



District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

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



District Dates

January 25th: Start of Term 1 for Schools in Samoa

January 26th: NZ Marist Brothers Trust Board Meets

February 2nd: St Paul's College Starts Term 1

February 3rd: Marcellin College & Sacred Heart College Starts Term 1

February 5th: District Council Meeting

Attached Reports:

Marist News from Rome 661

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January 22nd 2021

Brother Michael Reports from Asia



Brother Michael continues to support the formation of Champagnat Marist Lay people in this Asia country. This includes encouraging young local men to join ministries that are directed at helping children in the margins. The photo shows Brothers, Marist postulants and aspirants plus Champagnat Marists sharing a simple meal together. Marist Life and Mission continues to grow in this Asian country. There are now 12 local Brothers. A wonderful achievement when one considers that it has only been a decade since the Marist Brothers came to this great Asian country.

**The Brothers' House at Alafua, St Joseph's College (Samoa) compound.
The Brothers have shifted back to this house at Alafua after renovation.**



Kiribati Transition Period 2021

The reality is that the presence of the Marist Brothers in Kiribati is very fragile but there is a small window of opportunity to secure a longer presence if decisions are made now. The future presence of the Marist Brothers lies mainly with the three I-Kiribati Brothers presently there and any future local Brothers who follow in their footsteps, along with the Champagnat Lay Partners. This "window of opportunity" covering the period to the end of 2021.

That 2021 be identified as a **"Year of Transition"** from the present community composition to one of all I-Kiribati Brothers. That by the end of 2021, the remaining non-Kiribati Brothers withdraw and that the Marist community consist of all I-Kiribati Brothers. That 2021 be seen as a transition year to enable this to happen with leadership and other roles gradually handed over to the local Brothers in a planned and systematic way. For this period of transition to be successful, the local Brothers must inherit a going concern. Certain areas



need to be simplified and other structures set-up to enable the smaller number of I-Kiribati Brothers to handle a more manageable structure without being under any unnecessary pressure.

Brothers Tainga and Amberoti have recently been appointed as Country co-ordinator and Country bursar for our Marist Life and Mission in Kiribati.

(Our three Ikiribati Brothers: Tabunga, Tainga and Amberoti)



My Personal Reflection 2020

How moving it was to reflect on how I had lived my life for the year 2020: the experiences and activities that I came across in my journey here at the novitiate and the places that I had been to for my community experience. There were moments of happiness and sadness that came through in my first year as a novice. Being able to be true and be strong in my prayer life was what kept me going no matter what I came across.

At the beginning of the year all the things were going well for me; the programs for the classes and the ministry of the novitiate. Being with other novices helped each other with the work and the purpose of learning to become a person who would be capable of continuing the work of the Brothers. A few weeks later things started to change. The numbers of people living in the community were getting fewer. They were moved to other communities because of the requirements that needed to be followed. That was when where I got to start feeling the pressure of being the only novice. It did take a long time for me to readjust myself to get settled again, especially with the ministry and my study. It was also very challenging especially in a big place in trying to keep the community clean and tidy at all times. But as it went on I got to see that I had learnt a lot from all this especially not to rely on others for the work inside and outside. It gave me confidence that I was capable of doing all sorts of things within community even when being alone. I was able to do work without being asked or told. It was a great moment to reflect on because I was also able to let go some of the things that were always bothering me in my journey. This taught me not only to be thankful for all I had learned, but also to utilize that to empower others. The difficulties and the struggles had somehow brought out some goodness in my life. When Covid-19 arrived it did not impact much on my formation, but only in some areas such as there was no mass for a few months. Even though there was no mass we still had our own communion service every Sunday. I did not feel much about what this virus did to me like the experience of some other people. It just brought a lot of togetherness and also strengthened the areas that were weak in me about community life. What I saw was that sometimes I needed to encounter new things in order to know the meaning of life and what was around me more deeply.

The statue of Mary overlooking the Novitiate grounds

The support from the Lay and family members was great in encouraging me to always be true in my journey as a novice. They also played a big role in the formation and also for the community, being there to support us and help us in the cleaning of the community especially with the grass cutting which is always a big task. Last year also I had to witness and be part of the profession of two Brothers, Ieremia and Ienraku. Not many people attended the celebration because of the restrictions of social gathering. It was an emotional moment for me to see, for they were really happy that day. The first profession of Brothers Ieremia and Ienraku made me work much harder no matter lay ahead and always having faith in myself that I was going to continue with my work to become a true Brother to all.

As I begin the year 2021 I should be more open with my mind and heart to build up my relationship with others. I need to be more patient with the progress of my formation and to always have faith in myself. I also need to be more focused on my journey as a novice and let God direct me on the path I have to take.



Thank you
Karolo

