

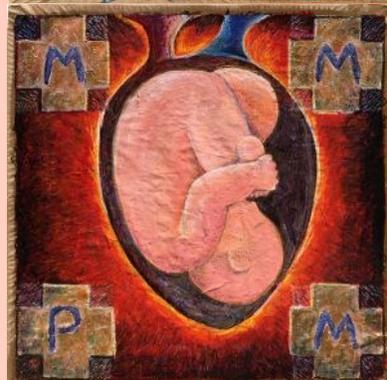
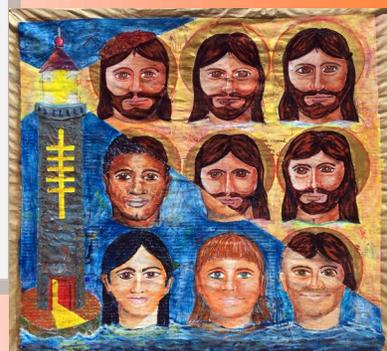


Marist Brothers Melanesia

July Issue 2018

Melanesia: News & Toksave

**Happy 81st Birthday
Brother John Paul MAURO
Born on July 2, 1937**



Br John Paul Mauro (left) sharing a cup of wine with his childhood friend Thomas Torosinu (right) at Pewana village, in Koromira. Both of them last met some 50 years ago. It was a great reunion after many years .

Mabiri—July Happennings

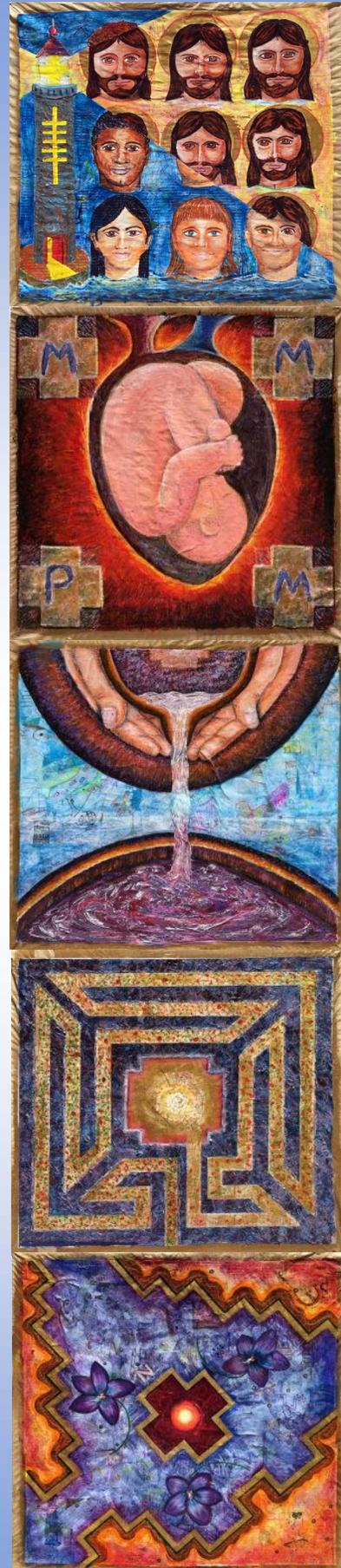
By Br Mark Kenatsi

Brothers' Community

Br John Paul Mauro celebrated his 81st birthday and 58 years as a Marist Brother. The Community invited the teachers who were around since it was the 2nd Term Holiday. Most of the teachers went home for their holidays, some remained in the school. It was a great privilege for us all to celebrate the birthday of this simple, yet great man of God. It was also a challenge for us to be with someone like JP (how he is affectionately known to us in Melanesia) who had lived this life. As I reflected, JP is one of the Original Marist Brothers in Melanesia. How is he an original? John Paul is one of the first young men who were recruited at the tender age of 12-14 to go for formation in Australia. Guys like Alfonsus Laumanasa, Bernard Kangu, Edwin Meresihinua and Gabriel Kaminei (later became Fr Michael Kaminei...these are the young men who persevered to the life and died as religious people. Here we have Br John still kicking. That is why as a Community we referred to him as one of the originals. We hosted two celebrations of this great man. One as a Community with the teachers and the other one, we took Br John to his home village of Pewana, Koromira in the Central of Bougainville to celebrate his life with his family. In particular, his sisters, nephews, nieces, grand children and in laws. It is a rare opportunity we celebrate life with our families especially when we are religious. We thought as a Community to take Br John to his home village, to celebrate his birthday at the same time continue to thank them for the support rendered to him in his religious journey. One of the very special moments for Br John, he was able to meet his childhood friend for the first time since their childhood days. This celebration was able to bring in Thomas Torisinu, one of the childhood friends of Br John who is still living today. They shared many stories, emotional with each other; it was the great moment for them both.



