

District of Melanesia Newsletter

MARIST BROTHERS

Issue 5

From the District Leader



Dear fellow Marists,

Warm greetings to you all!

The days have gone so fast that we sometimes not aware of it. But I believe it enables us to be more conscious of how to use time wisely.

Many of us will be with their families back at home for Christmas and New Year. Those celebrations will be important for those people. Some will be after two to three years that they will go home. Family bonding is very important for you and me. I wish those people a very peaceful and joyful reunion with their families and friends. I believe you have been talking about it and preparing yourselves for that family reunion.

Most of the time the focus of our going home is on the celebrations of Christmas or New Year. This is normal and it is very good. But I wonder how many of us put the focus of the preparation period of it. I think the preparation period should be the first focus of our going to be with families.

At many occasion I heard people say, I will celebrate Christmas with my family. But they hardly mention what

they will do in advance to make that celebration a meaningful one.

What I am trying to stretch here my dear fellow Marists, is what I will call the beforehand preparation of what we do in life. This beforehand preparation is not done overnight or within a day. It takes time. It demands a lot of reflection, of thinking and of decision making. Most of the time we are always given opportunities to be prepared for an event.

As Christians, the Church has given us the season of Advent before the Birth of Jesus. Advent comes from a Latin word meaning "coming". We believe that Christmas is the commemoration of "Jesus' coming" into the world. Therefore Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for Jesus' arrival in our midst.

This period of preparation has to be done in prayer and in penance through the Sacrament of reconciliation. I would like to encourage everyone to give some time to do this beforehand preparation. It can be a good time for those who will be going home, to help others to be prepared as well for the coming of Jesus.

What I do for others has to be taken as a service that I render to my family, my friends, my community as a Marist. So as Marist we can help our fellow Christians to prepare well to welcome Jesus in their families and homes. As Marist we do this service in a very special way.

During the Colloquium on initial formation at the Hermitage last October, Brother Emili Turu spoke to the participants about three important aspects which he called them; the “three non-negotiable elements of our life as Marists”.

We are “Evangelisers of children and young people especially the least favoured”. The vulnerable children and young people who are at the peripheries.

We are “Weavers of Fraternity”. We are called to live as community. Everything that we do with our life in common as Marists.

We are “Seekers of God”, now and always. It is about having an experience of God in my life.

For Brother Emili these three elements are fundamentals for us Marists, we cannot negotiate with them. These are the three core elements of our Marists spirituality, our Marist mission. Our life in ministries, in communities, in families should reflect these three elements. In other words, we are called to witness our way of living our Marist life, with these three non-negotiable elements.

This period of preparation towards Jesus’ coming is an opportunity to continue witnessing these three Marist elements to others. I encourage everyone to put aside time to share our Marist spirituality with your families, friends and communities. That we don’t take Christmas holiday or break as a time where we put a stop on everything. As Brother Emili said, they are non-negotiable elements of our Marist life. In other words, they are to be lived out in our day to day life through our words and deeds, our behaviours and attitudes.

In a family it is normal that everyone should feel that they belong to a family. It should be the same in our Marist communities and families. Those are places where we form ourselves to be who we want to become. We are longing to be the person whom we want to be. And as Marists, we should be longing to be evangelisers of children and young people, to be weavers of fraternity and to be seekers of God in our life.

Christmas is an accurate time to witness the three non-negotiable element of our life as Marist. How can you and I convey the message of the Birth of Jesus to little children and young people? How can you and I bring our families, our communities together as one? And how can you and I experience God and witness that to others?

Therefore as I leave you with those questions, I wish you all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas celebration. Christmas is the celebration of “Emmanuel”, “God with us”. May Jesus be the focus in your life as He was the focus of Mary and Joseph’s life.

God bless you all.



Br Jean Marie Batick
District Leader



2015 | 2016
Fourvière

Ministries Around the District

From New Caledonia

An article from "New Caledonian" Newspaper. Small high school professional Gabriel Rivat continues to grow and Cape students have the chance to go training in restoration in the neighboring country: Vanuatu. This name Gabriel Rivat, Brother François had given originally to our craft school in the Isle of Pines. Then the school became a College, Vocational training was stopped and the name of Gabriel Rivat was then given to Pouébo school in the North of Grande Terre who wanted to open a technical school. It Paita, summer has arrived. Drought begins to get tough with Bush fires, due to the El Nino phenomenon on this region of the Pacific. The period of end-of-year exams has also arrived. In the community, we have welcomed parents of a former student Vanuatuan. The dad came to get equipment to assist him so that he can be able to walk again. Fraternally Br. Jean Paul Delesalle.



