



District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

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



District Dates

Sunday 25th April: ANZAC DAY: New Zealand Anniversary in 1915—The Gallipoli Landings.

Monday 26th April: ANZAC day observed in New Zealand. (Public Holiday).

Tues 27th April: Meeting NZMBTB

Wed 28th April: Meeting Te RopuTautoko

Mon 3rd May: Meeting Congregational Bursars (CLCANZ)

Thurs 6th May: Marist Formation Workshop for Proprietor Directors and Board of Trustees

Fri 7th May: District Council



Attached Reports

Marist News from Rome 672

[Download Marist News—PDF](#)

April 23rd 2021

Holy Week in Rona, Brazil, by Brother Luke

I was invited to spend the holy week in Ronda, an indigenous community located on the banks of the Amazon River, about 50 minutes by boat from the city of Leticia in Colombia. Their tribe is called “Cocama” This experience helped me to reflect on my own vocational journey and opened my eyes to see the daily struggles of the communities living along the river.



Spiritual:

The community has a church that has not finished its construction and is abandoned, in addition there is no catechist or person responsible for spiritual animation. The last Eucharist celebration for everyone was two years ago, when they celebrated Mass. Ronda is a 99% catholic community. Personally, I believe that a heart of a community is the church. The church reflects how the community works. If the church is strong, then community is also strong. However, the first work that we did in Ronda was to clean the church. Our first celebration was attended mainly by children and



at the end of the week the church was full. I realized that the people need spiritual support and help for growth to happen. They need a leader who can lead them, but it was very encouraging to see young people taking up the challenge. I have great hopes that these children will lead the church and the community in Ronda in the near future.

Survival:

Some children are late for our activities or church service and when I asked them the reasons, they said that; “Brother, I had to go fishing at 4:30 am and it was very cold” or “Brother I had to go look for firewood for cooking” or “I had to go and harvest cassava or banana for food” or “I had to cook our food”. From an early age, these children began to learn how to survive. One of our activities was weaving, and I remembered one of a nine-year-old boy who said that weaving is a girl’s job. I asked him, “what is a boy’s job?”: He said, “planting and fishing is a boy’s job”. I started to realize that food is the priority and everything else comes second, including the church and spiritual activities. If I am lazy, I won’t eat. I need to work hard to survive.



New Learnings:

1. Never take things for granted and be happy with the little I have. Even though the people don't have a lot of material things, they are happy and content with what little they have.
2. Sharing and co-operation. I observed how the family works and how they helped each other to survive. They have their own roles to play, even if it is to wake up at 4am to fish or harvest food in the garden.
3. Love for animals and nature – I noticed that animals are like family members. It was so difficult for me to see a person hugging, kissing, or carrying animals but in Ronda people treated animals' and nature with respect and dignity. Now, I must learn how to love animals and nature.
4. The important of balancing life – My spiritual and social life needs to be balanced. If I spend a many times socializing, I also need to spend many times in prayer.



Future:

I now overcome most of my fears of living in communities along the river. I learned that listening to other people's stories is totally different from experiencing yourself. One of the most difficult parts of my journey was sleeping in the hammock at night and it was a struggle for me to wake up every morning. The other is the different sound of animals, birds, insects and other reptiles crying at night. It was a totally a different experience for me. It was so scary and frightening but after a few days I got used to it. Finally, I hate mosquitoes but in my time in Ronda there are other insects worse than mosquitoes, one is called "Pium" (small black mosquito) and the other is "Mutuca" (black flies). After being bitten by these two insects, you will say that mosquitoes are good. Now, I can say that I am ready for more experiences like this in the future.

Thank you from Luke.



St Paul's College News

The Year 7- and 8- Year Pupils treated their Grand Parents to a Liturgy and Morning Tea

On Friday 9th April, the Year 7- and 8- students hosted their grandparents for a liturgy and morning tea. It was a great opportunity for our students to show their family elders around the school and say thank you for being such a wonderful influence in their lives.

Thank you to the students that ran the liturgy in the chapel and also shared speeches and songs in the Champagnat Block Auditorium. You did us all proud. A special thank you goes to the staff that helped organise the day and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event possible.

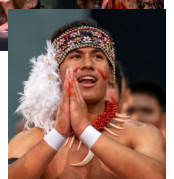


St Paul's College
CONFORTARE ESTO VIR



Fiafia Night

Last Monday we held our annual Fiafia night. This fabulous event had our cultural groups perform and express, through outstanding dance and song, what their culture and families mean to them. It also highlighted how strong our community is, and we are so thankful for everyone who came along in support. A huge kia ora, faafetai tele lava and malo aupito to all the parent committees and parents of the boys involved, as well as the school staff for making this evening happen.



Marist Brothers Formation in Asia

Today there are 2720 Brothers worldwide. We lost 19 Brothers due to Covid 19. However, the hopeful sign is that there are 106 novices through out the institute at present. Below is a photo of Brothers and postulants in Asia.



Habit Taking is a ritual to formalize the beginning of the Novitiate Journey for Novices to the Marist Brothers life. 15 Novices from our Asia/Oceania region started their novitiate journey recently in our Regional Novitiate in Cotabato City, Mindanao, Philippines.

Lest We Forget



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae
was a soldier, physician and poet.



Flanders Field refers to: Flanders Fields, the name of World War I battlefields in the medieval **County of Flanders**, which spans southern **Belgium** and north-west **France**. **Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial**, a World War I cemetery on the southeast edge of the town of Waregem, **Belgium**.