Br John Paul relaxes on his birthday chair





Birthday Breakfast

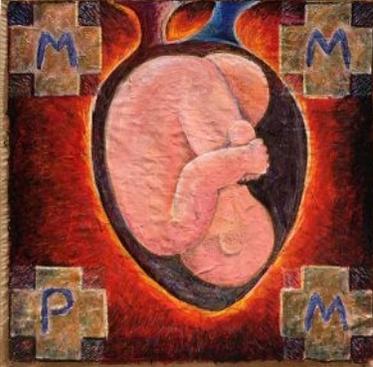
Chief John Paul Mauro giving his speech after celebrating 81 years old and 58 years a Marxist Brother what a challenge bro...thank you



Brothers, a Novice and 2 candidates gathered around Br John in his room for the birthday prayer led by Cyril-novice



Brothers and friends standing around Br John giving his speech before cutting of the cake



Br John preparing himself for his birthday trip to Koromira



Br John Paul cutting his birthday sponsored by Mrs Kerepas



School

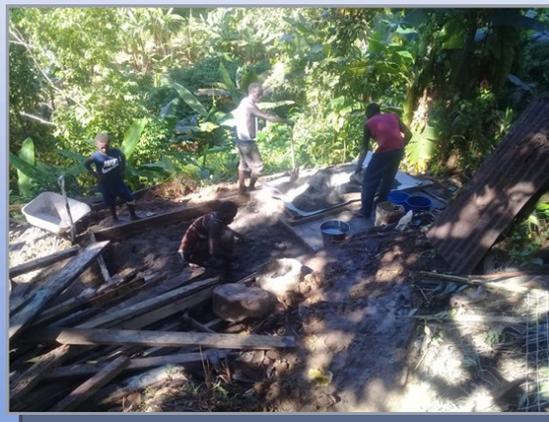
On the 09th of July we welcomed our students back from the school holiday. On the 12th July as students were slowly settling down to kick off the term, we had a visit from the Central Bank of Papua New Guinea. Teachers and students were taught the functions of the Central Bank and its mission to the people of PNG. The conference was informational at the same time educational. Students asked a lot of questions as well as the teachers. One of the main information is the importance of investing for the future with Central Bank or any other financial institutions, however people should also take precautions to others who are not genuine financial institutions that can lure their investments but cannot repay, classical example: the famous U-Vistract.

Teachers, Students and Parents consultancy

From the 19-21 July, the college welcome the parents to the school. Not many parents made it because of the distance and the weather. However, the parents that came had sessions with the class patrons/matrons of their children. This was in regards to their report cards. After that Mr Tukana (Deputy Head Master), Br Mark and Mr Epa (Principal) a meeting with the parents for 3 consecutives. Parents were briefed on the performances of their children, the behaviour and attitudes of the students and the steps the college had taken to address those. There had been some progress so far concerning the behaviour and attitudes of our young men. On the other hand, interest in school and studies is slowly taking shape. Therefore, we are happy and grateful with the progress so far and the parents are also seeing the changes in their child's behaviour during their holidays.



Think Sustainability, Work Sustainably -boys fixing the old piggery over the holidays at the back of the brothers' house.



