

# District of Melanesia Newsletter

MARIST BROTHERS

Issue 1

*From the District Leader*



Dear fellow Marists,

Greetings and welcome to this New Year in our different schools, communities and other ministries around the District. I believe everyone comes with new hopes and dreams for this year.

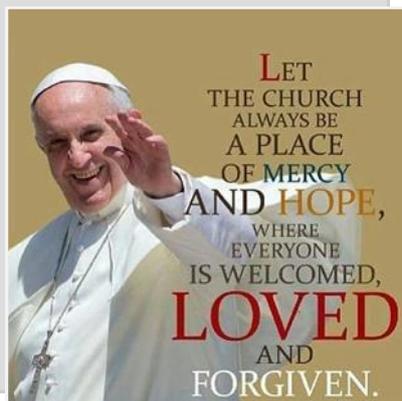
As we start to move towards what lies ahead this year, let us begin by reminding ourselves of our identity as Marist. Let us honestly and openly say to ourselves and maybe to our colleagues at work what are our hopes and dreams. And how can we commit ourselves to making those hopes and dreams become real this year. Let us also remind ourselves about our call as Marist and that is to make Jesus Christ known and loved especially to children and young people. We can ask ourselves this question; "how am I going to make Jesus Christ known and loved this year?"

To carry out this mission you and I have to commit ourselves to our different responsibilities.

You and I need to be more attentive and open to people and all that are happening in our ministries, in our communities, in our families, in the District, in the Region, in the Institute and in the Church. These are special places where we are called to go to and carry out the mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved.

It is not easy and pleasant to go to places where we call the peripheries. It demands a lot of courage and of letting go of many things in life. It demands a lot of humility and compassion. This call to be humble and compassionate has to be rooted in God's love and mercy. We are called to open our hearts and let the love that God has for us to touch the hearts of those who have no hope in life. Those who are poor, those who are less fortunate than us, those who are neglected in society and in need. Because we can easily be working with blind eyes and strong hearts and fail to see that my brother in community is the one who is in need. Or my fellow Lay Marist whom I work with is the one who is less fortunate than me, who is poor and need support. So let us begin this year with hearts of love, compassion, kindness and thoughtfulness.

This year is the "Year of Mercy". Pope Francis call all Christians to do the "Works of Mercy". Here is an extract of Pope's Lenten Message for this year 2016 on the Work of Mercy. Pope says:



*"God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us*

## District Leader letter cont.....

*that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I expressed my hope that “the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy” (ibid., 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ “becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us” (ibid.). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. Ex 3:5), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.”*

As Christians and as Marists, I invite you as individual and as community to make what you are doing become works of mercy. These works are to be done and shown in very simple but concrete actions and little things we do daily. I believe it is a good invitation and call for you and me to begin this year with.

I wish you well as you start your work this year. And may God’s mercy be upon each one of you, in your families and your communities.

God bless you all.



Br Jean Marie Batick  
District Leader



## District Leaders Letter in French

Cher Maristes,

Bonjour et bienvenue pour cette nouvelle année dans nos différentes écoles, nos communautés et d'autres ministères dans le District. Je suis sûre que beaucoup d'entre nous ont commencé l'année avec plein d'espérances et de vision et comment va être l'année pour eux.

En ce début d'année j'invite chacun et chacune de prendre des moments de réflexion pour réfléchir sur notre identité mariste. De dire honnêtement et ouvertement à soi-même et peut-être à nos collègues de travail, qu'en tant que maristes, quelles sont nos espoirs et nos visions pour vivre ma vie mariste cette année. Et comment pouvons-nous nous engager à faire de ces espoirs et ces visions devenir réels. Rappelons-nous aussi que notre appel comme mariste c'est de faire connaître Jésus Christ et aimait surtout aux enfants et aux jeunes. Nous pouvons peut être nous poser la question; «Comment vais-je faire connaître Jésus Christ et aimer aux autres cette année?»

Pour bien accomplir cette mission, vous et moi devons nous engager à nos différentes responsabilités. Vous et moi devons être plus attentifs et ouverts aux personnes et tout ce qui se passe dans nos milieux de travail, dans nos communautés, dans nos familles, dans le district, dans la région, dans l'Institut et dans l'Église. Ce sont des endroits importants et spéciales pour nous maristes. C'est à ces endroits là que nous sommes appelés à aller et accomplir la mission de faire connaître et aimer Jésus Christ.

