

SMbulletin

Friday, 7 November 2025

APPOINTMENT OF BP JACOB ABA, S.M. AS BISHOP OF AUKI



On 28 October Pope Leo XIV appointed Fr Jacob Aba, s.m. as the Bishop of the Diocese of Auki, Solomon Islands.

Bishop Jacob was born in Malaita, Auki, in 1976 and joined the Marists doing his studies in Marist college Bomana. He was part of the novitiate in Tutu, made first vows in the Society of Mary in 2004 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2009. He served for several years as a Parish priest, and in 2017 he earned a diploma in *Human Development, Leadership, Formation, and Community Building* at Saint Anselm's School in Kent, Great Britain. Following his studies, he became a formator, first at Marist College Suva, and later he was assigned to the International Marist Novitiate in Eden, Philippines. He was currently serving in the Holy Name of Mary Parish in Tanagai and was also a member of the Provincial Council in Oceania. The episcopal ordination is due to take place in January 2026.

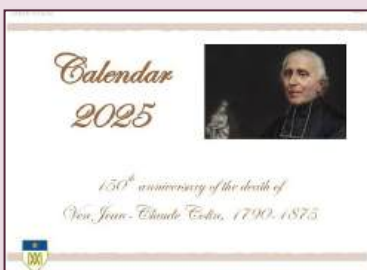
THE PRESIDENT OF FIJI VISITS THE GENERAL HOUSE

Last week, the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, while being in Rome for his official visit to the Holy See, visited the General House. Accompanied by the First Lady, he attended a Mass which was followed by a traditional solemn ceremony and dinner. He was officially welcomed by Fr Setefano Mataele, the Superior of the General House community, assisted by Fr Mika Tuilau. The event brought together many Marist religious and lay friends and also Pacific Islanders employed at the FAO headquarters in Rome.



In his remarks, President Lalabalavu expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Marist Family for their enduring role in shaping Fiji's education, faith, and moral formation. He noted that the Marist mission has long served as a cornerstone of Fiji's nation-building and continues to inspire.

ABOUT COLIN CALENDARS, KALENDARIUM 2026 AND THE NOVENA



At this time of the year, in Marist houses all over the world, parcels are being delivered containing the Colin Calendars for 2025. Thanks to Fr Ron Nissen from the District of Australia for all his work in this area and for the spread of the Founder's *fama*.

On Thursday, Marists have started to pray a Novena leading up to the 150th anniversary of the Founder's death on 15 November. The province of Europe has prepared a small booklet with prayers to accompany the novena. Please also carry the six Marist seminarians in your prayers who will be ordained to the Diaconate on 15 November. Attached to this SMbulletin you receive the Kalendarium for 2026, for local printing and distribution.