



District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

Kia Ora, Greetings, Ni sa bula vinaka, Kam na mauri, Talofa Lava



Current News Items

9th December: Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you fore-saw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



District Dates

Wednesday 11th December; Chapter Delegates depart for Fiji.

Thursday 12th December: District Chapter Begin at Lomeri in Fiji (until 16th December:

Sunday 15th December: Genesis Day 2013. Foundation day of the District of the Pacific.

Thursday 2nd January 2020: Marist Anniversary 1817 - Foundation of the Institute and in 1917 Foundation of the New Zealand Province.

Extra - Attached Report:

13th December 2019

Brother Terence Costello's Final Report from Manziana



Brother Bryan Stanaway with two Swiss Guards

The 2019 English speaking Third Age is completed and people are wending their way home.

The formal part concluded with a three day Retreat led by a Father David Glenday who is a Comboni missionary. The Comboni missionaries are an Italian order for mission work in Africa. David served in Uganda and the Sudan and was elected as their Superior General a few years back. After that he was Secretary of the Union of Superior

Generals, a position now held by Brother Emili.

David's input was very stimulating based as it was on a gospel passage each day. Day 1's focus was the Annunciation, Day 2 the Call of the Apostles and Day 3 the story of Nicodemus coming to Christ by night. A phrase which remains with me is that Christ is both the pioneer and protector of our faith,

The following day we visited the Scavi at St Peter's which requires getting permission to enter the private part of the Vatican. Being able to enter this area enabled us to see the statue of the Founder commissioned for his canonisation. Attached is a photo of Bryan with two Swiss Guards. While we were waiting to enter the Scarvi two detachments of the guards marched past. Their style of marching is very deliberate and quite different to the marching of the New Zealand armed forces.

Instead of Mass on the penultimate day we had Taize style prayer time which we know appeals so much to young people. The Brother who spoke to us on our visit to Taize told us that at the peak time of the European summer they host up to 4000 young people at a given time. One of the books I read here was entitled The Great Divide between Spirituality and Religion written by a Father David Ransom, a priest of the Broken Bay Diocese in Sydney. I know that he has given Retreats to priests in New Zealand. Taize is, in my opinion, a place that bridges that divide.

Our final liturgy celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a fitting liturgy for Marists and Marianists,

To those on the Chapter I look forward to meeting you at Lomeri.

My thanks to Bryan McKay for publishing these Updates and I hope that they have been of interest to Brothers in the District.

Fraternally, Terry





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Brother Ernesto Sánchez Superior General



On Monday the 9th of December a goodly number of Brothers gathered at Onslow Avenue to welcome Brother Ernesto to New Zealand Aotearoa. It was a chance to gather, welcome, pray together and to listen to the message that Brother Ernest brought with him. The Brothers found Brother Ernesto easy to talk with and he gave a very informative talk with an excellent visual presentation about our present situation and our future direction. A very pleasant lunch together was enjoyed which gave all a chance to catch up with each other and another opportunity to speak with Brother Ernesto. Brother Ernesto then travelled out to the Elizabeth Knox Rest Home to have afternoon tea with the six Brothers who live there. On Wednesday 11th Brother Ernesto then departed for Fiji along with the Delegates from New Zealand to prepare for the District Chapter which began on the 12th of December.

Kate Gakovich sends photos of the Marist Champagnat Staff Lunch at the Novotel Hotel



Everyone had a wonderful time giving out and receiving presents, enjoying a beautiful lunch with a wonderful dessert and being well looked after by hotel staff and each other.

Asia-Oceania Inter-Regional Community Leaders Formation Programme

Marist Asia Spirituality and Mission Centre - Lake Sebu, Philippines (21st November - 14th December 2019)

From Brother Sefo Une and Dan Dungey (Oceania Representatives)



In the spirit of what Brother Ernesto shared in this year's Champagnat Day message, the 25+ Marists participating in this gathering will not benefit simply as individuals but also as an inter-regional Marist community - part of a wider global charismatic family. The aim of this inaugural inter-regional gathering was to



seek ways of building our Marist communities as beacons of hope. We embarked on a journey from our old paradigms to learn and re-imagine faith-filled and participative styles of leadership and to explore ways of belonging in communities as Brothers and as Lay Men and Women.

The group consisted of 25 participants and team members from 10 different cultures working in 11 countries. 17 brothers and 8 Lay Marists. The average age of the group was a youthful 45. These are some of the quantifiable information of the group who assembled at Lake Sebu. However, the more interesting details are in the qualities, that is, the values, attitudes, dreams, passion, courage and faith. During the formative three weeks, this marvellous Marist community explored and developed the qualities and skills, needed to be a Community Leader in the 3rd century of our Institute.

Daniel Dungey
(Partnership Coordinator)