Il n'est pas facile et agréable à aller dans des endroits où nous appelons les périphéries. Il exige beaucoup de courage et d'abandonnement de beaucoup de choses dans la vie. Elle exige beaucoup d'humilité et de compassion. Cet appel à être humble et compatissant doit être enraciné dans l'amour et la miséricorde de Dieu. Nous sommes appelés à ouvrir nos cœurs et laissez l'amour que Dieu a pour nous de toucher les cœurs de ceux qui n'ont plus d'espoir dans la vie. Ceux qui sont pauvres, ceux qui sont moins chanceux que nous, ceux qui sont négligés dans la société et ceux qui sont dans le besoin. Des fois nous pouvons facilement travailler avec des yeux aveugles et des cœurs de pierre. Car ceci peut nous obliger à ne pas voir que c'est mon confrère dans la communauté qui est dans le besoin. Ou bien mon collègue laïc mariste avec qui je travaille qui a moins de chance que moi, qui est pauvre et qui a besoin de soutien. Commençons donc cette année avec des cœurs d'amour, de compassion, de gentillesse et de bienveillance.

Cette année est l' «Année de la Miséricorde». Le Pape François appelle tous les chrétiens à faire des "œuvres de miséricorde". Voici un extrait du Message de Carême du Pape pour cette année 2016 sur les travaux de la Miséricorde. Le Pape nous dit:

"La miséricorde de Dieu transforme les cœurs humains; elle nous permet, à travers l'expérience d'un amour fidèle, pour devenir miséricordieux à son tour. Dans un nouveau miracle jamais, la miséricorde divine brille dans nos vies, inspirer chacun de nous d'aimer notre prochain et nous consacrer à ce que la tradition de l'Église appelle les œuvres spirituelles et corporelles de miséricorde. Ces œuvres nous rappellent que la foi trouve son expression dans les actions quotidiennes concrètes destinées à aider nos voisins dans le corps et l'esprit: en alimentant, en visite, réconfortant et les instruire. Sur des choses telles que nous serons jugés. Pour cette raison, j'exprimé l'espoir que «le peuple chrétien réfléchir sur les œuvres corporelles et spirituelles de miséricorde; ce sera un moyen de réveiller notre cons-

## District Leaders Letter in French continué...

ciencia, trop souvent terni dans le visage de la pauvreté, et d'entrer plus profondément dans le cœur de l'Évangile où les pauvres ont une expérience particulière de la miséricorde de Dieu "(ibid., 15). Pour les pauvres, la chair du Christ "devient visible dans la chair du torturé, l'écraser, la fouetter, la malnutrition et l'exil ... d'être reconnu, touché, et pris en charge par nous» (ibid.). Il est le mystère sans précédent et scandaleuse de l'extension dans le temps de la souffrance de l'Agneau innocent, le buisson ardent d'amour gratuit. Avant cet amour, nous pouvons, comme Moïse, enlever nos sandales (cf. Ex 3: 5)., Surtout quand les pauvres sont nos frères et sœurs en Christ qui souffrent pour leur foi "

En tant que chrétiens et Maristes, je vous invite en tant qu'individu et communautaire de faire des œuvres de miséricorde à travers ce que vous faites. Ces travaux sont à faire à travers des actions très simples mais concrètes. Et à travers des petites choses et gestes que nous faisons tous les jours. Je crois que c'est une bonne invitation et appel pour nous tous que le Saint Père nous donne, pour nous guider et cheminer durant cette année de miséricorde.

Je vous souhaite un bon commencement dans votre travail en cette année. Que la miséricorde de Dieu soit sur chacun de vous, dans vos familles et vos communautés.

Que Dieu vous bénisse.



Fr Jean Marie Batick  
Supérieur du District



## Formation

### **Final Profession of Br Elie Sangul Londar on Pentecost Island, Vanuatu**



Br Elie Sangul was joined by his family and the local community, the Brothers from the District of Melanesia, other denominations such as Anglican to witness his final profession on Saturday 19 December at Londar on Pentecost islands, in Vanuatu.

