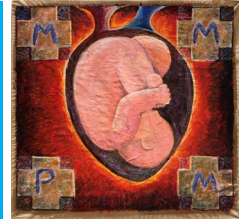




District of the Pacific Update

Champagnat Marist

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



District Dates

Friday 6th August: District Council Meeting.

Saturday 7th August: Marist Anniversary 1790 - Birth of Jean-Claude Colin at St Bonnet-le-Troncy.

Sunday 8th August: Champagnat in the Pacific at Long Bay led by Mr Dan Dungey.

Saturday 14th August: Marist Anniversary 1816: Marcellin Champagnat arrived at La Valla-en-Gier to begin his priestly ministry. (He remained in this small country parish for the next eight years.)

Sunday 15th August: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven. This is the Patronal Feast of the Institute and of Aotearoa-New Zealand.



Attached Reports:

Marist News from Rome 689

[Download Marist News—PDF](#)



Sacred Heart College
AUCKLAND



Catholic Caring Award

Congratulations to these students who were presented a Catholic Caring Award for their service to others, at a special Mass by Bishop Patrick Dunn.

Friday 6th August 2021

Sacred Heart College Newsletter

Now that we are in Term 3, we are reminded that we are in the depths of a New Zealand winter. Many of our Term 2 holiday plans may have been dampened by the wet and sometimes wild weather. Those of us who have friends and relatives in the flood-hit regions - Buller, Nelson and Marlborough, will be all too familiar with the destruction that 'Mother Nature' is capable of causing. As recent as this week, the news continues to remind us that we continue to battle with 'severe weather' across the country. So what does all of this mean for our Catholic community at Sacred Heart?

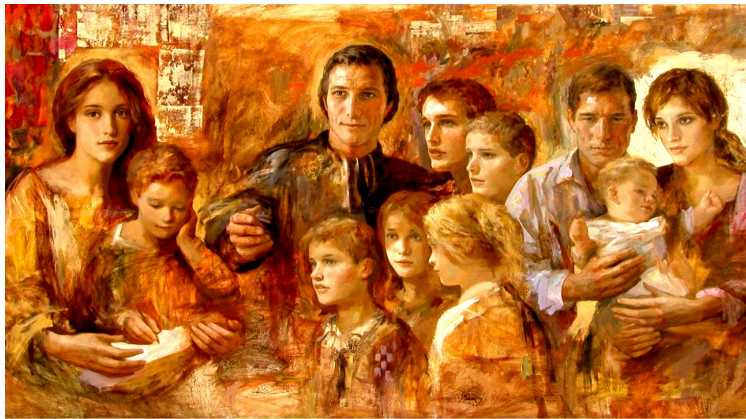
As Headmaster, Steve Dooley, described at a recent staff meeting, our community can be a safe haven from all of the bleakness that we see in the world around us. In a world where we are ridden by not only extreme weather but also pandemics, riots and economic unrest, our Catholic and Marist charisms are more important than ever. We are incredibly lucky to be part of a community that cherishes such values so dearly and holds true to them not just in spite of all the pain and suffering in the world, but perhaps even because of that pain.

'The problem of evil' is a common challenge to religion. It argues that God cannot exist where there is evil and suffering in the world. And in today's world, we certainly cannot deny the apparent existence of such suffering.

St Augustine responded to this challenge by stating that evil is simply the 'privation of good.' As such, where there is good, evil cannot and will not prevail. And so we are called to continue to do God's work, in spreading the Word of God, and spreading good, so as to dispel the appearance of evil and the suffering that it causes in the world.

We Pray that Champagnat's Mission continues through us ...

"The future of the world and the Church belongs to the younger generation... Christ expects great things from (them)." What a privileged vocation we have as Marist educators, Brothers and Laypeople, women and men, young and old, called to be Champagnats for this younger generation. With all the passion and dedication for mission which fired his everyday life, we in our times also choose to face our future with audacity and hope. **Source: In The Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, p.70**



Brothers meet with Keith Simento, Appointee Principal at St Paul's College



Various Brothers from the Marist communities in Auckland gathered for a morning tea at the District House to welcome Keith Simento, the appointee Principal of St Paul's College. Keith will take up his role there in the second week of Term 4.

Keith was accompanied by Denis Wood, the chair of the St Paul's College Board of Trustees.

Keith briefly shared his story with the Brothers. His home area is near the great city of Bangalore in India, which is steeped in Christian history. Keith attended St Joseph's College (Jesuits). He trained in Environmental Chemistry, and he subsequently migrated to New Zealand in the late 1990s. He has been teaching at Auckland Grammar School for the past 2 decades. Keith is a parishioner of St Mary's Parish in Avondale.

Keith spoke passionately about his new leadership role at St Paul's College. He also spoke eloquently of his impressions of the college, which is a family-oriented school with a wonderful heritage, marked by an outstanding spirit and explicit Catholic values.

Denis Wood shared some insightful reflections on the Board's strategic plan for the college over the coming years. Denis described the unanimous confidence among members of the Board, in how Keith will implement the vision.

The Brothers responded by sharing their own stories in connection with the College. Many of them were past students of St Paul's. The Brothers sang a Marial Hymn of blessing and offered a plaque of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, as their small symbolic reminder of the Catholic and Marist character of the College.