Officials from the Central Bank of Papua New Guinea a talk to the Staff and Students of St Joseph's College Mabiri



Report on St Joseph Secondary School, TENARU, Solomon Islands By Abraham H. Principal

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Catholic Mission and MAPS for jointly funding our first teacher's house. The construction is now complete and soon to be blessed by our school chaplain. This project has taken many years to come to its fruition and on that note I wish to thank our former District Leader Br Ken Macdonald and Mr Benedict Tooming for the initial support and all the preparatory work which led into the realisation of this project. It is also in this same spirit that I should acknowledge all the enormous contribution and effort that was committed into making this project a reality. In fact I personally expressed to Mr Ashley that I have already gave up on this project and Mr Ashley's encouragement and commitment has inspired me in many ways. If you want things done you must be faithful and be patient. St Joseph's owes Mr Ashley so much and we are so grateful for all that you have done and hope to continue working together in the years to come.

A brief acquittal report was already submitted to Catholic Mission and MAPS early this month and I am proud to say that Catholic Mission has accepted the report and the next funding trance for the second teacher's house should be released anytime from now.

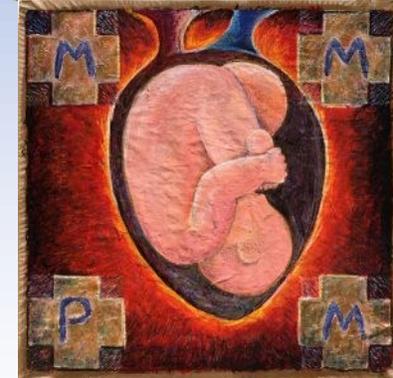


OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

One of the big projects we took on in late 2016 was to build a new office building for the school. Despite the cost, our initial thinking and understanding at that time was that the nature of the project itself will not attract any external funding. We knew this right from the beginning but decided not to allow this situation to deter us from our strong desire and mind to proceed with this project. With our sincere commitment and strong mind to proceed with this project, decided to go ahead and to date, despite all odds, I am grateful for the progress so far. It is indeed a huge achievement for our school and I thank all our students and staff members for the understanding and unwavering support for this huge project.

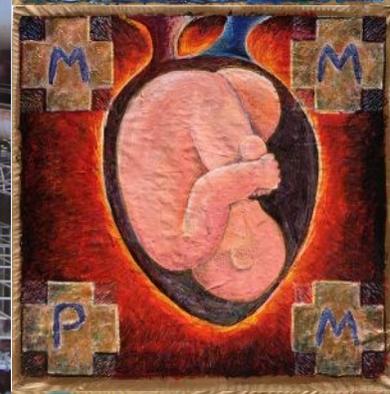


Work on this project was suspended for the first semester but has now resumed. At this stage, the top flooring has been completed and the boys are now working on the walling.



SELF-RELIANT PROJECTS

POULTRY



RICE

We planted our rice in April and is now ready for harvesting. When our students for Semester 2 they will begin to harvest the rice. Our Tenaru rice is very popular among the business houses. We eat some of them and sell the surplus. Its good money. We thank our staff members and students for all their hard work. Rice planting is highly labor intensive. Rice harvesting has started and will continue this week.



From Port Moresby Community By Br Doug

On paper the community at Port Moresby consists of three Brothers – Jean Marie, Brendan and Doug. In reality it is seldom that only three sit down at the table for dinner. Admittedly, Bomes Tukana from Bougainville makes the fourth member, having been here for several months prior to going to Laumanasa as a postulant, so it could be four at the table.

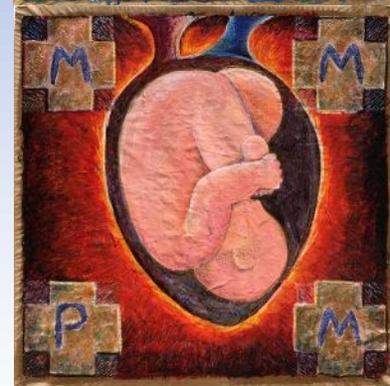
However, we have welcomed quite a number of visitors this month of July. But first of all we would have to mention the departure of Br Rodney for Sydney where he will be doing a semester of business study, living at the North Sydney community. All the best for that study, Rodney, and know that we will miss you and the huge contribution you made to our community here.



