Older Marists are a valuable gift to the Society: the elderly and infirm witness to Christian hope; their prayer, suffering and wisdom are a precious resource, making a unique contribution to community life and ministry… (GC 2017 Statements and Declaration #58)

Our community must be a home for older or infirm confreres where they will be welcomes for their living contribution of faithful service and Marist Life… (PC 2017 Statutes #25)

Fr Bernard with some of his siblings in Vao Isle of Pines, New Caledonia.

Report from New Caledonia: Fr Bernard has officially celebrated his 60th anniversary of priesthood on 28 Oct 2018 though his ordination was on June 1st 1958 at Saint-Etienne, France. He is the oldest Marist in the New Caledonia Sector where he arrived in 1959. He was involved mainly in the education and parish ministries, 4 terms as Regional Superior plus being a local superior, and chaplain to Charismatic Movement.

Since 1991 he has been based in the Isle of Pines and attached to the South Marist Community. His Jubilee was extra blessed with ten of his siblings joining with him and the parish community to make it “the” event of 2018, one week before the historic referendum for self-determination of the Territory.

“Vocation promotion is the responsibility of each Marist. They need to be sensitive to the spiritual aspirations of a younger generation of Catholics whose religious culture might be different from their own. Individual Marists need to realize that their personal witness promotes or does not promote vocations…” (GC 2017 Statements and Declarations #64)