



District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

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



Current News Items

Prayer by St Pius X

Feast Day August 21st

Glorious St. Joseph, model of all who are devoted to labour, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously by placing love of duty above my inclinations; to gratefully and joyously deem it an honor to employ and to develop by labor the gifts I have received from God, to work methodically, peacefully, and in moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from it through weariness or difficulty to work; above all, with purity of intention and unselfishness, having unceasingly before my eyes death and the account I have to render of time lost, talents unused, good not done, and vain complacency in success, so baneful to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all to imitate thee, O patriarch St. Joseph! This shall be my motto for life and eternity.



District Dates

Saturday 24th August - Two General Administration Brothers travel to Samoa.

Sunday 25th August - Marcellin College Students spend the Day at Manly for a REMAR gathering.

Monday 26th August - Joyce Fonseca joins the Pacific Rise Staff.

Friday 30th August - District Council meet in Fiji

Extra Report:

1st Year Brothers' Immersion Experience by Brother Steve Vaea.

23rd August 2019

News from the Philippines from Brother Petero Navuku

Kamusta po... Two weeks ago, I had signed up for an immersion experience at IFRS. My sector was the street families and I was accompanied by a fellow Filipino lay, who had hopes and dreams of becoming a teacher someday. We met up with an old man who has been living on the streets for the past 30 yrs. He couldn't speak nor understand English. So, I had to resort to using my Filipino friend to interpret for me. The first night we arrived, Mr "bong" as he was called, took us out to collect some scraps to be sold. We walked along the road as people were knocking off from work and school. We walked past trash bag after trash bag. Soon it became dark and we had to make our way back home. Walking back, I noticed how people stared at us, I felt like I was being judged for what I was doing. I later found out that it uncommon for a foreigner to be out there on the streets, outside of fast food outlets. I slept in what was a shed without any walls, surrounded by a mob of dogs and their fans. It was raining and cold but what we had was enough to keep us dry and warm. The next day, we sold our scraps and despite the hard work the night before, we did not get much for it. I felt robbed and insulted but Mr Bong insisted that what we had was not much, but enough. He even offered to pay for our transportation with the little that we made. I felt humbled by this act of compassion by Mr bong. I had to spend the night with another group because my Filipino mate had to leave early. By the second night, I felt stuffy and exhausted. I slept in a room with two other religious and it was perhaps a step up from the previous night. The next day we headed back to the institute for sharing and a combined lunch. Overwhelmed and drained I shared my experience, with the group. The struggles, personal stories, hopes and dreams that I had witnessed moved me to tears.

Thinking about the experience, my perspective towards the street families of Manila has changed. I feel like they had transformed me to be a bit more patient and grateful for what I have... Paalam po from your Brother Petero





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News from Brother Chris Maney in Samoa



An event for our community this week was a visit from Jonas Pawelke and his family from Germany. Jonas was a volunteer to Samoa and spent six months in the Alafua and Mulivai communities in 2017. The family are spending a week in Samoa to witness all the sights and sounds familiar to Jonas. Jonas is remembered and welcomed by the children at Mulivai and St Joseph's College at this time. Welcome back Jonas.



Brothers Barry and Sefo Une sends news from Kiribati



Here at La Valla last Saturday we honoured our Patronal Feast day of the Assumption of Mary with a celebration with some of our lay Champagnat Marists who were not involved in the many Parish related celebrations of this feast. Our prayer included a time of personal reflection and then sharing with one another on Mary's own journey of learning to become a disciple of Jesus. We continued with some social time and a shared meal together. This week we have deeply appreciated Brother Peter Horide's presence among us in his role of Professional Standards Delegate of the District. Tuesday was spent with us four brothers sharing on themes arising out of our District Policy on Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe. We now recognize our need articulate and make known our own safeguarding policies in our mission to youth through retreats here at La Valla. Peter's presentation on Wednesday afternoon was offered to about sixty people including teachers from St Louis, reps from other Catholic schools on Tarawa, Pre-school Teachers and some education administrators. This was very well received and has highlighted an urgent need to follow through with further development of school policies and practices related to the safeguarding and protection of children within the social context of Kiribati.

News from Citizen Tamatimu



With the recent announcement of new finance staff, the Business Services team based in our mission centre at Pacific Rise continues to come together. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Joyce Fonseca as our new Personal Assistant. Joyce joins our team on the 26th of August and will provide secretarial assistance to the District Leader, Director of Mission and Director of Business Services. She will also serve as the secretary to the Trust Board and a number of our stakeholder boards. Joyce is a proud Catholic and comes with over 10 years' PA experience in the public health sector. As part of her induction in the coming weeks, Joyce will meet with brothers, board members and other important people throughout our Marist family that she will be connecting with on a regular basis. We are also planning to add other key positions to our team that will improve the quality of services provided to the brothers as well as our stakeholders. We are excited to welcome Joyce into our Marist family. Yours sincerely, Citizen Tamatimu Director of Business Services NZ Marist Brothers' Trust Board