

District of the Pacific Update



Friday 5th August
2022

SAMOA NEWS

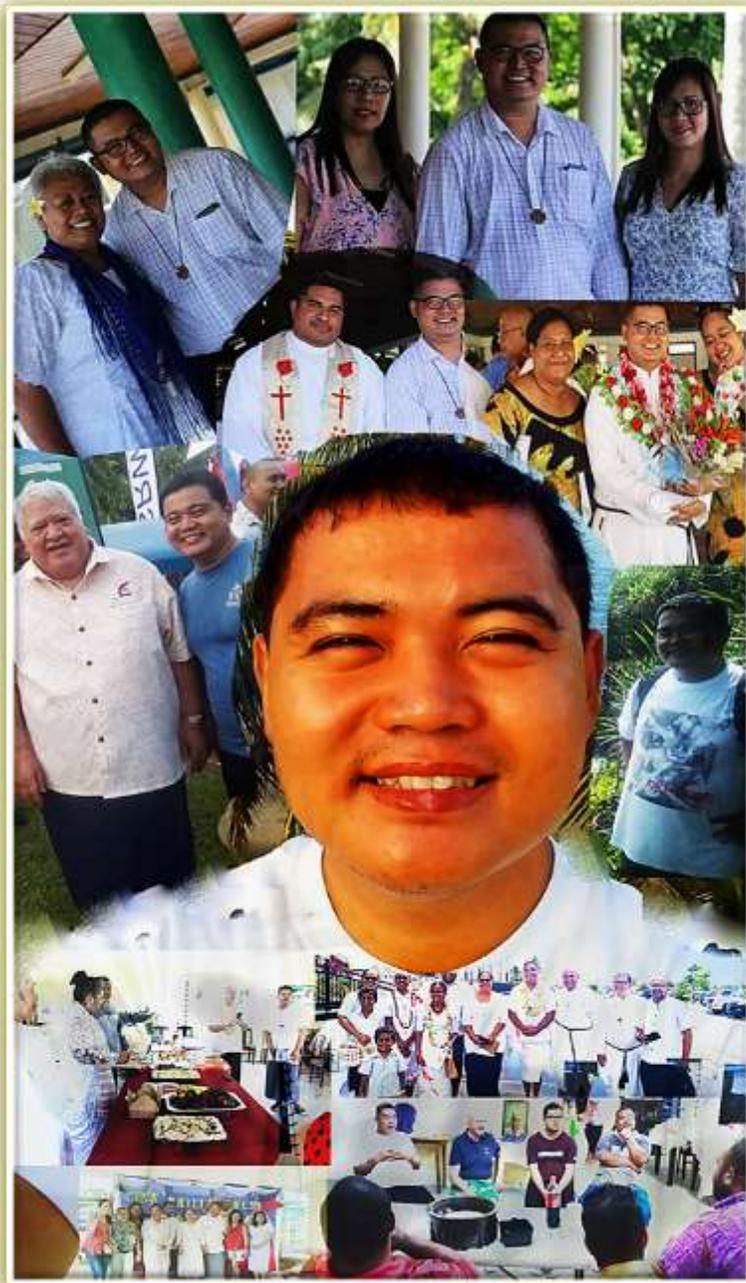
Marist Family Vocation Promotion by Br Anitele'a

Talofa lava, On Saturday 30th of July our Marist family: SMSM Sisters, Marist Fathers and Marist Brothers and Champagnat Marists gathered at Tuamua Parish for the opening Mass with our Youth. Our Marist family vocation promoters have dedicated Saturday 30th July, 6th August and 20th August for Vocation Promotion Saturdays. These three parishes, in which we are going to be having our vocation talks, belong to the Marist Fathers SM.



