



District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

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



15th March

Current News Items

Footprints in the Sand A Lenten Thought

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My son, My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

~Mary Stevenson~

District Dates

Friday 15th of March - District Council Meeting.

Tuesday 19th March - General Councillors arrive in Fiji.

Friday 22nd March - General Councillors arrive in New Zealand and meet with the Brothers at Onslow on Saturday morning.

Brother Kees reports on Fiji History News

It's a photograph, of the band in Naililili in Rewa in 1915, that was sent by Father Alois Greiler SM, who is currently in Ireland and came across a collection of photos from Fiji.

The Brother is most likely Brother Macarius Quemener, as he was well known for his "bandmaster" activities.



Musikkorps der Schule von Rewa (Fidjchi).

Mr Dan Dungey Reports on three gatherings in the Pacific

Contemplative Retreat, Lomeri, Fiji

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd March

Vinaka vakalevu to Elizabeth Falconer (Mission & Life Team Australia) for leading our Champagnat Marists in Fiji during this enriching time together as a community. Thirteen participants, including two novices, took part in this Oceania initiative as together we look to share key programmes and resources across the regions. Elizabeth also led the 2018 Contemplative Retreat in Honiara for the District of Melanesia. The Champagnat Marists in Fiji will now look at the best ways to deliver future programmes while lay leader Joeli Koroiravudu mentioned how this programme could be adapted for the people in his village





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Student Leaders Forum, Kaiapoi, North Canterbury, New Zealand

Thursday 21st – Sunday 24th February

The 13th edition of this forum consisted of 35 leaders from nine schools joining Brother Stephen Filipo, Brother Osmund Macnamara, Amy Aukusitino and myself in community. It was a great joy to have new St Peter's College (Palmerston North) Principal Kevin Shore join us for two nights along with Chanel College (Masterton) Principal, Whaea Debi Marshall-Lobb after Chanel's Assistant Principal, Tara Quinney, journeyed with us for the first two days. Upon arrival at Catholic Cathedral College our group was warmly welcomed by Principal Tony Shaw and his community, in the way of a mihi whakatau, followed by attendance at the college's weekly midday mass led by Father Phil Bennenbroek SM. The three and a half days together were full of life as the leaders were presented with a servant leadership model centred on Christ with Marcellin and Mary as our companions and guides. We have an inspiring group of young men and women in 2019 to lead our schools and they have all committed to staying connected and looking to develop new expressions of shared life in their geographical regions throughout the year (*number of student leaders in attendance in brackets*). Northern Region - Marcellin (x4), St Paul's (x3) & Sacred Heart (x2) Central Region - St Peter's (x2), Chanel (x5) & St Bernard's (x5) Southern Region - Catholic Cathedral (x6), John Paull II (x2) & Verdon (x6)



Oceania Partnership Commission (OPC) Meeting, Lomeri, Fiji

Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th March

The Oceania Partnership Commission (OPC) held the first of two annual meetings at Lomeri, Fiji on Tuesday 5 March. Carole Work from Australia (Extended Secretariat of the Laity) also attended this meeting. Brothers Jone Seduadua & Luke Fong, along with their community at Lomeri, where superb hosts for this gathering with their warm and authentic hospitality. Our Champagnat Marist ministries visit to Suva on Ash Wednesday was a highlight for all, including the service at Marist Champagnat Institute.

Two key strategies being explored by the OPC are: To continue to identify and develop future leaders across the Regions. To identify the resources required to promote Mission and Life.

OPC members include: Ruth Hihiru and Br Finan Valei (District of Melanesia) Elizabeth Falconer, Joe McCarthy & Tony Clarke (Australia) Brother Jone Seduadua & Dan Dungey (District of the Pacific)

