

SMbulletin

Friday, 6 December 2024

SPECIAL MARIST PROJECTS

In the past years, a wide range of Marist Projects have received funding through the Society's "Special Projects Fund", with a substantial support coming from legacies and donors in Europe.

This is a summary of some of these projects:

- ◆ The renovation of the Parish Church in Bahia, Brazil, more specifically the installations of windows and doors to the church.
- ◆ The building of a chapel for the Marist school in Burundi. The chapel is used also for mass and sacraments to people living around.
- ◆ Relief for the population in New Caledonia after and during the violent turmoil in 2024, mainly to provide food, shelter, classrooms and medical care.
- ◆ Support for the Our Lady of Consolation Center in Bambili, Cameroon for children with special needs: a vehicle, the building of a store room and a system to provide the area with clean water. Also in Bambili, which is an area suffering from political turbulence, solar panels have been provided to serve the Marist community and other people, as electrical blackouts are very frequent.
- ◆ The furnishment for a recently constructed school in Kanosia, Papua New Guinea, where Marists serve.
- ◆ A contribution for the construction of a church for the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Digos, Philippines, where the Parish community has grown significantly since the Marists took on the responsibility of the pastoral care in 2011.
- ◆ Support for the Marist Mission in Ranong, providing health and educational services to the people. The support includes also projects of the Marist Peace and Harmony Centre to promote peace and interreligious dialogue.

Requests for the Special Projects Fund are submitted by Major Superiors to the Bursar General who presents them to the General Council for approvement. The projects are to benefit the poor and disadvantaged either directly (preferred) or indirectly (e.g. support of a Marist working with the poor).

GRADUATION AT TUTU RURAL TRAINING CENTRE

On Friday 29 November, 57 young farmers graduated at the Tutu Rural Training Centre after the completion of their 3 years program. An important guest was the Australian Deputy High Commissioner in Fiji, Mr. Andrew Shepherd. The Provincial of Oceania, Fr Milikiade Rayalu, joined the graduates and their families and friends in the celebration. Thanks to the formation course, these young men will be able to contribute to the farming and management life skills in their villages. Prior to the graduation, the parents of the graduates attended a 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.

