

# District of the Pacific Update



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
2022

## SAMOA NEWS

### *The Youth Gathering by Br Anitele'a*

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, our Marist Youth gathered at Mulivai Hall. The objectives of the gathering were:

1. To revisit our Marist Story and heritage.
  2. To reflect on, further appreciate, celebrate, and talk about one's unique Vocational history.
- There were 14 participants, including 4 Marist Champagnat Teachers.



## YOUTH NEWS

### *The Final Session on Pillars by Br Petero*

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, the Torch project held its final session on the Marist pillars. The session was facilitated by Mrs Silila Bell, a committed Champagnat Marist who is now enjoying her retirement from teaching with family in Fiji. She presented on the pillar of "Simplicity" and encouraged the participants to interiorize the pillar's essence. Her timely



message of being simple, straightforward, doing good quietly and being oneself, lingered in the hearts and minds of our valuable participants, especially during this time of Lent. After a short yet meaningful input from Mrs. Bell, the participants were divided into smaller groups to reflect and share on “What ways can you relate to simplicity?”. The feedback following the group discussions were reflective, productive and empowering. Once again, on behalf of “The Torch Project” organizing team, I would like to extend our most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mrs Silila Bell, for her willingness to contribute to this initiative and to our youth’s development as a whole. We are indeed striving forward to empower our young people to achieve their dreams and become good and spiritual citizens. *(from the Project Team)*

## **Reports from the General Conference** **by Br Peter Horide**

Kia ora, Talofa, Bula, Kona Mauri, I share these thoughts from the General Conference in Rome. Firstly, in this part of the world, Spring is very evident. Around the house, the fruit trees are either in full blossom, or they’re just starting to blossom. As human beings we are all joined to this earth. When I stepped into the compound here at the General House, I was really delighted by the healthy number of bees that I could see, busily pollinating and food-gathering. So what is my reason for participating in a General Conference (further to my being delegated to stand in for John, the District Leader)? Around the mid-point of its term, a General Conference is convened by the current team of General Councillors. In the relevant paragraph (#119) in the Constitutions, the aim of a General Conference is:

1. To strengthen the unity of the Institute . . . to enable the Superiors to have direct contact with one another . . .
2. To study questions of general concern, and propose ways of responding.

A retreat is an integral part of the programme. Also, in the ebb and flow of our conversations, the Conference will delve into a dozen or so themes. We’re in for a very busy three weeks. I’ve been impressed by the way that Pope Francis has been central to some of the early material. He is the source of such gems and insights, and a powerful vision embodied in a series of great quotes. My arrival on Sunday



was something of an anti-climax. At the Leonardo da Vinci air terminal, a series of questions was due to be asked of me, to confirm my certified triple-vaccination status. My thoroughly-prepared paperwork was ready to be examined, but this wasn't required.

On Monday I took things quietly. We had a valuable day on Tuesday, the first day of the conference. Some of the time was spent in introductions and orientation. The number of participants is about 30, with some 6 or 7 others who will join the discussions on specific topics. Best wishes to everyone in the District, a special and wonderful unit of the Institute.

## AUSTRALIA NEWS

### Sesquicentenary of Brothers in Australia

We are celebrating 150 years since the Marist Brothers first formed a community and established a school in Australia; 150 years of life and mission for the Marists of Champagnat in Australia. That is worth commemorating.

During the year, there will be a number of events to mark the Sesquicentenary. A prominent one of these will be the launch of the 150 Year History, prepared under the auspices of the Province Patrimony Committee, and written by John, Julian, Neville and Peter.

### Marist Community - Timor Leste 2022



Brothers and Scholastics, Novices and Postulants