

Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers and Champagnat Marists

There is now less than two months until the *Star of the Sea Province* is a reality and its first Chapter commences.

In recent months, the Steering Committee has met regularly and there have been three meetings of Delegates. Several more are planned prior to the Chapter. The dates of the next meetings are:

Delegates	Steering Committee
20 October	19 October
11 November	9 November
22 November	21 November
	30 November

The theme selected for the Chapter is *Navigating New Waters Together*. Appropriately, it uses nautical imagery and emphasises the necessity of working together to chart a way forward into the future.

According to our Constitutions (Articles 25) the Chapter has the following responsibilities:

1. *Preparing and conducting the Chapter – through the Steering Committee.*
2. *Deciding on Province Norms and processes for the next Chapter.*
3. *Identifying the major issues to be addressed over the next three years and offering some ways of approaching these.*
4. *Electing the Provincial Council.*

The Delegates meetings have been focussed on becoming familiar with one another so that there is a real sense of fraternity at the Chapter, and the third task above: identifying the key priorities for the first three years of the Province and suggesting ways in which these issues can be effectively addressed and promoted. Our time in Chapter will further develop these areas.

As with any Chapter, Brothers, as individuals, groups or communities, are entitled to submit proposals. If there is an issue or idea that you would like the Chapter to consider, then you are invited to email it to the Steering Committee, via the Chair (Darren Burge - darren.burge@marists.org.au), or any member of the Committee. All proposals will be considered.

Brothers and Marist Friends, please pray for our new Marist Family in the Asia-Pacific area. It is first and foremost a family of faith. It's development and future will be dependent on the faith of its members, its shared fraternity and strong commitment to Marist service.

Good wishes to all,



Br Peter Carroll FMS
Provincial Designate

This week's *'Star Feature'* is: Solomon Islands

BELOW: Laumanasa House



BELOW: Youths at Henry's Village



Hudson Horoto, Epalle Taega and Fr Jacob



Form 4's doing their NTS Studies with Henry Uguni



ABOVE: Fr Bernard and Br Henry Uguni

Solomon Islands

Overview

Four Marist Brothers, Hyacinth, Gennade, Aristride and Optat, arrived in the Solomon Islands in 1845 with Bishop Epalle SM and their 9 Society of Mary companions. The Marist missionaries' early years in the Solomons was dangerous and dispiriting. After just five years, Brother Hyacinthe was dead, killed by the local people on San Christobal Island, and the other three had fallen ill and needed to be repatriated to Sydney. The Mission closed in 1852.

Eighty-six years later, at the invitation of Bishop Aubin SM, Marist Brothers were again in the Solomon Islands. Brothers John, James and Ephrem arrived on 2 August 1938 to lead the school at Makina on Marau Sound. In 1941 another three Brothers, Augustine, Donatus and Ervan, arrived. Soon afterwards, Augustine, John and Donatus were sent to neighbouring Bougainville to start a new mission.

War came to the Pacific in December 1941 and fighting spread to the Solomon Islands soon after. The Brothers on Marau were temporarily imprisoned by the Japanese but eventually evacuated to Australia. Their confreres on Bougainville were not so fortunate. Following the end of World War II, in 1946, the Brothers returned to the Solomon Islands and opened the school at Tenaru, which still exists today.

After years of consolidation, development at Tenaru and the profession of vows by local Brothers, the Marists opened schools at Vanga Point, a Rural Training Centre, and at Rokera on the Island of Malaita. The Brothers' education ministry and community at Rokera closed in 1990. In 1989 the Brothers established an outreach community at Avuavu on the remote weather coast of Guadalcanal. Local, Br Henry Uguni was in the first community. Unfortunately, it was short lived and closed in 1993. The Brothers withdrew from Vanga Point in 2020.



National Identity	Solomon Islands
Capital	Honiara
Languages	English
Population	708,102
Time Zone	UTC (UTC +11)
Main Religions	Roman Catholic, Anglican, United Church, Seventh Day Adventists, South Sea Evangelical Church, Protestant
Arrival of Marists	1845
Number of Marist Brothers	3
Number of Marist Brothers Communities	1 - Laumanasa
Number of Marist Schools	1 - St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School - Tenaru

Today

There is one community of three Brothers in Honiara. One Brother is studying at the National University and two are involved in the school.

Marist Life and Mission Groups (Lay/Brother)

- Marist Family (Brothers & Lay Families)
- Marist Lay Core Group

Marist Ministries and Schools

- Laumanasa Formation Centre
- St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School - Tenaru

Formation

Laumanasa House (named in honour of one of the first Solomon Islander Brothers) has been the centre of initial formation for the Melanesian Brothers since 1988. During the COVID crisis, it was also a temporary Novitiate. It is hoped that it will resume its original purpose in the near future, as well as provide opportunities for Lay Marist formation.

Marist Life and Mission Groups			
Name of Group	Number of Groups	Location	Active Members
Tenaru Marist Lay Core Group	1	St. Joseph's Tenaru	30
Formation Team	1	St. Joseph's Tenaru	6

Formation		
Activity or Event	Description	Location
Sharing Our Call 1 - 2009	A three-day live-in programme exploring the Marist Charism and spirituality, identity and pedagogy in the Footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat	St. Joseph's Tenaru
Marist Teachers Induction - 2014-2021	Staff induction sessions on Marist charism, spirituality, Champagnat Story, Teacher's rules, evaluations, etc.	St. Joseph's Tenaru
Student Leaders Formation - 2017	A two-day course on Marist Spirituality, Story and leadership.	St. Joseph's Tenaru
Contemplative Retreat - 2018	A three-day live in Shared formation experience on Contemplative retreat for Marist Brothers and Lay	TNK- East Guadalcanal Anglican Melanesian Sisters Formation Centre
Wakabout Wantaim Champagnat 1 - 2019	A three-day course on Marist Charism, Spirituality and pedagogy of Marist Education in the Footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat	St. Joseph's Tenaru
Wakabout Wantaim Champagnat 1 (New Staff) - 2021	A three-day course on Marist Charism, Spirituality and pedagogy of Marist Education in the Footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat	St. Joseph's Tenaru