The final profession was celebrated by Father David BULETANGSU, parish priest of Baie Martellie/Baie Barrier/Olal.

The Eucharistic celebration was very well organised and led by the youth of Londar and the other surrounding communities. Every community that was present had a part of the liturgy to look after and that

was very well carry out.

Br Jean Marie Batick, the District Leader was joined by the other three Brothers from Vanuatu; Bonaventure Tolak, Valentin Samsam and David Molsul during the profession. It was a great celebration for the District of Melanesia and for the local Church and Diocese of Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Baie Martellie, the place where Br Elie did his primary education has a history. It is located along the beach. Some years ago, it was hit by a tsunami and many people and families including Br Elie had lost their loved ones. Br Elie and his family lost their beloved father during that time. Br Elie father's was remember in a very special way during the celebration his final profession.

After the tsunami, the community had to move to settle at Londar up on the mountain which was the older village in that area.

The celebration was very well coloured and entertained by different cultural groups' dances and modern youth groups dances. The day ended with a prayer by Fr David. After the prayer we come together to share kava together.

***Br Jean Marie Batick***



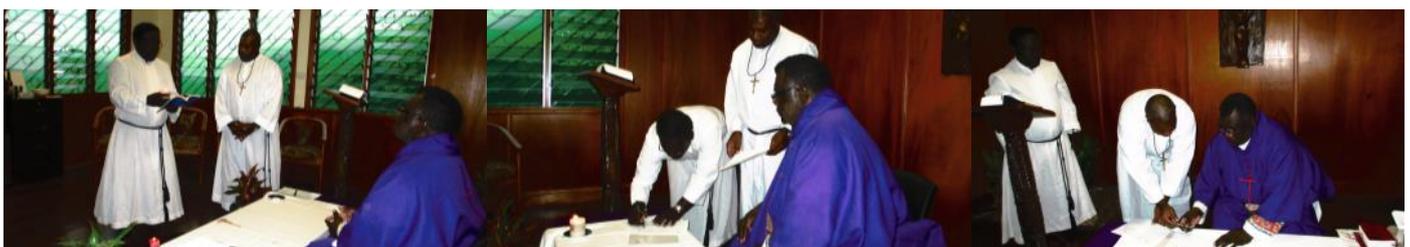
### ***Br Dominic Vows Renewal***

On Wednesday 10 February, Br Dominic renewed his vows at Korobosea community. It is a significant time for him as he commits himself again to live his life as a Brother.

It was also the beginning of Lent, the Ash Wednesday. So it really a very important moment in which we are called to strengthen our relationship with God through prayer, penance and arms giving.

We were given a very inspiring reflection by Father Justin, SM who was the celebrant for the renewal of Dominic.

We thank Br Dominic for renewing his vows and wish him all the best as he joins his new community in Vanga Point.



## Currently in the District



This year we have a new staff member joining the District's Administrative Unit. Ms. Quentinquaine Yingut is from the East Sepik Province. She with her two children, Jeremial and Jackqueelyn have joined the small community at Korobosea, Port Moresby. She will be mainly focusing on the Early Childhood in Arawa, Bougainville at the same time assisting in MAPS and Immersions. We welcome Quen and her little family and very much look forward to working together.



JADE AND HARDASHA, GETTING READY FOR THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. THEY GO TO CORONATION PRIMARY IN PORT MORESBY. BOTH REALLY EXCITED IN THEIR NEW UNIFORMS AND GETTING READY TO BE DROPPED OFF AT SCHOOL.

*Teachers at St. Joseph's Tenaru going through their drill depicting team work for this year.*



**ST JOSEPH'S TEACHING STAFF FOR 2016 WITH BR. MARK AND MRS. RUTH HIHIRU**

## Ministries Around the District

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2016, the Champagnat Group of St. Joseph's Tenaru had their first gathering for the year. It was nice to see many young people keeping the spirit and enthusiasm of St. Marcellin in the school amidst their busy school schedules.