Thank you Samoa & thank you Pacific!

by Br Nowelle



It has been 2 years, 4 months and 3 weeks since I landed on the beautiful islands of Samoa. I remember when I was still in Fiji for the first part of my novitiate in Lomeri, when I saw a pamphlet of Samoa, the beautiful islands. I was wishfully thinking that perhaps my Apostolic experience could be in Samoa in my Second year of novitiate. It wasn't until March 13, 2020 when the Brothers had decided for me to stay in Samoa for an initial period of two weeks only, due to the processing of my visa. I still remember the first time I landed in Samoa. When I was on the plane I didn't know what to expect - just like many others I had mixed feelings. In that moment I just looked out of the window and clearly saw the waves - they keep on going, they are free because they just follow what takes them and that's the wind. The Covid-19 global pandemic erupted after my first week of stay here in Samoa. My formation was uncertain at that time. Instead of worrying I prayed and trusted that the wind that brought me here to Samoa was for a purpose. Then came an announcement from the Superior General for me to continue my novitiate here as I was only in my First year. Bro. Afaese was assigned as my Novice Director and Bro. Christopher Maney as part of the Formation Team. I am very thankful for that moment because the uncertainties became certain.

For the remainder of my First year in novitiate, the programme that I followed was no different from that of other novices throughout the Institute, wherever they are doing their novitiate. But for me there was one small point of difference, where I had some degree of responsibility for my own formation. I have learned that living in an apostolic community is a way of life with responsibility. It helps me that in order to become a good Marist missionary you must love where you are. It also helps me to appreciate

the beauty of the present moment because with this, the place and the people will follow. My first year in Samoa helps me to envision myself as a future missionary Marist Brother. Active participation in the mission helps me to have a seed in my heart for a missionary life. Time passes quickly if you put your heart into the presence of the mission. In my second year one of the wishful thoughts that I had in Lomeri has happened in reality. I had my apostolic exposure in the Little Sisters of the Poor at Mapuifagalele,

and I had enriched community life training. When my profession was about to come, I thought to myself that it maybe will not be that joyous. I was surprised by the support of the Filipino community, especially those who have been my friends and became my family. I am very connected to my family because of their presence especially at my profession. I am very thankful for my experiences in the Novitiate especially how the Marist Brothers showed me the reality of the mission and to love it. They have given me the seed and they let me plant and nourish it according to the needs of the present time. They taught me the love of Religious life in my heart and not as a form of structure or organization. I will never forget this chapter of my life and I am proud to say that I was moulded as a Marist Brother here in Samoa and in the District of the Pacific to become a Brother for the world, especially for those who are in need. The lesson that I will cherish most is be a wave, let the wind take you to where you should be, and give all of yourself to the wind wherever it will take you. For sure sometimes it may be hard, but have trust because we are like water connected to the air which is the source. Just like Mary in the Annunciation she give her "Yes" to God not knowing the uncertainties but she give herself entirely to the Wind for the salvation of the people. Fa'afetai Lava, Vinaka Vakalevu, Kia Ora , Maraming Salamat po and a big thank you very much to all of you.

Poem: Waves and Breeze by Br Nowelle

I can move move freely

I can go wherever you lead me

You show me the places of the Princes, Lords, Peasants and Farmers

You thought me how to bend according to the road

Always continue and moving forward

You let me touch the Islands

Feel the sands, people and their emotions

I have tasted their bitterness and sorrows

I have smelled their hopes, dreams and aspirations

Yet this is not my final destination

I go back go back

I am your servant ready to be called again

I am the wave which my creator creates me for

In the sea of life is where I really belong

With you I became strong and I know my purpose

So Friends

Be a wave in this life

Let your inner strength be connected

To the Source of the wind in our life.



TORCH NEWS



JOIN OUR LIVE
SESSION ON

ZOOM



Our District Marist Youth will have their session this coming Sunday, and we kindly invite all the youth to participate in it. You may invite any youth you know to join. We extend to you a welcome to our Zoom meeting. The link will be circulated. Thank you and see you there.

Speaker: Mr Edwin Date: 7th August, 2022 Topic: Youth Ministry

Time: New Zealand: 7:00pm, Samoa: 8:00pm, Kiribati: 7:00pm,
 Fiji: 7:00pm, Philippines: 3:00pm.