



Congregazione Clericale

**MISSIONARI DELLA FEDE**

Via Nulvi, 11 - 00148 ROMA, ITALIA

## *M.F. News* Bulletin

**No 18**

**April 2020**

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## Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

**From the Editorial Desk ...**

With joy we bring out the 18<sup>th</sup> issue of our *News Letter* aimed at keeping all the members informed of the various activities, undertakings and events that are happening in the various parts of the Congregation. May we kindly remind everyone, especially the Provincial, Vice Provincial and Delegation Governance, to send us on time the news items to be published. Let us, as one family, share among ourselves all our achievements and our endeavours. We always welcome the corrections and suggestions for the betterment. We regret also for the errors and omissions if any. May the God grant us the grace to be courageous and joyful messengers of the Good News and a shining stars that lead others to the feet of the Lord. We wish everyone a

*Very Happy Easter.*

May the Risen Lord bless each one of us with His peace and joy in abundance.

**EASTER MESSAGE FROM SUPERIOR GENERAL**

*“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalm 118:24).*

Dear Confreres,

First, I want to begin by thanking you all for all that you are doing within your communities especially now during these really difficult days where the Faith of the whole world is being tested. We need to keep strong in our faith and communicate, more than ever, that God is Love. He has not caused this Covid-19 and that He is walking alongside the world as it wrestles with the suffering and pain of our neighbour. Pope Francis in his extra-ordinary blessing *Urbi et Orbi* urged us all to stop being fearful and to trust. We believe that Risen Jesus and the Holy Spirit, **transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19), into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2).** We hope that the Risen Lord will give us strength to overcome temptations and freedom from anxiety and distress in this time of trials.

As Missionaries of Faith, we are called to live and to share the Joy of our constant experience of the real presence of the Risen Jesus. I hope that all of us, your communities and your families are coming through the effects of this virus in good health. You are all in my prayers.

Stay safe and have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Happy Easter!



*Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf*  
Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf  
Superior General

## ONGOING FORMATION CORNER

### PROJECT (PLAN) AND CONTENT OF ONGOING FORMATION

-Fr. Jaison Kalathiparambil mf

The revitalizing experience of ongoing formation is highly beneficial to the well-being of the missionaries of faith. A structurally organized, organically programmed and carefully carried out project could revitalize the entire Congregation. It necessitates a solid theoretical-situational framework. Hence, the charismatic identity, the characteristics and need of ongoing formation, with its underlying principles were discussed in the previous issues.<sup>1</sup> It passes now on to the methodological and pedagogical discussion, to its more concrete and practical elements. A project, as it is called technically, has its objective set and embodies the necessary elements to achieve it. The description of the actual situation, contents, methods, means, instruments and scale of evaluation form part of it. The present article is a study of the project of formation and its content.

#### 1. The notion of Project

The term project is used in a myriad of ways, in a variety of contexts. It denotes a group of elements, progressively organized in a linear way to achieve a proposed goal. It cannot be merely a collection of some random ideas, resources and means.<sup>2</sup> It should have intermediary arrival points, called objectives. Accomplishing these different objectives, the project progresses towards the final goal. A project is valid and reliable when it is capable of attaining the scope for which it is designed for. It has to be realistic, logically connected to the real-life situations of the target groups.

M. Gahungu enlists some factors that could render a project complete and efficient: *an apt name of the project, description of its nature* – a brief but wholistic vision of what it wants to achieve, a right justification of the project or the ‘why’ of it, presentation of its promoter, definition of the finality of the project, determination of the objectives, description of the desired results, the target group, the place of its realization -, *the necessary resources, mode of action required, the duration of the project, the external factors of influence, factors and indicators of evaluation.*<sup>3</sup> The success of a project in achieving its goal depends upon the clarity and validity of these elements.

#### 2. Project of formation

After this analysis of the nature and structure of a project, we now come to our area of application, that is a project or plan of formation. It has to be born in mind that, “a basic plan of formation ought to be comprehensive, systematic, practical, and rooted in the Gospel.”<sup>4</sup> Various *Ratio* for the formation of priests in different dioceses and Institutes are successfully executed in the initial formation. At this level, there are a set of prescribed



objectives, through which a candidate arrives at the final goal of priesthood. Moreover, it is applied in a controlled environment of the seminary. A candidate can proceed to the proposed goal, demonstrating adequate attitudes and behaviour. Devoid of a personalized formation it can become an instrument of impersonal, automatic promotion.<sup>5</sup> During this period, the idea should be instilled in the disciple (candidate) that the itinerary of formation has a lifelong duration. Priestly ordination is its sacramental culmination, after which it continues in the form of ongoing formation.<sup>6</sup>

A plan of ongoing formation has to be very carefully prepared for different reasons. First of all, it is not applied in a controlled environment, in contrast to the initial formation. The target group varies in age, ministerial life and life experience. At this level it becomes more of a personal responsibility and conscious effort by the priest himself to constantly avail himself of the available resources. The responsibility of the superiors and community, in this sense, is limited, which we discussed in detail in the last edition. The content of the program is of utmost importance. It has to consider the above-mentioned factors. Analysing the concept of content is opportune at this juncture.