The farewell
of Rodney
before he left
for his stud-
ies in Sydney

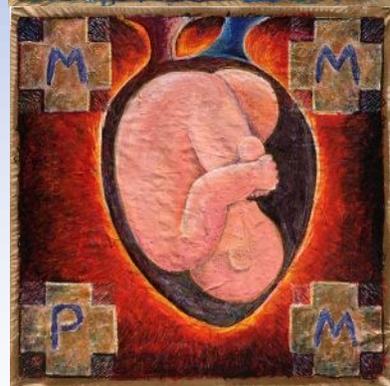


The farewell
cake



We were privileged to welcome Fr Cleopas SM and Br John SM for two nights. They were returning to the Solomons from the Philippines, where Father had been having treatment for a recurrence of his brain tumour. Despite the gravity of his current situation his spirits are still remarkably positive and he has retained his infectious sense of humour. While they were here we had a visit from Marist Fathers from Hohola and Kanosia, with them bringing takeaways and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Another Marist Father to come and stay a few nights was Fr Aisake, the Provincial of Oceania and again we were able to welcome a group of Marists who came to visit with him.



We were able to host Br Bryan Leak for one night, at the end of his trip revisiting places he had taught in over his many years here. At the same time we had Br Kevin Hoare with us for a few days at the beginning and then at the end of his time in PNG doing the same type of travel – visiting places and meeting up with old boys. We were also able to meet some of these old boys who came here to catch up with him. Obviously both Brothers are held in very high regard by these old boys, which was wonderful to behold.



Currently we have Br Henry Uguni and nephew from Solomons here while his nephew arranges an appointment for a scan at the hospital. And to complete the picture of visitors we have Sister Francisca SMSM from Bougainville with us, in the process of getting her visa to return to the Philippines where she has been working.

Earlier in the month we had Br Finan with us for two nights, en route back to Madang from the Solomons.



It hasn't all been inward traffic. Brendan was in Australia for a Mittagong finance-related meeting early in the month, Jean Marie was in the Solomons (Vanga and Laumanasa) and currently at St Michel, Santo, due back on August 1 and Doug was also in Santo just prior to Jean Marie's arrival there. And to cap it all off, Brendan heads down to Sydney on Sunday the 29th for another finance meeting, returning the same day as Jean Marie, August 1. That makes Bomes the only still point in our community.

So July has been quite a month.



IMMERSE AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

By Raphael Fakaia

"Hey! Good Morning, Sir, where do you come from?" John asked.

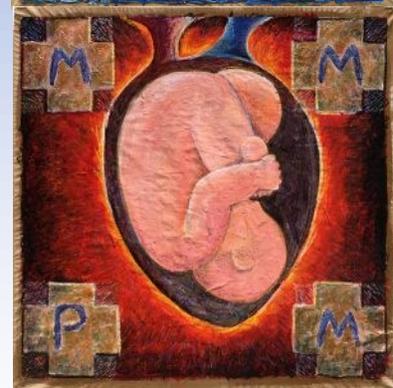
"Good morning, I come from Solomon Islands." I replied.

"Solomon Islands is located in which part of the U.S.A, Sir?" John asked.

"Sorry, little one. Solomon Islands is nowhere near the United State of America. It is a very tiny island located in the South Pacific Ocean." I answered.

Asking even such sensitive questions is unsurprisingly all part of the students' curiosity to know more about things or a person. In the Filipino context, children love asking questions to foreigners though it is sometimes intimidating for some so to speak. While I enjoy revealing to them about myself, I felt down-hearted when they just can't comprehend or figure out where Solomon Islands is in the world map. However, I should not blame them for their poor geographical understanding, but I would rather blame the educational system for not re-enforcing Geography subjects to be taught in Filipino Schools.

It has been three months since I have started my teaching and mission at NDC. A school with three thousand students and more than a hundred teaching staff is something to be amazed at. While it is a new academic year for the school, it is also the first time in thirty years for this school to have foreign personnel part of the teaching faculty. Generally speaking, for some Filipino children in the school, it seem as this is their first time ever to see a real black man around. While this makes me popular somehow in the campus, in reality I assume it is the bits and pieces of the experience. And I suppose, it is the mere reason why they have been asking me so many questions. And you might be surprised to know that in one day, I teach five hundred students. It is just similar as I am teaching the entire students of St. Joseph's Tenaru.



