

District of the Pacific Update



Friday 11th February
2022

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

SACRED HEART COLLEGE HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE" "AMBITION FOR ALL"



"WHO AMONG YOU, IF YOUR SON ASKS FOR BREAD, WILL GIVE HIM A STONE" (Mat 7:9)

It has been said that 2020 and 2021 have been years of "unveiling"... Years of exposing the fundamentals of our society. The band-aid has so to speak been ripped away exposing some unwelcome sores of our world.

We have seen groups in New Zealand given "stones." Some families have had their economic lifeline cut off...real "stones." We have seen the "stones" of the digital divide becoming wider with some families sharing one phone, one computer among all family members. The "stone" that many young men sense is in asking for meaning and participation in society. And many more...

Every family "asks" that their children, their sons are given the life of learning, the life bread of learning and life opportunity. Sacred Heart College, founded in 1903, has always had a culture of ambition for all young men. St Marcellin Champagnat said to his Brothers... "You must love your students..., but you must love them all equally." Sacred Heart has always had a place at the table for all its young men... the 7th Grade rugby team along with the 1st XV, the learning support young man along with scholarship winners etc. As we approach 2022 with all its challenges, let us not lose sight of being ambitious for every student at the College. Parents after all are ambitious for all their children! Some examples:

- 100% attendance awards should be the norm.
- 95% of Year 13 students should get UE
- 30+% of the cohort should have excellence endorsement
- 20+% of Year 13 should get an academic scholarship
- Playing a sport for your College is a norm
- Playing a musical instrument has to be a normalised activity for all young men

I am delighted to be at Sacred Heart College and promise to work hard for this community and its young men who are always "asking" for "Bread"... but being boys will use other words!

Congratulations to those who achieved so well in the academic stakes last year. A good start to 2022. In His Peace

K.F. FOUHY
Acting Headmaster

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Special Character Reflection



St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, lived through the French Revolution, at a time when hope was scarce. This never deterred him however, from doing what he believed God was calling him to do. In fact, the challenges he faced, the neglect he saw and the despair he felt, were the impetus for his vision for the future, a vision which brings us all to this College today, where that same vision is treasured, embraced and lived by the Brothers, the staff, the boys and their families. As he understood the needs of those around him and responded to the signs of the times, so all at the College are called to do so in carrying on its mission here, Catholic Education.

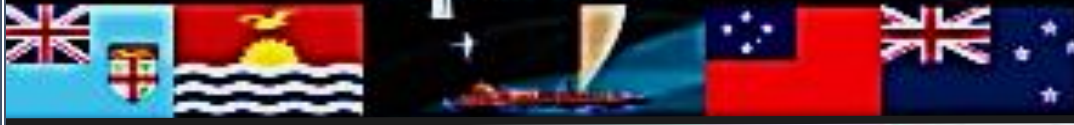
One of the current challenges for our world, country and communities, is clearly Covid and how we deal with it. For us at the College, it is important to remember that this pandemic will not have the last word – and that the face-to-face teaching and learning that goes on here, the interactions and relationships between the boys and between the boys and the staff, are as important as they ever were, if not more so. It is these which will provide structure, stability and sound learning for our boys and give them optimism for their futures before them. Our Pillars for particular focus this year, are a Spirit of Simplicity and Presence for Others. For Fr Champagnat, a spirit of simplicity was about stripping away the non-essentials, going back to basics, and getting on with the job openly and honestly. Presence was about simply accompanying the students, teaching and guiding them particularly in, but also outside of the classroom. These two pillars are timely indeed and with students, parents and staff working together for the best outcomes for our boys, despite the challenges of 2022, the year is going to be a fruitful one.

Welcome to all new students, staff and families

Although we were unable to gather at the beginning of the year as we usually would, it was fantastic to see the senior students take steps of leadership in accompanying our younger students to their Homerooms. We are enthusiastically looking forward to the year ahead!



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YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

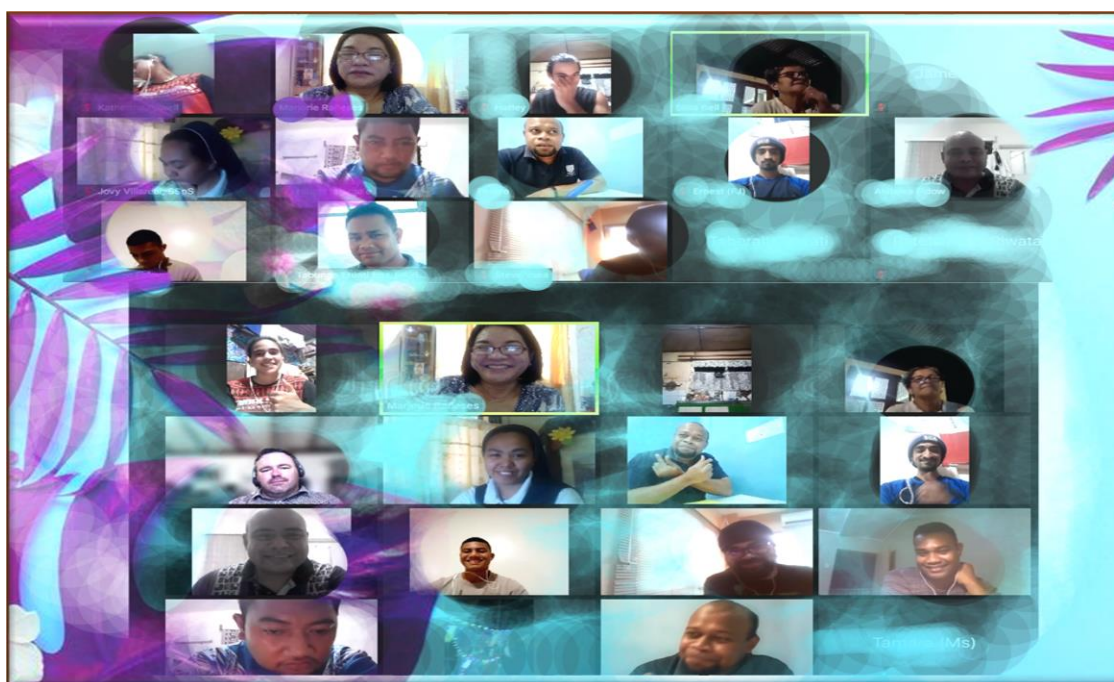
Youth Sharing



Bula vinaka.

My name is Katherine Powell. I was born and raised here in Fiji. Currently I'm preparing to go into school studying I.T. The session I've found most helpful was the one held in early Jan based on Family Spirit. We'd talked on meeting people halfway. That is what struck me most. There are so many things to consider when it comes to our relationships with others, such as communication and understanding; knowing when to speak up and when to keep quiet; and how we go about carrying out either of these two. It is important to always think of what we do and how those decisions may affect our relationship with those concerned.

Introverts and extroverts have their own ways of expressing themselves. It's just a matter of us observing that part and knowing how to get along with them, without trying to change who they are and how they do things. On the spiritual side of life, a lot of us don't spend enough time telling God how we feel and what we need, or to thank Him, or to just sit and listen to what He needs of us, even if it means being patient. May we, in the New Year, learn to better our relationships with others, and never keep away from God; to involve God in our daily activities, or even to complain and cry every now and then. There's no one more willing to hear us out and who loves us more than Him. If we don't feel confident enough, we can always turn to Mary Our Good Mother, and ask her to intercede for us. The Lord never says no to His Mother. God bless.



Youth Zoom Meeting on 06/02/2022. Ma'am Marjorie led this session from Philippines. The topic was on the five pillars, which is the "THE LOVE OF WORK".