### 3. Content of the plan of ongoing formation

Generally, the word *content* is used to denote cultural objects, both material and conceptual metaphors, symbolisms, semantics and formative activities. In the field of education and formation they play a major role, because collectively they decide the nature of the project. They can be classified as **reality contents** (*the reality of identity, belongingness, participation etc.*), **existential contents** (*realm of 'being' that influences one's becoming, growth and relations*), **contents of values** (*source of motivation, systems of truth and morality, virtue, culture, transcendence etc.*), **instrumental contents** (*the techniques, the capacities, the abilities etc.*).<sup>7</sup>

The selection of the content in a plan of formation depends upon its objective. The richness and aptness of the content is pivotal in rendering the project operational. They are dependent on each other and are correlated. The quality of the rapport between the content and objective is decisive in the effectiveness and success of the project. For example, if the project intends to revive the sense of belonging, then the content selection should have reality contents and contents of value that are related to the sense of belonging. A careful situational and theoretical analysis has to be done prior to arriving at this level. The selection of content has to be done on the basis of the result of this analysis carefully choosing the proportionate degree of intervention.<sup>8</sup>

### Conclusion

Ongoing formation of the missionaries of faith has to be operational and effective. It is for this reason that it is presented in the larger framework of a project. A project has a clear objective and enlists all the necessary elements to achieve it. A systematic theoretical and situational analysis is needed to prepare a project. The selection of content is to be done on

the basis of this analysis. The quality of the rapport between the objective and content is key to the effectiveness of the project. So, it has to be a collective effort, fruit of a sincere wish to grow in fidelity to our vocation. It should help us to integrate our charismatic identity and ministerial functions. This integration “signals the movement toward a unity of life that draws together and dynamically relates who we are, what we do, and what we are about (our purpose and mission).” A well-prepared project is a sure guide in this process of integration. May, Mary, Queen of Confessors of Faith, accompany us!

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### End Notes

1. The first chapter of our *Ratio* describes the theoretical and situational frame of reference for the formation of the missionaries of faith. Cfr. CLERICAL CONGREGATION OF MISSIONARIES OF FAITH, *General order of Formation of Missionaries of Faith*, Rome, General Curia of the Missionaries of Faith, 2017, 15–27.
2. Cfr. P. OREFICE (Ed.), *Formazione e processo formativo: ipotesi interpretative*, Milano, FrancoAngeli, 1997, 131.
3. Cfr. M. GAHUNGU, *Programmare e valutare nella formazione presbiteriale e religiosa*, Roma, LAS, 2013, 19–22.
4. U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS, *The Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests. A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued 2001*, in «<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/priesthood/priestly-life-and-ministry/national-plan-for-the-ongoing-formation-of-priests.cfm>», (Accessed: 31 March, 2020).
5. Cfr. CLERICAL CONGREGATION OF MISSIONARIES OF FAITH, *General order of Formation of Missionaries of Faith*, nn. 63,64.
6. Cfr. CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY, *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, nn. 80, 81, in «<http://www.clerus.va/content/dam/clerus/Ratio%20Fundamentalis/The%20Gift%20of%20the%20Priestly%20Vocation.pdf>», (Accessed: 31 March, 2020).
7. See the chapter 5 of the cited work for a detailed study of selection of the contents. Cfr. M. GAHUNGU, *Programmare e valutare nella formazione presbiteriale e religiosa*, 123–127.
8. For an elaborate discussion on the contextual analysis see: CLERICAL CONGREGATION OF MISSIONARIES OF FAITH, *General order of Formation of Missionaries of Faith*, 75–82.

## NEWS FROM MAJOR ORGANISM

### Province of St. Paul (India)

#### **Annual Feast of St. Joseph Church, Kattakulam**

St. Joseph Church, Kattakulam, in the diocese of Kannur, celebrated the Annual Feast of the parish. The patron saints of six family units (St. Alphonsa, St George, St. Antony, St. Sebastian, St. Paul & Little Flower) along with the patron of the church St. Joseph were honoured. The feast was started on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, with the minimum programmes due to the spreading of Corona virus. It was a spiritual experience for everyone. All the faithful of the parish participated in the celebrations.





### **Our lady of Velankanni church, Malampuzha**

The parish of Our Lady of Velankanni, Malampuzha, was entrusted to the pastoral care of Missionaries of Faith, Province of St. Paul, from 14 June 2018 onwards. The old church built in 1965 at Malampuzha was renovated beautifully with the efforts of Rev. Fr. Rejimon Devasia, the vicar, MF Fathers, local contribution and with partial financing from the Little way Association, London. It was blessed by Most Rev. Antonysamy Peter Abir, Bishop of

the diocese of Sultanpet, and opened by Rev. Fr. Martin Alukkaputhussery, mf, Provincial Superior, on Saturday 1 February 2020. A large number of priests, religious and faithful were gathered for the blessing and inauguration ceremony. On the following day the feast of the patroness, Our Lady of Velankanni, was celebrated in a grand manner with much





devotion and  
prayer.



