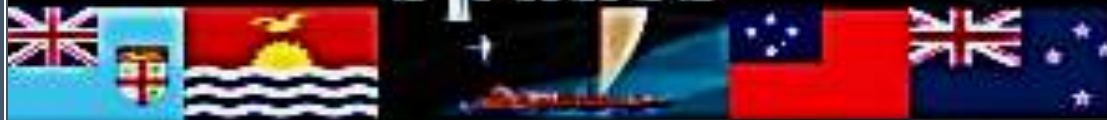


District of the Pacific Update



**Friday 4th
November 2022**



Reflection

From Br Kevin D

The Te Ahi Kā o Mātaruranga community (TAKoM) recently went on a hikoī north tracing the origins of our faith of which so much was significantly Marist. As Guide Extraordinaire, Br Bryan's twenty years in the Hokianga gave him the connections and the knowledge to lead us through the process.

The group comprised Hamuera, an ECE teacher at a full immersion school, Isaac who is teaching RE, History and Social Studies at St Peter's, and we were joined by Tausilia, chaplain to St Peter's and Youth officer for Palmy & Whanganui, Sio a theology graduate doing teacher-training at Massey and Arama, DRS at St Pius X, Glen Innes

The journey took us first to Auckland where we were warmly welcomed on Sunday night by Brother Denis and the Brothers of the community at Marcellin College. The next day had an early start, stopping first in Whangarei in a street named after one of the first brothers to New Zealand, Michel Colombon. After lunch at the well-known tourist spot of the Hundertwasser library and gallery we then went on to Kaikohe where we were generously hosted by Br Samisoni. The next day took us to Totara Point, where Bryan's storytelling made the moment come alive at the place of the first Mass on the soil of Aotearoa.

From there to Motuti where the relics of Bishop Pompallier are kept; Bryan had been part of the story to bring him back from Paris where he had been buried, to our shores. The search for the unlocatable key to raise the reliquary took us first to Pangaru for lunch and superb burgers and fries. It was there the group was in awe of the connection Bryan had with his former students who gave him a hearty welcome. Day 2 of our stay at Kaikohe gave us the opportunity to attend Mass at the parish church to which the Marist Sisters and the Marists of Champagnat both Brothers and Lay make a significant contribution. We returned Samisoni's generosity that night by cooking a meal of spaghetti bolognese. Our third day was spent at the museum and grounds at Waitangi. It was a chance to discover the fuller history of the country we now know as Aotearoa New Zealand that was never taught in the years those of us were in school before the 1980s.

Tracy of the Pompallier Mission at Kororāreka (Russell) gave us a thorough tour. We heard that the Brothers worked extremely hard. They were treated in ways so different from what Champagnat had envisaged in the more congenial relationships that was their 1830s experience

at L'Hermitage. The visit to Russell also took us to the national shrine of St Peter Chanel and then on to the hill of the flag staff that Hone Heke had chopped down; he was quite a different man to the one that the colonial history of the 1950s and 1960's considered a terrorist.

Isaac reflects: "As a teacher (and lifelong student) of both History and Religious Studies, I had heard the stories about these significant places in the history of Aotearoa, and especially of the Church in Aotearoa. To finally get to visit them, helped make them come alive and put into context the stories. It was an awesome trip, thanks to the special places we got to visit and the knowledge that was shared"

With Isaac and Tausilia both working at St Peter's College, they now have, together with the template Bryan had prepared, an idea of how such a hikoi could involve senior students, especially those who are involved with special character in the coming years, Covid-willing.

Ngā mihi nui

At Motuti with Catechist Henare



Michel Colombon Close



Br Bryan tells the story



Hundertwasser dining



Totara Point



At Pompallier mission



sculpture tells the



Brothers at Sacred Heart College



Congratulations to Br Anthony on completing his 19th Auckland Half Marathon (plus two others) last Sunday in warm but wet conditions.



The inauguration of the Br John Cup which is to be contested between the day boys and boarders. It was presented to Br John at a Sacred Heart College assembly after 42 years of dedicated work in the boarding establishment. Congratulations, Br John!

Marist Brothers Primary School



From Mr Lui Malaki



This is the beginning of Week 5, for Marist Mulivai. Teachers and students are preparing for the National examination for Years 2, 4, 6 and 8. We are taking part in the Government of Samoa Examination.



It is a great joy to welcome Brother Anitelea back to Mulivai community and in the school again. Today he continued with his ministry teaching the young boys in Year 5 Religious Education.