However, the business of teaching has sparked enlightenment and enthusiasm both inside and outside of the classroom. I must humbly acknowledge the many enrichment encounters that I have been inspired by. Teaching here in particular is a whole new experience here due to the different pedagogical methods used. However, the richness of the students, their craving to accomplish, and their love shown towards me have been overwhelming. The respect shown for religious people is obvious and rooted so well among these lovely people. For it has been remarkable, life-giving and, at same time, thought-provoking. Simultaneously, the Marist characteristics is what makes this school one of the prestigious institutions in the city of Cotabato.

Furthermore, my interactions with students seems to be exciting and spirit-filled despite the difficulty to speak their language and to respond to their never-ending questions. Yet, speaking a few essential Filipino (Tagalog) words so far has been greatly supportive for me to begin a conversation with the students. I wish that I could speak their language to understand them better. Nevertheless, their curiosity to know more indirectly helps me to build a mutual understanding with conjoint respect that endorses dignity. So, I would say it has been a rich, fun, see-and-study experience for me and, of course, for the students and teachers regardless of our cultural differences.

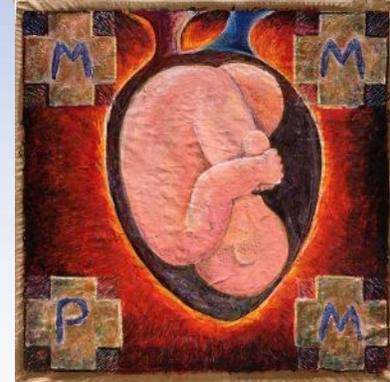


For the more I immerse myself into their lives, the more I become to feel responsible to do my best as a good Marist educator in this part of the world. While it has been exciting so far, I am also become very much aware of my own limitation and try to regulate my life around prayer, community and apostolate.

But for now, the joy and enthusiasm of teaching seems to be driving me into the world of the local people, and I hope that I will continue to learn, and to give my best to making Jesus known and loved among students, teachers and the school community as whole in my daily everyday interactions.

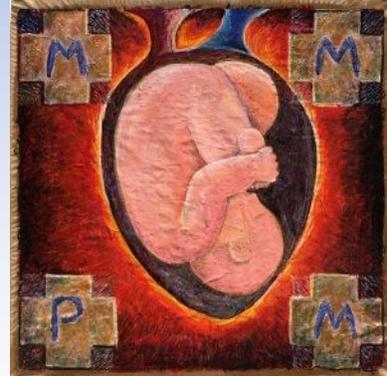
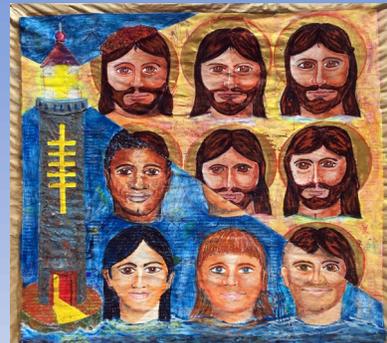
At the present, I am really experiencing a joyful journey with abundance of giving and taking. There is no other way simply to say 'thank you', and to continue with an audacious vision in mind.

So for now, I must only have to say: thank you, Lord, for the graces and blessings so far.



An echo from Champagnat Group at St Michel School, Santo, Vanuatu

The Champagnat group begun its visitation to the sick and the elderly at St Michel Village community in the month of July. The group activities will continue in different forms in 2018. The group is made up of Students, Staffs and Marist Brothers.



Rights of Children

By Andrew Litanga

On the 29th of January this year Br Alvaro Sepulveda in Rome on behalf of the FMSI team sent an email asking the District to write a report on Vanuatu. This report is called Universal Periodic Review (UPR). “The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

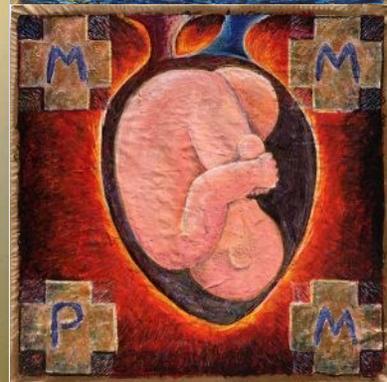
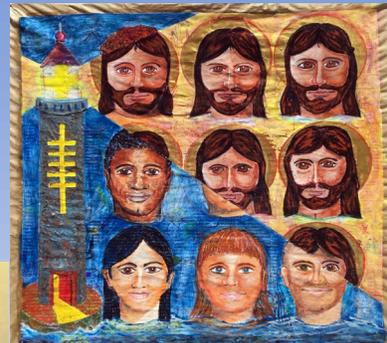
UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed. The ultimate aim of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur.” (<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>)

