

Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250



The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

ABN 87 382 823 140

MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 VOL. 72 NO. 2

With Kind Hearts and a Generous Spirit

Challenging times can bring out the best in people. This is the story of MMC over 72 years and especially over the last twelve months.

We have all witnessed the kind and generous hearts of our fellow Australians over the past year as we faced drought, fires, floods, Covid 19 and their impact on the employment and financial realities of families and the business community.

MMC donors have been especially kind and generous during these challenging times. The Cycling for Children Appeal 2021 for the building of a classroom block at St. Raphael's Elementary School at Tabago, Buin, Bougainville has been very generously supported.

We continue to hear sad stories from the Myanmar refugees in Thailand. MMC funds a hostel program for young refugees and an education and health program in Ranong. Some of these programs have been disrupted due to the uncertain and violent times in their country. The refugees from Myanmar attending our program in Ranong Thailand are directly across the border from Myanmar and these young people are deeply concerned for their families and relatives back in Myanmar.

On the back page of this Newsletter is an overview of the programs and activities supported by your donations in 2020. The AMCOA Audit Financial Statements for 2020 are available on the MMC website.

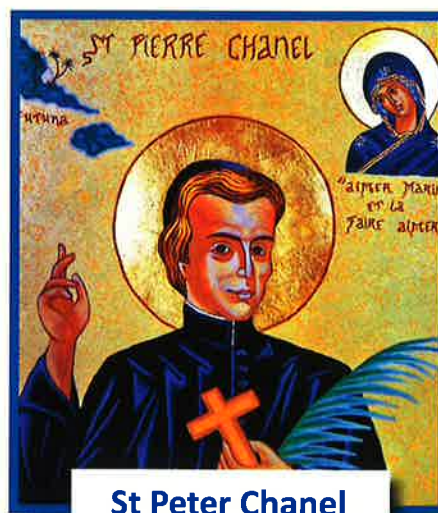
As always MMC welcomes your feedback and comments.

We celebrated the feast day of St Peter Chanel on April 28th, a Marist priest and first martyr of the South Pacific. His life and commitment to the people of Futuna is an inspiration to all who support our Marist missions.

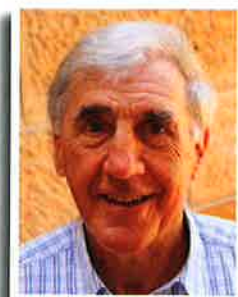
With my thanks and blessings.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm

MMC Executive Officer



St Peter Chanel



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



ACFID
MEMBER



To Donate visit MMC Website:

www.maristmissions.com

Bangladesh: Anondo Neer—Dakar

When Iasmine's daughter Sangita was born she was found to be severely disabled, her husband blamed Iasmine and beat her. To save her life and the life of her daughter, she left her husband and found her way to the safety of Anondo Neer.

Here she was able to watch and learn from a volunteer physiotherapist how to give exercises to her daughter. The Physiotherapist noticed Iasmine's hands on skills with her daughter and other children and encouraged her to develop her gift.

Iasmine has now completed a Certificate of Competence as a Physiotherapist Aide and during Covid times with the Centre closed has been going to the homes of the disabled to continue their therapy.

— AMCOA Project —



Above: The gift of transformation

Philippines: Balay Banaag—Davao City



Balay Banaag is a Centre conducted by the Marist Sisters for young girls who are at risk of exploitation and abuse because of the poverty and disadvantage of their mother's situation in life.

The girls live in a safe place and learn about self-care, human rights and dignity. This young girl has spent a day session with her class mates and the Social Worker enjoying activities. She is now beginning to trust herself and others.

— AMCOA Project —

Left: Learning can be fun

Rome: Our Marist Future

Our Marist seminarians from various parts of the world now complete their studies for the priesthood in Rome.

This enables them to strengthen their sense of Marist identity for mission.

They are supported by (second row L- R) Fr. Larry Duffy sm, Fr. Ben Mckenna sm, and Fr. Tony Kennedy sm who is in charge of our International Formation program.

— MFIM Project —



Above: Our hope for the future

Thailand: Marist Asia Foundation - Ranong

The country of Myanmar has experienced many years of tension and conflict and in recent months a military coup. The division and suffering of families in the country and between ethnic groups has caused many families to become refugees in the border city of Ranong in Thailand.

Marist Asia Foundation was established by the Marist Fathers as an outreach to this refugee community in Ranong. There are two sections of this ministry – a HIV/AIDS Health program and an educational program.

Ranong is a major fishing port where international fishing companies exploit Burmese migrants working on fishing boats in harsh conditions over long periods at sea. The men often use drugs and share needles to cope and as a result develop HIV/AIDS. On return to port, they pass the virus onto their wives.

— AMCOA Project —



**Above and Left:
A welcome visit during COVID**



The MAF Health Team conducts family visits to provide HIV Testing & Support, health education, counselling, medical support, nutrition and especially care and compassion.

Last year the team conducted 1017 home visits and trained 4 local leaders as Support Workers.

Glenn & Sue Roff from Australia have just completed 12 months as volunteers at the Centre in Ranong supporting the education of young Burmese refugees.

Both are retired teachers with a wealth of experience in teaching and school leadership.

At the beginning of their time they were faced with the challenges of Covid and at the end of their year they walked with these same students whose people experienced the drama of a coup in their home country.

Glenn & Sue helped students complete courses from Australian Catholic University in a 'Diploma of Liberal Arts' and a 'Certificate in Teaching & Learning'.



Above: Growing our future

Bougainville : Cycling for Children 2021

Thanks to the very generous support of our MMC donors work has already commenced on the building of a classroom block at St. Raphael's Elementary School, Tabago, Buin.

The MMC Flyer for this project was mailed to MMC donors in February and work commenced in April – congratulations to you and to Fr. George.

Fr. George Baruka sm is working with the skills and resources in the local community in preparing the ground work for the new classroom.



Above: Local community hard at work

MMC - Marist International Mission Projects 2020 Generous hearts supporting projects

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Bangladesh	\$ 34,678	Educational Assistance
Cambodia	\$ 55,000	Marist Solidarity - Health and Education
Cameroon	\$ 9,067	Educational Assistance
Fiji	\$ 26,759	Community Education
Japan	\$ 1,205	Community Support
Myanmar	\$ 20,750	Educational Assistance
Ocenia and Rome	\$ 390,000	Seminary Support and Educational assistance
Philippines	\$ 83,850	Balay Pasilungan and Balay Banaag programs
Samoa	\$ 30,000	Educational Assistance
Solomon Islands	\$ 80,204	Community Education and Support
Tanzania	\$ 29,500	Educational Assistance
Thailand	\$ 90,000	Marist Asia Foundation—Health and Education
Vanuatu	\$ 5,500	Educational Assistance
Total Project Funding	\$ 856,513	
Funding by:		
Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)		\$ 339,582
Marist Fathers Overseas Mission (MFIM)		\$ 516,931



**Donations over \$2.00
to AMCOA
are tax deductible**

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