melons have been harvested already and sold. Their yagona farm have also been continuously harvested and sold locally. According to Joe, there is need for renovation of some buildings and staff houses in the parish. The farm proceeds will certainly contribute.



**WAINONI QUEEN OF MARTYRS PARISHI— Makira, Solomon Islands.**

In June, Archbishop Chris Cardone visited Wainoni Parish to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Some villages missed out because of heavy rain and flooding rivers which made it impossible for crossing. The Parish Priest, Fr. Lutoviko Olie had to cross rivers and climb mountains to reach those villages to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a total of 95 candidates, 44 received the Sacrament of Baptism, 25 received First Holy Communion and also officiated 14 marriages. Thank you Viko for the pastoral care of your people.



**END OF ACADEMIC YEAR—Wainoni**

Wainoni Marist Secondary School had its Annual Prize Giving ceremony towards the end of October before the School's Final Exams and the National Exams begins since students will head back home immediately after exams. It's the last day of exams in early November and you can see the sign of relief on the face of Fr. Dylan and joys in the students. The majority of students will walk for hours across rivers and climbing mountains before they could reach home. Thank you Dylan and Bro. Andrew for the work. You both deserved a god holiday.



**A DAY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND SHARING—Apia, Samoa**

Two Catholic colleges in Samoa belonged to the Archdiocese of Apia. They are Paul VI College which were run by the Mercy Sisters and Chanel College since its inception in 1962, the Marist Fathers was in-charge. Both religious orders have left and the schools have decline in numbers and there has been talk of closing down both. However, the new Archbishop wanted to revive the two schools to cater for the need and mission of the Catholic Church in Samoa. Currently there are only two Catholic secondary schools in the main island of Upolu, St. Joseph who is owned by the Marist Brothers and St. Mary, the SMSM. On November 23rd Archbishop Mosese called on all religious for a day of prayer, reflection and sharing on how to respond to this challenge. Our Marist confreres in Apia joined the day of reflection and sharing.



**CONFIRMATION AT HOHOLA PARISH—Papua New Guinea**

On November 17th, Cardinal John Ribat of Port Moresby administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 66 candidates mostly secondary students and few adults at the Parish of the Sacred Heart. Those in the secondary were prepared by Andrea and the adults by Chris Hifo. May the outpouring of the Holy Spirit enables you all to witness to your faith courageously.