Marist Animator's Course Brisbane

In November, a course for Oceania Marist Animators was held in Brisbane at the St. Theresa Spirituality Centre in Ormiston in Australia. The District sent a total of Six participants, David Miringtoro, John Bosco Anugu and Lucy Sinei from Bougainville and Collin Kokwasu, Sipora Qora and Abraham Hihiru from Solomon Islands. The Course was a great opportunity for Marists in Oceania to come together to meet, share stories and experiences of their Marist life in different parts of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and Melanesia. The Marist family spirit was very evident in the way the participants easily connected with each other and formed relationships. An international Marist Family at the regional level. Reflections and insights from the participants;

- “Marist style of living is one of the pathways of having a deeper understanding / appreciation of life and humanity.”
- “Having a sense and understanding to respond to God's call to be disciples of Jesus through a new dawn of the Lay mission in the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat.”
- “Coming from the different parts of the world but we are all connected in living the same spirit and sharing the same journey as Marists.”
- “An enriching experience to reflect on my life journey as a Lay Marist.”
- “Jesus call to us to “Live life and live it to the fullest” by sharing, growing and loving.”



Melanesian Participants: Lucy, Collin, Ruth, John Bosco, Sipora, Abraham and David.

Laity Secretariat's Visit

The Secretariats of the Laity, Br. Javier Espinosa, Anthony Clarke and Pep Buetas visited St. Joseph's Tenaru in Honiara and St. Dominic's at Vanga Point on the 26th- 29th October. The purpose of their visit was to have an insight into what Marist Life was like in this part of the world.



Anthony, Br. Javier, Morina, Malfrey, Madlyne (Champagnat Youth) and Pep. (Airport Welcome upon arrival of the Laity Secretariats)



Postulant McDonald Lauvilia, Year 12 Graduate.

2015 Post Perpetual Gier Programme and Young Religious Gathering

Article by Br. Rodney Pauru

The post perpetual programme that I have attended in Europe (from 13-August to 20 September 2015) was very enriching for me as a Marist Brother. I have gained a lot from this programme and I would like to encourage post perpetual brothers especially those in the age of 35 to 40 to attend this programme when it comes on again. At the end of this programme I realised that after 8 to 10 years of full time ministry, a Brother really need to attend some sort of renewal programme.

During the five weeks of this programme, I have journeyed with 19 Brothers from Africa, Europe and Asia. The first two weeks of this program was held in Rome at the General House and the next two weeks was held at the Hermitage in France. From the Hermitage we returned to Rome to attend a Programme for young consecrated men and women from different congregation and orders at the Vatican.

There were many rich experiences of these two programmes that helped me to reflect on my own life as a Marist Brother. The sharing of stories and life experiences from the Brothers/ other religious has given me lot of hope and courage. I have learnt a lot from the different topics and presentations by different people during the five weeks and I feel very privileged to have attended these programmes.

In both the Post perpetual program and the young religious gathering at the Vatican, there were many topics, about religious life, founders, congregations, spirituality etc. There was a lot of emphasis on a whole area of consecrated life. On discussing about consecrated life, one of the key words which were pointed out clearly in the two different programs was Fraternity/community. The importance of fraternal dialog in all religious communities was highlighted clearly and during our discussion where we realized common weaknesses that we face in trying to leave in a fully functional community.

Sometimes there is incapacity of forgiveness in our communities when issues arise. Many at times we don't discuss issues affecting our communities in a more fraternal way that is acceptable. Instead of solving our problems in the community; we go around gossiping about the brothers/ sisters/ others. Pope Francis during his speech to us at the Vatican described gossip as an act of terrorism to our brothers/ sisters. He said gossip is like bombing a person and destroying his/her whole life. There is incapacity of forgiveness in our communities when issues arise.

As Marist Brothers and Lay, we must show fraternal care and support to our family/community members and create a peaceful/ forgiving and healthy environment to live in. To live in fully functional community we need to balance our community life, Prayer life and Apostolate.



Brothers from Oceania praying for young Brothers and more vocation



Brothers at the General House



A 32 kilometer walking the footsteps of Champagnat



Brothers need to support each other on our journey



Brothers with the statue of St Marcellin at Lavalla

Formation

Br Mark's Visit to Tudella, Sri Lanka – Novitiate

Recently, Br Mark Kenatsi visited the International Novitiate in Tidella, Sri Lanka to catch up with the two novices from Melanesia, Epalle and Fereol. Whilst in Sri Lanka Br Mark celebrated his birthday with the novices.

Pictures: Epalle, Br Mark, Fereol; Br Mark with his birthday cake.

Br Peter



MAPAC Graduation 2015



02nd October 2015 MAPAC Graduation
Brs. Oscar Irebake, Dominic Nekebatu
and Jeremy Wabi



Br Simon Serero congratulating Jeremy and Oscar while their friend from Philippines looks on...





Child Rights and Advocacy-Children's Day

We celebrated Universal Children's Day on the 20th November. We remember all children on this special day as we celebrate together how far we have come as Duty-Bearers in upholding our duty to care for young people and helping them to grow and fully utilize their potential. Let us help children to build a strong character, build life skills in school on how to cooperate with people, how to lead, communicate and organize themselves for the future. ! LET US GIVE THEM A CHANCE!

©.Lus



To commemorate this very special Day, we have also done a small celebration with the staff, Brothers and our children in the District office in POM celebrating the Universal Children's Day. Chris and Julie Lus did a wonderful job in preparation for the actual Day itself. The Children had a wonderful time watching the video that Chris compiled and later the celebrants ended it off with a delicious cake. The Marist Brothers continues to support the promotion of enforcing Child Rights and Advocacy through their ministries all through out the Pacific and the entire world.

