

District of the Pacific Update



**Friday 2nd
December 2022**



Champagnat Partnership

From: Facebook page source



District of the Pacific 15 December 2013 - 26 November 2022

In our journey as Marists in the Pacific, we have acknowledged our past and the need to look forward. In 1917 the Province of New Zealand, then the District of the Pacific in 2013 developed an energy and dynamism that resulted in the establishment of schools and communities throughout New Zealand and the Pacific. That energy is called the Mauri (*the life force*) and has a similar role to a Foundation Stone in a new building.

Our past, present, and future is an ongoing journey of Marist life to wherever the Spirit of God will lead us. We look forward to our ongoing journey, in Mary's name, as we enter the new Star of the Sea Province on 8 December 2022 along with our sisters and brothers from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Australia, Timor Leste and Cambodia.





Br David M

Br John H

As Champagnat Marists of the District of the Pacific, we give heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our two rangatira over the last 9 years - Brother David (2013-2019) and Brother John (2019-2022). Alofa atu, arohanui and may God bless both of you, dear Brothers, in whatever ministries may evolve for you in the Star of the Sea Province.



In 2013 the Champagnat Marists established the District of the Pacific. Last Saturday we closed it in a wonderful ceremony that reached the North South East and West of the Pacific. Thank you to the Brothers for their service, and thank you to Champagnat Marists who carry Jesus's mission 'in the Way of Mary'. As we look towards our future in Star of The Sea, seeking to strengthen the Champagnat mission everywhere in the Pacific, may we do so with great enthusiasm and courage. Kia ora.



Styrofoam Harms the Environment & Human Health

From Br Chris P

Styrofoam has become such an accepted everyday product that people often don't understand how Styrofoam harms the environment. Styrofoam is the trade name for polystyrene, a petroleum-based plastic. It's popular because of its light weight, good insulation properties, and advantage as a packing material for shipping without adding weight. Unfortunately, data has shown that Styrofoam also has harmful effects.

1. On Human Health

Polystyrene is made from Styrene, which is broadly used in the manufacture of plastics, resins and rubber. Styrene is a possible cause of cancer. Those who work in styrene product manufacturing and are regularly exposed to high levels of styrene have experienced acute health effects, including the following:

- Irritation of the skin, eyes, & throat
- Effects on digestion

Chronic exposure to styrene leads to further complications, including effects on the nervous system. Symptoms of chronic exposure include:

- Depression & headaches
- Fatigue & weakness
- Minor effects on kidney function

Styrofoam containers are commonly used for take-out food, but chemicals can leach into the food and contaminate it, affecting human health and reproductive systems. This effect is further accentuated if food is reheated while still in the container. NEVER heat Styrofoam: always remove food to a cooking vessel for reheating.

2. On the Environment

Styrofoam is non-biodegradable and appears to last for at least 500 years. It's resistant to breaking down by light. This, combined with the fact that Styrofoam floats, means that large amounts of polystyrene have accumulated along coastlines and waterways around the world. It is considered a major component of marine debris.

Styrofoam can be recycled, but the market for recycled Styrofoam is diminishing. Those that are recycled can be remanufactured into things like cafeteria trays or packing filler, both of which are undesirable.

Along with the health risks associated with the manufacture of polystyrene, air pollution is another concern. The National Bureau of Standards Center for Fire Research has found 57 chemical byproducts released during the creation of Styrofoam. This not only pollutes the air, but also results in liquid and solid toxic waste that requires proper disposal. Another cause for concern are the brominated flame retardants that are used on Styrofoam products. Research suggests that these chemicals may have negative effects on the environment and human health.

Styrofoam manufacture also uses hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which harm the ozone layer and contribute to climate change. HFCs are less detrimental to the ozone than chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were used in the manufacturing of Styrofoam in the past, but it seems that the impact of HFCs on climate change is much more serious.

Lastly, Styrofoam is made from petroleum, which is a non-sustainable resource, the production of which creates heavy pollution and accelerates climate change.

3. Are there alternatives to Styrofoam? Yes, Compostables!!

Compostable food service packaging is very trendy right now as an "ecologically correct" option. Compostable containers are made, using corn starch, palm fiber, peat fiber and wheat stocks; and they're able to break down into soil-enriching compost.

Scientists have hope for developing a suitable replacement for Styrofoam. A company named Ecovative Design has created a line of [products made from fungi and agricultural waste](#) that are Styrofoam-like and aspire to be a more environmentally friendly replacement.

Some U. S. cities have announced that food service establishments, stores and manufacturers may not possess, sell, or offer for use single-service Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam articles or polystyrene loose fill packaging, such as "packing peanuts."

You, too, can make eco-friendly choices to eliminate the use of Styrofoam. Also look for products that are

- Manufactured from renewable resources
- Contain biodegradable materials
- Reusable
- Easily recycled

<https://zerowastefamily.com/styrofoam-bad-environment>