



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
SPRING 2023 VOL. 74 NO. 3

HOPE MAKES ROOM FOR LOVE

Our daily news reminds us that our world is troubled by social and financial uncertainty and conflicts at many levels. They are challenging times for all of us, especially for the poor and peoples on the margin. Fr. Richard Rohr OMI, in his on-line meditations from the Centre for Action and Contemplation, reflects on the need of having and sharing hope. He draws on the wisdom of retired Episcopal Bishop and Native American Steven Charleston:

*Hope is a light that darkness can never contain.
Hope enables us to walk with courage and dignity.
Hope unites us and breaks our isolation.
Hope opens our eyes to see love around us.*



Our Marist Mission Centre motto is Sustaining Hope. By joining "hope" and "sustaining" we provide a clear picture of the mission of MMC. Our endeavour is with your kind-hearted generosity to support our missions for the future development of the people and their communities.

This work embraces both Social Development and Faith Development projects. This is especially important in Oceania and Asia where social and religious values are intimately entwined and indivisible within their cultures.

Some projects funded this year by MMC are: In the Solomon Islands, a Rural Training College for Women, called Our Lady of Visitation.

In Thailand at Marist Asia Foundation, the building of a volunteer residence for International Volunteers.

In the Philippines, the upgrading of facilities at the Balay Pasilungan Centre for street boys.

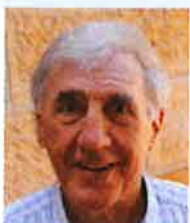
In Fiji, various resources at the Nazareth Prayer Centre.

With your contributions, MMC is assisting with these projects by dedicated people in these various places, sustaining their hope, as they strive to enable their local communities to engage more effectively in their mission and ministry.

May all of us continue to be sustained by hope: bringing light into the darkness of our world, enabling our brothers and sisters to walk with courage and dignity, broadening our horizons and bringing us closer to each other. May hope, the gift of God, *open our eyes to see love around us.*

MMC is most grateful for your on-going support of our Marist Missions in these challenging times.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



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To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



SOLOMON ISLANDS - RURAL TRAINING CENTRE EDUCATION AND HOPE

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI's) are a Diocesan Congregation of Religious Sisters in the Solomon Islands founded with the support of the SMSM Sisters. They are part of our MMC Marist network and partners in the Solomon Islands. These local Religious women have identified the support and education of women as a key priority of their ministry.



Right: DMI Sisters Celebrating



Rural Training Colleges (RTC) are a key feature of adult education programs in the Solomon Islands. This live-in Centre will provide education and skills training for women to gain employment in areas such as tourism and commercial activities. The Centre was opened and blessed in May this year.

Left: Young Women with hopes and dreams

The building was funded by MMC in partnership with the Solomon Island Department of Education and is located in a beautiful rural setting near the sea. This is an ideal setting for these young women to live and learn and to look to the future with hope and dignity.



Right: Education—Building our future

PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND

PHILIPPINES : BALAY PASILUNGAN

Balay Pasilungan is a Centre conducted by the Marist Fathers for "boys at risk". These boys were living on the streets due to family problems such as poverty, family, drugs, violence or mental health issues. Living on the streets leaves the boys at further risk of exploitation.

MMC has funded the upgrade of facilities at the Centre - the living area, Learning Centre and Children Support Office.

The boys are now able to live in the Centre with dignity and hope.



Above: A safe place to live and learn

THAILAND: MARIST ASIA FOUNDATION (MAF) - VOLUNTEER RESIDENCE

The Centre is for refugees from Myanmar living in Ranong, Thailand. Refugees are regarded as unwelcome persons in Thailand and are subject to disadvantage and exploitation from Thai authorities.

MAF provides education and health programs to enable the refugees to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion.

The Volunteer Residence will house the International Volunteers who generously give their time and skills to support this program for refugees.

Below: Volunteer Residence



FIJI - NAZARETH PRAYER CENTRE

The Nazareth Prayer Centre in Suva is conducted by the SMSM Sisters with the strong support of the Marist laity. The Prayer Centre is an ideal place for retreat days, prayer and quiet reflection as well as an outreach to meditation programs in schools.

The Centre is located on the edge of the city and is surrounded by gardens, trees and sacred spaces for prayer and reflection. MMC has funded the program with equipment to keep the facilities and gardens looking beautiful and safe. A special ceremony at the Centre is the Good Friday Cross Walk -walking up a hill along a lovely bush driveway to the Centre.

Faith and life go hand and hand in Fiji and the parishioners value the opportunity to spend some time at the Centre for prayer, reflection and sharing their experiences. The Legion of Mary is one of the many groups who attend the Centre for prayer days.



Above: Working in the gardens



Above: Good Friday Cross Walk
Coming together in faith

NOVEMBER MASS REQUESTS

In a few months' time, we enter the month of November when we traditionally remember our dearly departed family members and friends. You are most welcome to have a Mass offered by a Marist Missionary during that period for a special departed family member or friend.



**Gifts in Your Will
Supporting the
Marist Mission Centre**

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