Vanuatu will have its new Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in January 2019 at the 32nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Therefore, the District was asked to write a report about Vanuatu. The District Council met in Laumanasa on February 10-11 and accepted that invitation from Br Alvaro and the FMSI team. Br Jean Marie and I had a discussion on which theme we should work on and finally we came up with the theme: **“Children with Disabilities in Vanuatu”**. Besides our theme the Franciscan International was also interested to work on Climate change in Vanuatu so our report has two parts. Children with Disabilities in Vanuatu as part one of the report and Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights as part two of the report.

On the 10th of April I travelled to Port Vila and collected information from various organisations and departments. A word of gratitude to Bishop John Bosco, Bishop of Vanuatu for the accommodation provided, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Justice and Community Service plus the two Non-Government Organisations UNICEF and the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP). Thank you again. Without your help and support we would not have been able to complete this UPR report.

Again, this new round of UPR provides the District with another opportunity to participate in the promotion of children's rights, as called for by the XXII General Chapter.

Thank you & God bless all.



Ash fall from volcano forces school closures on Ambae Island Vanuatu

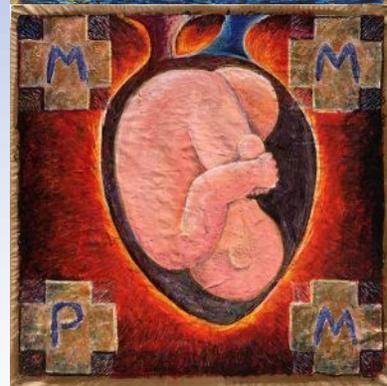
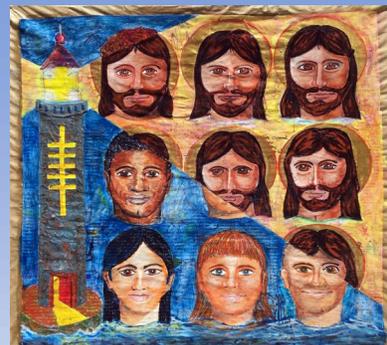
The continuous fall of ashes from the volcano on the island of Ambae in Vanuatu forces the Vanuatu government to close all schools on Ambae. The government is making plans to evacuate and relocate the people and students of Ambae to other islands such as Maewo Island and Santo. This is the second time this year the students have had to be evacuated. All senior students have already been relocated to schools on Maewo Island and Santo.

Police are expected to be assigned to travel to Ambae soon to assist with the relocation.

Due to some sources, the island of Ambae is no longer safe for the up to 11,000 people to continue to live there. The living conditions of the people in particular the children and students is a very big concern at the moment.

The rain water is undrinkable and the rivers are inaccessible. Even the costal sea is no longer use for swimming.

Please remember in your prayers the people of Ambae Islands in Vanuatu who are affected by this volcano disaster.



DISTRICT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

District Dates

- ◆ Extended Council meeting—August 8 in Port Moresby
- ◆ District Council meeting—August 9 in Port Moresby
- ◆ Oceania Council meeting—August 13 via Teleconference
- ◆ College of Leaders meeting—August 14 via Teleconference

Prayers & Thoughts

- ◆ Late Mr Collin Kwasu—who passed away recently and his family
- ◆ Br John Paul Mauro—his health
- ◆ Cyril and Carlvin for their Community and Apostolic Experience
- ◆ Our young men in Formation
- ◆ Brothers discerning their vocation as Brothers and going through difficult moment in their religious life
- ◆ Our Lay Marists in the District
- ◆ Sick members of Brothers' families and friends
- ◆ Our Institute
- ◆ The people on Ambae Island in Vanuatu affected by the volcano

Vision

Yumi wakabaut wantaim olsem wanpela family igo long niupela time.



Mission

Long dispela niupela taim, wok blong yumi emi blong mekim ol yanpela i save long Jesus na laikim em.