



NEWS

BULLETIN

September 2023

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS

The Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Congregations in the Pacific was held this year at the Pacific Regional Seminary, Suva from 29th August to 1st September. The theme for the conference: "Towards a Synodal Church: A Journey of Hopes, Dreams and Difficulties." Normally, it is a time for major superiors only to meet and discuss issues relevant to their work but this year was different. Religious and lay leaders throughout the Pacific and seminarians were invited to listen to invited esteemed speakers inspired and enlightened the assembly with wealth of knowledge and experiences in their respective fields. Bishop Vincent Long of Parramatta Diocese and Sr. Maria Cimperman RSCJ addressed the assembly on Synodal Church, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Suva and the Archbishop Emeritus Winston Halapua of the Anglican Church gave a lively presentation and discussion on Ocean Theology, Fr. Peter O'Neill SSC, Sr. Colleen Jackson RSC and Sr. Abby Avelino MM offered invaluable insights on Human Trafficking and Dr. Bridgettte Taumoepeau and Fr. Simon Mani MSC, Rector of the seminary provide fresh perspectives on Initial Formation. There were group discussion and sharing after each input. The seminarians did an excellent job in making sure that all are welcomed and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist everyday was spiritually nourishing to all. A big thank you to Fr. Jonathan Hurrell SS.CC and his team for organizing well the conference.



RETREAT MASTERS

Early this month, Bro. Berenado make use of his renewal at EAPI to give a retreat to the Sisters at Cawaci with Fr. Silatolu celebrating the Mass. Fr. 'Ofa also preached the retreat for the Marist Laity in Samoa.



CONGRATULATION to Fr. Iowane

Waqaipoa for the successful completion of his study for a Post-graduate Diploma in Education. Frs. Kevin and Jim shared the joys at a BBQ.



ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- The Provincial is currently visiting confreres in Bougainville and mainland Papua New Guinea
- Lutoviko is in the house

Anniversary of Ordination—Ad multos annos!

- Gerard Bruns 28/9/1958
- Iosefo Amuri 11/9/2022

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Students and alumni of Holy Cross College in Wairiki, Taveuni celebrated joyfully and with gratitude its Golden Jubilee in the last week of August. In his message on the day, Archbishop Peter expressed his gratitude to the Marist Fathers, Marist Sisters and Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary for their immense contribution to education at Holy Cross College. The college has produced excellent lay leaders working in Government ministries and in the Church. It is also a place where vocations are nurtured. Frs. Milikiade, Petero Matairatu, Iowane, Samu Tukidia and Sefo Amuri are all former students of the school.



FAREWELLING FR. 'AISAKE VAISIMA

On 6th September, we gathered to farewell Fr. 'Aisake Vaisima who was the OMP bursar and member of the last Provincial administration. The Provincial, Fr. Milikiade spoke on behalf of all Marists in Oceania expressing our heartfelt gratitude for six years of dedicated service to the mission of the Society of Mary in Oceania. 'Aisake is taking up his new appointment at the Mission Procurator in Sydney, Australia and we wish him the very best.



WELCOMING FR. PROVINCIAL

The Provincial is currently visiting the Marist confreres in Bougainville. He is seen here lowered down after being carried by the parishioners on a specially made platform. It is the traditional welcoming ceremony normally accorded to chief in Buin. Besides visiting our confreres, the Provincial had time for talk with John Momis, the first President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and friend of Marists.



FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF MARY

Marists throughout the world celebrated on 12th September the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, the Patronal Feast of the Society of Mary. Here are some pictures from the celebration in various sectors of the Province of Oceania.



Clockwise: Suva/
Buin/Vanuatu/Dala/Marist
Laity and Apifo'ou College,
Tonga/PNG