## Early Childhood Training 2016



# BOUGAINVILLE

# Ministries Around the District

## St Joseph School Mabiri – College, OST, Elementary & Primary

“Teaching in a Marist School with a Distinctive Marist Style” is the theme of my sharing with the staff of St Joseph Mabiri. Many of the teachers in Mabiri this year are new and that is very promising. Their school year started very well with the re-summation week. It was indeed an enriching experience for those who are new in a Marist school. There is a very good spirit among the teachers and that enables them to work well as team. Most of the students are already in the school and the normal classes have started. Mr Gerard Epa and his deputy Mr John Tukana are looking forward to working collaboratively with the teachers. They are very grateful to have in their teaching staff three Brothers this year. They are Brothers Brendan, Oscar and Jeremy. On behalf of the District, I wish them all a very good year.

Br Jean Marie

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, MABIRI



*New Bosses of this year (Gerard Epa, HM)  
John Tukana (DHM)*



*Patrick and another teacher busy discussing what had been discussed*



*Serious discussion going on from the lady teachers after the workshop*



Refreshment time



Br. Jeremy comes inside



**MR MOSES GAREITS**

## Ministries Around the District

### Marist Life Team around our Educational Ministries 2016

**E**ach year, the Marist Life Team run workshops based on Marist Charism and Marist Education. This is to help our teachers in our schools better understand the life style in our Marist Schools. It happens at the beginning of each school year at the resumption week before students arrive in our schools. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016, the Marist Life Team started with St. Joseph's Tenaru. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, Br. Mark travelled to Bougainville and ran the same workshops with our Teachers at St. Joseph's College, Mabiri. It is always a blessing to see teachers taking an interest to impart the type of Education Marcellin entrusted to us more than 200 years ago to our young people according to our time.

Though, Marist Education is like a change of paradigm for many of our teachers to what they use to, however, we will surely get there. This makes our school special in a way we educate our young people. It draws the attention of many parents and students willing to come to our schools. It is not because of academic excellence alone but the whole value that flows with our type of education...eg: the five pillars... Therefore, with the current teaching team (especially teachers) in our schools, we hope for the better. One of our challenges is that when we celebrate the academic results in our schools, we also need to celebrate with those of whom didn't make it to their next level of education, because we have prepared them well to face the future with audacity, to be productive in their own communities, to make real the dream of Marcellin a reality that is to be good Christians and good citizens.

St. Dominic Rural Training Centre is yet to be visited by the Marist Life Team.

#### Some Photos around our Schools:



**Group  
Discussions  
@  
St. Joseph's  
T  
E  
N  
A  
R  
U**



# Child Rights and Advocacy-Children's Day

## CHILD PROTECTION ADVOCACY

Recently on the 14-19<sup>th</sup> February I visited St Joseph's College Mabiri, Bougainville. The school was into its third week of schooling and there was a need to advocate more on Child Protection and a closer look at the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA or Child Protection Act) that we have in Papua New Guinea. Many of our students in PNG have heard about the Lukautim Pikinini Act on the Television, National News, Radio and Social media but there no awareness to students and parents about what's the content or what's the different sections in Child Protection Act that talks about the Childrens Rights, Parental Responsibility and the Governments response to makings sure that the law is made aware to its citizens in protecting children who are under the age of 18years. The presentation started off with the four grade 9 classess being introduced to children's rights and responsibility. The other three day saw year 10s and the Occupational Skills Training (Vocational) learning more

about the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA). They were given insights to different rights been stated in the LPA and parental responsibility in making sure children are not abused while under their care. The LPA also emphasizes on Child Exploitation, Discrimination and Violence against a Child. The presentation highlighted the four different types of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. The final day saw two sessions with students from Bernard Kangu Primary School (Year 6 -8) who attended the presentation on Positive Discipline and healthy living. The second session was the meeting for Students Leaders (Prefects, Area Chiefs & Class Captains and Vice) who were given the opportunity to explore their role as students leaders (**Questions:** *How did I become a prefect- Why Me- How do I feel about being a prefect- what is my role?*). Like other students in the school, they were told that children also have duties. Therefore every Christian/Catholic child within his/her family unit are based on the fourth commandment: "Honor thy Father thy Mother" which includes love, respect, obedience, help etc. their parents. Student

Leaders were told to work together, encourage one another and lead students in a proper way that will depict good leadership where other students can see and follow. They were told to believe in themselves and be confident. Always remember the 5 characteristics of Marist Education: Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work and the Way of Mary. Like St Marcellin Champagnat, always have a "Strong Mind and Gentle Heart"

Kind Regards,  
**Chris Lus**  
*Child Advocacy Officer*



### BE AWARE Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, Discrimination and Violence

Against Children 0-18:

**Break PNG Law- Are Criminal Acts**

**Offend God - Are immoral Acts**

**Damage Lives of Children,**

**& Weaken our Nation.**

No child should have to walk through life alone, unprotected. Do you know some child in need of protection?



