

# Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers

My time at the International Novitiate, Tudella, Sri Lanka has been instructive, enjoyable and encouraging. The current community is composed of:

- **Five first year Novices:** Bomes (PNG), Vinh (Vietnam), Shovo and Shohel (Bangladesh) and Prathap (Sri Lanka).
- **Eight second year Novices:** Pech (Cambodia), Cuong and Ky (Vietnam), Dedimo, Edgar, Manecas, Ruben and Simon (Timor Leste).
- **Four Formators:** Brothers Kikko (Spain – MDA), Réal (Canada – MDA), Rod (Australia – Star of the Sea) and Shanti (Sri Lanka – South Asia) who is currently participating in the Third Age programme.



NOVICES, STAFF & VISITING BROTHERS

You can see it is a highly international and intercultural community, with nine different countries represented, covering three separate Administrative Units. The Novices are very conscious that they are being prepared as members of a global Institute, Brothers for the world! In the past, being “missionary” was seen as something quite distinct, as a separate mission and ministry; now it is viewed as the norm.

My specific purpose for visiting at this time of the year was to participate in the annual Novitiate Council meeting. The Council is the governing body of the International Novitiate and is composed of the Leaders of the Administrative Units that formed and utilise the Novitiate. At the moment, the Council is composed of Canisio Willrich (Leader of the Marist District of Asia), Nicholas Fernando (Provincial of South Asia) and me. During our time together, we met with each of the Formators and with the Novices as first and second year groups. We also considered the report of the Novitiate Advisory Team who visited the Novitiate earlier in the year and carried out a series of interviews and meetings to assist in their review. Their comments on the programme were most helpful.

Undoubtedly, you realise the challenges and complexities of an international Novitiate, in fact any Novitiate in our contemporary world. Language and communication is a major issue. In reality only one of the 17 men at the Novitiate has English as his primary native language – that is Rod. All the others have learned English so that they can engage meaningfully in the formation processes or in ministry. In fact, a significant part of the Aspirancy and Postulancy phases is ensuring basic competency in English. Differing cultures, ages, education and experiences are other overlays that add complexity and richness to the experience.

Despite all the challenges, I’m delighted to report that the Novices are happy and satisfied with the programme and formation they are receiving. This was confirmed by both the Advisory Team’s report and our own discussion with the Novices. The Leaders are most grateful to Kikko (Novice Master), Réal, Rod and Shanti. They work effectively together and cover a diverse range of tasks – from teaching to accompanying, managing finances and maintenance needs, organising liturgies, prayers and retreats, and so much more. The Council is most appreciative of all they do to ensure an excellent formation programme for the Novices.

Br Peter Carroll | Provincial





**ROD THOMSON**  
FORMATOR (SOTS-AUSTRALIA)



**BOMES TUKANA**  
1ST YEAR NOVICE (PNG)



**DEDIMO SOARES**  
2ND YEAR NOVICE (TIMOR LESTE)



**EDGAR DA COSTA SALGUEIRO**  
2ND YEAR NOVICE (TIMOR LESTE)



**MANECAS DOS SANTOS**  
2ND YEAR NOVICE (TIMOR LESTE)



**RUBEN BELO DE OLIVEIRA**  
2ND YEAR NOVICE (TIMOR LESTE)



**SIMON MENDONCA MAIA**  
2ND YEAR NOVICE (TIMOR LESTE)



**CANISIO WILLRICH (LEADER OF THE MARIST DISTRICT OF ASIA), KIKKO GARCIA (NOVICE MASTER) & MANECAS DOS SANTOS (NOVICE)**



**ROD THOMSON & PETER CARROLL WITH THE NOVICES**



**REAL SAUVAGEAU & BOMES TUKANA**

# BROTHERS' NEWS

## DAVID MCDONALD

I am delighted to announce that **David McDonald** will replace Kevin Wanden as **Leader of the Onehunga Community** from the start of 2024. David will bring his vast experience, unique skills and strong sense of brotherhood to the role.

Sincere gratitude to David!

## PETER HOWES

Between now and the end of the year, **Peter** will move from Glenora Avenue, Coburg to **Holden Street, Fitzroy North**. Coburg's loss is Fitzroy North's gain and I know Peter will be warmly welcomed by the community. Good wishes Peter!

## BILL SULLIVAN

**Bill** has returned after a recent short break. He will move from Mittagong and make **North Sydney** his base as he prepares for the next part of his sabbatical and transition programme.

# CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

MARIST GLOBAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

## Champagnat Global Week - 16 October to 20 October.

This will be a time and space for communication, meetings and involvement for the international Marist Schools network.

It will be of great interest not only to those working in our Marists Schools, but to all who are interested in Marist Education.

The Champagnat Global newsletter for August-September 2023 is available [HERE](#) for your information, and provides further detail of the various types of activities being developed for Champagnat Global Week.

Also for your information, are the articles from the Champagnat Global - Marist Global Network of Schools website which are available to read [HERE](#).

# FORMATION PROGRAMMES



## TUTTI FRATELLI PROGRAMME

Tainga Moanriba has been participating in the Tutti Fratelli programme in Rome. This is an inter-Congregational programme that brings together members of different Brothers' Institutes. The theme has been 'accompaniment' and the opportunity has been valued by all participants.

## VOCATIONS PROMOTION SEMINAR

The Institute's Brothers Today Secretariat is currently conducting a Seminar on Vocations promotion at MAPAC for the Asia-Pacific Region. Sefo Une, Lecio Heckler and our Manila Scholastics are participating in the programme, together with representatives from the three Asian administrative units.



## Marist International Solidarity Network

Br Jeff Crowe recently represented the Province at a meeting of the **Executive Committee of the MISN**. The meeting was chaired by Br Angel Diego who visited the Province earlier in the year. Br Michel, Provincial of the Madagascar Province, hosted the gathering in Antananarivo (capital of Madagascar).



## THIRD AGE PROGRAMME

Reports are that the Third Age programme is going along splendidly. Our men are enjoying the break from routine, the diverse offerings and the chance to meet Brothers from other parts of our Marist World.

# RENEWAL OF VOWS CEREMONY

Last weekend, at the start of the Seminar, a group of our MAPAC Scholastics renewed their vows. Congratulations to all of them.



*Star of the Sea contingent after renewal of vows ceremony, including Michael Sexton, Sefo Une & Lecio Heckler*



*MAPAC community after renewal of vows.*