

District of the Pacific Update



Friday 18th March
2022

KIRIBATI NEWS

LA VALLA COMMUNITY by Br Amberoti

The Brothers and our Lay Champagnat groups gathered on Thursday 10th March to celebrate with Br. Barry and wish him well for his flight back to NZ. Different group members came to witness the occasion, teachers and friends from our two preschools, SLHS teachers, the Stewardship Team members and us, the



Thank
you

local Brothers. Everyone turned up with trays of food as a contribution.

It began with a prayer led by Br. Tainga and the formal part led by Itua (MC) a member of the Stewardship Team. The highlights of the occasion were when members of each group and the local brothers gave their speeches for Br. Barry. All mentioned the good values of Br. Barry in so many ways. They all shared what a tremendous impact Br. Barry's involvement in our local mission since 2016 has been, but also a moment of very real sadness at his departure.

Br. Barry gave a heartfelt farewell speech, during which he thanked everyone for making the effort to join the occasion, especially during this difficult time of lockdown and hours of curfew. Then he rephrased Br David (former District Leader) that the mission in Kiribati has 'Brothers and Lay working together' and encouraged the local Brothers to continue this community (La Valla) as a welcoming home to the Lay.

Toward the end, we sang our local song to wish Br. Barry a good and safe trip, and each individual had a last time to shake hands with him to symbolise our love. Furthermore, our neighbour too (Mikaere and his family) put on a super quality lunch for Br. Barry the next day, Friday 11 March. Indeed, it was very generous and thoughtful of Mikaere to have one last sharing of food with Br. Barry.



Brothers of the District Gathered to Reflect on Safeguarding by Br John

Around 50 Brothers from around the District gathered online for a structured discussion of Safeguarding and Professional Standards. The programme started with a prayer to remember all the survivors of abuse. Before God, and in deep shame and regret, we recognise that we have failed to protect the vulnerable.



The District Leader gave a brief overview of the calls of the Church, the Congregation, the previous District Chapter and other sources that highlight the significance of this ministry today.

The Professional Standards team shared their responses to questions that had been received (before the session) from various Brothers.

Using chat rooms and the helpful initial information that was provided, the participants carefully and respectfully explored the topic further.



There is a desire to learn, to deepen our understandings, and to be transformed.

Individually and as a group, we aim to continue growing in care, accountability, communication, healing and support to all involved.

COME AND SEE PROGRAM by Br Anitele'a

Talofa lava!!! From Samoa, greetings from our formation house in Mulivai. On the 11th and 12th of March we had a Come and See program for our second group. The main facilitator was Brother Afaese, Principal of Saint Joseph's College Alafua. Brother's topic was on "Calling" in the Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament. Thanks to those Brothers who took sessions with our participants and not forgetting the hidden work of our cooks, Brother Siasoi and his helpers.

