

# Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers and Champagnat Marists

We are in the Marist Year of Vocations. In May, Brother Ernesto wrote:

*“We propose that the Institute dedicate a year to take up the theme of Marist vocations again with vigour and enthusiasm through promoting a renewed culture of vocation. The proposal is to carry it out from 20 May 2022 to 6 June 2023. These dates bring to mind the history of our origins when there was an impressive surge in vocations between 1822 and 1823, after the great vocation crisis suffered by the Institute just a few years after its beginning. Marcellin’s experience 200 years ago, with great faith and trust in God and Mary, can be a key point of motivation for this initiative”.*

The Guide produced by the Secretariat of Brothers Today can be found at this link: [GuideYearMaristVocations.pdf \(champagnat.org\)](https://www.marist.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/GuideYearMaristVocations.pdf).

Promoting and nurturing vocations to Marist Life (both Brother and lay women and men) is a crucial issue for the Star of the Sea Province. And by that phrase I mean us – brothers, each and every one of us.

This week let’s focus on the Brothers’ Vocation. Next week we can explore Marist lay ‘vocation’. As we know, in recent years vocations to the Brothers in Australia and New Zealand have been scarce. This doesn’t mean we ‘give up’, but it does mean we need to be realistic in our expectations and creative in our approach. In other parts of the Province there is still interest, even strong interest, in the Brothers’ vocation. In these places we need to be deliberate, clear and active in our approach to promoting and forming vocations to our way of life.

Essentially, this is a local responsibility, supported and

encouraged by Province leadership. There will be a Director of Vocations for the Province who will have responsibility for planning, organising and coordinating Vocations promotion, ‘Come-and-See’ programmes and aspirancy activities. He will be supported by a reference group, such as a Vocations Commission. There will also be local Brothers in each country who have responsibility for being the Contact Persons for men who have vocational interest. However, each of us needs to be supportive of these undertakings. Irrespective of age we can all pray earnestly for vocations, we can invite suitable men to consider our lifestyle. As communities, we can host live-in ‘come-and-see’ opportunities, we can work to ensure our homes are seen as welcoming, healthy, happy and our brotherhood is genuine and joyful. To nurture a ‘culture of vocations’ is also to nurture environments that are attractive and caring.

For a considerable time now, Formation has been international, intercultural and inter-regional. This is true of both initial and continuing formation. The initial steps of vocation promotion,

discernment and aspirancy will be local, but the formal stages after that will be combined and centralised. The Postulancy will be in Baucau, East Timor, the Novitiate at Tudella, Sri Lanka, and the first part of post-Novitiate formation will be 12-18 months at MAPAC in Manila. This, like the Novitiate is a collaborative formation undertaking with the Asian Provinces and District, where we share resources and personnel.

In recent years, the Secretariat of Brothers Today has developed a broader suite of Continuing Formation programmes. The traditional ones, such as the *Third Age* and *Mid-Life*, continue but there are also new ones, specialist programmes and some available for Brothers and Marist lay women



and men. It's important that we make these available to you, not just for the renewal and updating they encourage, but also to gain a first-hand experience of our global reality.

Let's pray earnestly for vocations and work together to promote consecrated Marist life, in all its richness and promise.



**Br Peter Carroll FMS**

Provincial Designate

## More From Graham Neist about the new [mariststar.org](https://mariststar.org) domain and emails

Peter explained last week that the new province will have a new domain name: [mariststar.org](https://mariststar.org) and that all Brothers and Province employees will have an email address using this domain name. The email address will be personalised, using Christian name and Surname, for example: [marcellin.champagnat@mariststar.org](mailto:marcellin.champagnat@mariststar.org). In cases where we have two Brothers with the same name, we will use a middle initial also.

For example: [paul.s.murphy@mariststar.org](mailto:paul.s.murphy@mariststar.org) and [paul.a.murphy@mariststar.org](mailto:paul.a.murphy@mariststar.org). These email addresses give us an online identity in the Province.

### Does this mean that I have to change my email address?

No. All Brothers and employees will all have a **mariststar** email, but you will be able to direct email you receive at that address to your *preferred* email address. There is a way of directing emails sent to your Province **mariststar** address to come into your current email account, whether it's Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail, or any other one.

### Timeline...

The domain is already established and set up; it is fully functional but not yet 'live' (not yet in use). All of the administration personnel (including brothers who are part of this group) will be moved to the new domain in the last weeks of November this year; all of the brothers of the new province will be given an identity within our **mariststar** domain during early January 2023; all brothers will be contacted to see if they would like a mailbox within our **mariststar** domain during January/February 2023; all brothers will be offered assistance in setting up their present mail system to read mail from their [mariststar.org](https://mariststar.org) identity, or in how to use their new mailbox within [mariststar.org](https://mariststar.org) domain, depending on their choice.