*David (Ex-Marist Student from Canberra) & Class Captains from St Joseph's Mabiri discussing their roles as Student Leaders.*



# Ministries Around the District

## Early Childhood training at Metonai Vocational School



From the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of January the Early Childhood training was carried out in the Central Denary of Bougainville at Metonai Vocational School. There were 76 participants of which 55 were females and 15 were males. The training was based on several different topics which were, introduction to early childhood education, inclusive teaching and learning, different teaching pedagogies (storytelling, play, song), emerging numeracy (problem solving and reasoning), emerging literacy (speaking and listening, phonics and early reading), discovery of the world around us, and planning and programing. The two weeks of training was successfully completed.

By Quentiniane Yingut

### Community Leaders Gathering 28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Tenaru, Solomon Islands

On the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 a total of four community leaders gathered at Tenaru. The gathering was organized by the Pastoral Care Commission under the guidance of Brs. Stanley Bakere and Mark Kenatsi. The gathering was purposely to help our Community Leaders plan the year for their Communities. It was a more shared experience and Community Leaders were pre-

pared to listen to each other's' story. The Pastoral Care Commission in the District aims to work closely with Community Leaders. Most of the Community Leaders we've gathered will be their first time to take on that leadership in Communities.

After the gathering, the Community Leaders came up with the set expectations from the leadership in the District especially the District Leader and its Council.

Therefore, everyone in the District both Brothers and Lay, we all need to support

our Community Leaders. I thank Brs, Sixtus, Brendan, Valentin, Stanley and Blaise for the honesty and trust during the two days of discussion and sharing. I would also thank the Brothers especially in Tenaru and Laumanasa for your support and hospitality. Sincere thanks to the District Leader and the Council for making this gathering possible.

Br Mark Kenatsi fms for Pastoral Care Commission.

Brs Blaise and Valentine



Walk back to Lau-manasa after each session



Break time guys



Home bound

## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

### MARIST BROTHERS

P O BOX 1881  
BOROKO, National Capital District  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Phone: +675 325 56 84/70312272  
Fax: +675 325 56 97  
E-mail: fmspng@datec.net.pg

*'All to Jesus through  
Mary, all to Mary for  
Jesus.' Marial Spirit*



### NOTICE

*Early Childhood Education Training Program- Arawa  
\* Jan 25 to Feb 5, 2016  
Brothers Gathering, Melanesia & Br Michael de Wass's visit- POM  
Jul 11 to 15, 2016  
Extended General Council Meeting- Mittagong  
\* October 12 to 16, 2016*

#### OPC meeting 2016:

*9.00am Thursday 3rd March  
12.00pm Friday 4th March  
Marist Monastery Eastwood*

**C**ondolence message  
going out to Br Noel  
Langu and all family  
members for the passing  
of his late father Mr.  
Robert Langu. Our pray-  
ers with you and family at  
this time of grief. May  
our Lord bring comfort  
and peace to you and the  
rest of your family mem-  
bers. May his soul Rest  
In Eternal Peace.



### Please Pray For

#### Our deceased

Br Julian Hakumin  
Br Joe Wabi  
Jerome Semos  
Mr Joseph Luaki  
Mr Moses Mokii  
Br Bert Webster  
Mr Robert Langu

#### Our Sick

Br John Paul Mauro  
Br Valantin Samsam  
Br Mark Kenatsi  
Br Brendan Sinei

#### Our Young Men in For- mation

Laumanasa, Madang  
MAPAC and Tudella



### Brs Birthday Greetings!

Noel Langu 12 Jan  
Valantin Samsam 16 Jan  
Dominic Nekebatu 7 Feb  
Blaise Jai 16 Feb  
Sixtus Winduo 19 Feb  
Clement Pekubei 23 Feb