International Childrens' Day Celebrations at Laumanasa.

**I am Unique
I am Special
And God Loves Me!**

Children's
Day



St. Joseph's Tenaru Graduation 2015 Highlights



Br. David and some Year 11 Graduates during the Graduation Meal.



Welcoming the Guest of Honor, Bishop Adrian Smith



Some of the Teachers working hard to organize the Certificates during the Graduation.



Mr&Mrs Hihiru with their eldest son during the graduation.

Ministries Around the District

St Marcellin Champagnat Youth Movement 2015



My name is **Malfrey Ramolifia**; I am an Evangelist student, from the South Sea Evangelist Church (SSEC).

This year on the 8th of March, 2015, I was chosen to be the Vice President of St Marcellin Champagnat Youth Movement at St Joseph's Tenaru Catholic Secondary School.

The St Marcellin Youth Movement is made up of 54 students in total, including boys and girls from different denominations. As taking up the role and responsibility, it gives me the opportunity to learn more about the Marist Life. For instance, the five Pillars of St Marcellin Champagnat love of work, presence, simplicity, family spirit and in the way of Mary.

Even though I am Evangelist student, I have seen the five pillars as a virtual part of my life and I always try my best to abide in it and carry them out.

Sometimes I face difficulties and challenges along the way, as leading the group with my president and our leaders. For instance, when it comes to my turn in preparing the prayer

devotion for our group; we usually have prayer devotions on the first and last Sundays of every month. For an Evangelical in comparison to a Catholic standpoint, we have a different formation of preparing prayers altogether. Therefore I really found it very difficult and also at the same time challenging.

However, with the help of Br Mark, Br Ralph, Mrs. Hihiru, my president Adrien Hihiru and fellow Champagnat members, I turn to overcome the difficulties and challenges. From the help of all these people I have learnt a lot about the Marist way of life. In addition, I am really thankful to my fellow cooperating Champagnat group members, for the effort they have put in preparing Liturgy for our St Marcellin Champagnat Day on June 6th and also our end of the year picnic at Piani Beach, which marks the success of the year.

To sum up, as the Vice President of St Marcellin Champagnat Youth Movement of 2015, I have seen this year as a challenging year for me with new experiences but through working together and the cooperation of my Champagnat members; I have overcome all these challenges. Also in carrying out this role and responsibility, it gives me the opportunity to learn more about Marist Life and has shaped my life to be a good Marist Leader in regard to my past experiences.

Article provided by: Student VP of the St Marcellin Champagnat Youth Movement, Malfrey Ramolifia

St. Michel Cultural Day- September 2015



On the 18th of September 2015, College Technique St Michel, had their Cultural Show. On the eve of the events, the school was abuzz with different cultural groups of the six provinces of Vanuatu, preparing various traditional food for a big occasion as such. At the same time the students were seen busy preparing their traditional attires for the show.

Traditional instruments were heard echoing away harmoniously all around the school compound gearing up for the big day. Singing and dancing accompanied the beautiful lyrics which was so nice that one could not turn an ear away.

The big day comes and there was lots of excitement. Students and teachers were up as early as 4am and were in full swing getting ready for the show. By 6am, the whole school were abuzz with parents and visitors coming all the way from their villages to witness the traditional dances performed by their kids. The students gathered in front of the Church and paraded into the school all in their traditional attires.

Traditional dances were performed according to ethnic groups. Traditionally prepared food were seen served in different stalls constructed for the different cultural groups. It was a day full of fun and excitement. By 3pm the events exhausted and the tired students leave with their parents for weekend out. I hope the visitors who turned up for the show had a nice day because I enjoyed it so much.

Br Blaise Jai FMS

MARIST BROTHERS

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



TRUE RELIGION IS REAL LIVING; LIV-
ING WITH ALL ONE'S SOUL, WITH
ALL ONE'S GOODNESS AND RIGHT-
EOUSNESS.
ALBERT EINSTEIN

Please Pray For

Our deceased

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

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



NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

NOTICE

Admin Office will close from the 18th December to the 11 January 2016, all staff will be on break.

District Council and Extended DC Meeting

1. Apr 21 & 22, 2016

2. Aug 3,4 & 5, 2016

3. Nov 17 & 18, 2016

Brothers Gathering, Oceania- Brisbane

*** Jan 11-13, 2016**

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 next year 2016:

9.00am-5.00pm Thursday 3rd March 2016

9.00am-12.00pm Friday 4th

Marist Centre Mascot

St. Joseph's Tenaru School Leaders Workshop.

On the 23rd-24th August, a Leadership workshop was held for the new School Student Leaders of St. Joseph's at Tenaru. The aim of the workshop was to help the new leaders to understand their roles and empower them as Student leaders in a Marist school.



Brs Birthday Greetings!

Mark Kenatsi - October 9

Brendan Sinei - October 14

Rodney Pauru - October 27

Bonaventure T - October 31

Stanley Bakere - November 5

Hudson Horoto - November 11

Oscar Irebake - December 20

Jeremy Wabi - December 26