### What this means after we have gone through all the bumps of setting up ...

The Provincial, administration, and all of us can send emails to each other using our **mariststar** identity. We will all be able to receive, read and respond to such emails in our chosen email account system. We will all be able to access and participate in Province based systems such as Microsoft Teams using our [mariststar.org](https://mariststar.org) identity, even if we use Gmail, Yahoo or any other email system. And most importantly, we will be able to secure and assist all of the members of our new province in a world that is becoming more and more hostile to online systems.

# This week's 'Star Feature' is: Vanuatu



# Vanuatu

## Background

Vanuatu is a Melanesian country 800 kilometres west of Fiji and 1,770 kilometres East of Australia. It consists of 13 principal, and about 67 smaller islands that stretch for 1,300 kilometres. The largest island is Espiritu Santo (or just Santo) which the first Europeans, Portuguese, visited in 1606. In the 1880's both France and the UK claimed parts of the archipelago and in 1906 they agreed to jointly govern it as the New Hebrides. After World War II an independence movement developed and the Republic of Vanuatu was founded in 1980. The people of Vanuatu are referred to as Ni-Vanuatu or Vanuatuan.

Vanuatu's motto is: "Long God Yumi Stanap" (bishlema) - "In God let us stand Tall".

## Marist Links

In the areas of strong English control, Presbyterianism became the dominant faith. Similarly, where French influence was strong, such as on the islands of Santo and Malekula, Catholicism dominated. The Marist Fathers first arrived in Vanuatu in 1887.

The Brothers opened a school in Port Vila in 1905. Due to a number of factors, it closed after only 8 years. The Brothers returned in 1991 to conduct a vocational centre, the St Martin De Porres Centre at Lololima. This was staffed by Brothers from New Caledonia, mostly French. They withdrew in 2010. The Brothers are still present at the St Michel Catholic Technical College on Santo.

## Community

Four Brothers comprise the community at Santo. Three are Ni-Vanuatu and one is a Solomon Islander. The Brothers' House is



<b>National Identity</b>	Republic State (country) that gained its independence from a colonial government, France and British in 1980.
<b>Capital</b>	Port Vila
<b>Languages</b>	Bislama, French and English
<b>Population</b>	243,304
<b>Time Zone</b>	U.T.C + no daylight saving changes
<b>Main Religions</b>	Christianity (Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Bahá'í Faith, Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Church of Christ, Neil Thomas Ministries (NTM), Jehovah's Witnesses, and others)
<b>Arrival of Marists</b>	1991
<b>Number of Marist Brothers</b>	4
<b>Number of Marist Brothers Communities</b>	1
<b>Number of Marist Schools</b>	None

located at 'Lycee et College Technique St Michel', which is a diocesan school. The Brothers are involved in teaching, both in the academic and technical sections, administration, boarding and the school development projects. In 2020 the savagery of Cyclone Harold destroyed much of the school and the Brothers' house. With the assistance of AMS and the Province the school has been repaired and rebuilt, and a new Brothers' house constructed.

### Marist Life and Mission Groups

A Marist group exists with the name, *Champagnat Marist Family*. It consists of Brothers, teachers and students. At the moment there 15 Lay Teachers and over 60 students, boys and girls are involved. The purpose of the group is to deepen the Marist Spirit and strengthen spiritual awareness and life within the school. The group also does outreach work with the sick in the parish and the nearby local communities. It gathers for prayer and helps animate Masses in the Parish.

### School Ministry

'Lycee et College Technique St Michel' is a co-educational school and technical college from Years 7 to 12 governed by the Diocese. It has both academic and technical strands. The Technical section helps students develop their skills so they can find employment in fields such as joinery, mechanics, cooking, hospitality, sewing and housekeeping.

Marist Life and Mission Groups			
Name of Group	Number of Groups	Location	Active Members
Champagnat Marist Family	1	St Michel School, Santo	75

Formation		
Activity or Event	Description	Location
Champagnat Marist Family Prayer meeting Liturgy animation	Twice a month the group gathers together for prayer to deepen their spiritual life.  The group takes turns in leading the liturgy in the local parish church on Sundays. This to deepen their awareness of belonging to the church.	St Michel School, Santo
Champagnat Marist Family Outreach and Service	The group runs outreach programs such as visiting the sick in the parish and nearby communities.  The group takes turns to do manual works and maintenance in the school compound. This gives an opportunity to have a sense of mission and to deepen their spirit of solidarity with others.	St Michel School, Santo
Champagnat Marist Family Retreat	The group runs an end of year retreat for its members. This is to deepen the Marist Charism and to evaluate their journey together in the year. And to plan for their next journey as a group.	St Michel School, Santo