### **Priests and clergy meeting at MF Minor Seminary, Mananthavady**

The priests and Religious meeting of Mananthavady Forane, Diocese of Sultan Bethery, was held in MF Minor seminary Mananthavady on 16 February 2020. Fr. Tom Moolayil, the local superior, welcomed the gathering. It was a day of prayer and recollection. Rev. Fr. Varghese Mattamana, the former Vicar General of the exarchate of Pune, addressed the gathering and shared his mission experience. It was a joyful experience for all. Fr. Lukose P., the forane Vicar proposed the vote of thanks.





## Province of St. Peter, India



### **Pallagutta Parish**

A special thanks to Rev. Fr. Arul Raju Dasari, mf, for his great charity towards the aged people. He conducted a day of gathering for the aged people on 10 January 2020 at Pallagutta Parish, in the Diocese of Warangal. On that day blankets were also distributed to the elderly people. We specially thank him for this act of charity.



### **Golden Jubilee celebrations of Allipalli Mary Matha Shrine, Allipalli**

The Province celebrated the Golden jubilee of Allipalli Mary Matha Shrine with great devotion and obtained the blessings of KANUKA MATHA along with Lakhs of pilgrims.



The novena was started on 22 January 2020 and the Tridum Celebrations began from 31 January. Lakhs of pilgrims came to honour the Blessed Mother and received her blessings. The Feast Celebrations started with the flag hosting and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr.



Maria Joji Rai, the Provincial Superior of the Province of St. Peter, on 31 January 2020. Most. Rev. Joseph Raja Rao Thelagathoti, Bishop of the diocese of Vijayawada, celebrated the holy the Eucharist and offered prayers for the pilgrims on 1 February 2020. Most. Rev. Mallavarapu Prakash, the Arch Bishop of Vishakapatnam, and Most. Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of the diocese of Eluru, celebrated the Holy Eucharist on 2 February 2020.

### **Inauguration of the Vyakulamatha Mandapam in memory of the Golden Jubilee.**

On 2 February 2020, the Vyakulamatha (Our Lady of Sorrow) Mandapam was inaugurated



by Most. Rev. Mallavarapu Praksh, Arch Bishop of Viskhapatnam, and Most. Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of Eluru, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, Provincial Superior. A special thanks to the Provincial Superior, Fr. Rajendra Prasad Madda, mf, Local Superior, Fr. Santhosh Kumar Pandika, mf, Parish Priest and Fr. Yesu Babu Pureti, mf, Assistant Parish Priest for all the hard work for constructing the VYAKULAMATHA MANDAPAM.



### **Arch inauguration at Holy Family Catholic Church, Bathili**



01 February 2020 is a great and unforgettable day in the history of Holy Family Catholic Church at Bathili, diocese of Srikakulam. On this day the newly constructed Arch was inaugurated by his Lordship Most Rev. Rayarala Vijaya Kumar, PIME, the Ordinary of the diocese of Srikakulam. This Arch was built in loving memory of Mr. Paul Palaka (late), native of Bathili, by Mrs. Susheela, his wife and children. We sincerely appreciate and thank the family for their generous contribution.



### **The inauguration of the Arch signifies two events:**

The First visit of His Lordship to the parish of Bathili after his taking charge of the diocese and death anniversary of Mr Paul Palaka.

After the inauguration of the Arch his Lordship celebrated the Holy Mass along with twenty religious and diocesan priests. There were good number of faithful who participated in the Holy Banquet. A special thanks to Fr Anand Babu Gantedi, mf, Parish priest, Fr Chaithanya Raju. L., Assistant Parish Priest, for this great work.

### **Holy Trinity English Medium School, Dharmajigudem**



Science day was conducted in Holy Trinity English Medium School on 28 February 2020.

Fr. Ramesh Eachu, the sisters and the teachers encouraged the students to take part in it actively. Most of the students prepared different projects which were really praiseworthy, and the best projects were awarded.





Fr. Ramesh Eachu, Principal & Correspondent, stressed the importance of science and said that it helped the world that we live in today

### **Sad News for the Province of St. Peter**

The Province is very sad to share the news of the sudden demise of Fr. Don Piero Paganessi, on 18 March 2020 at noon (in Indian timing) in Italy. A memorial Mass was celebrated on the day of his funeral on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.







Please do pray for the repose of his noble soul. May the Good Lord grant him Eternal Rest. Please do remember him in your valuable prayers.

## Province of Vietnam

### **Christmas celebration at the Provincial House**

With the theme 'Peace on Earth', priests and brothers at the provincial House joyfully celebrated the Christmas night on 20 December 2019. There were also many priests, brothers, sisters, and guests from the communities nearby.



The opening ceremony was introduced by the local superior, Fr. Peter Nguyen Hung Hai, mf. It was followed by the salvation drama. The drama was on God's work of creation in Eden, the history of salvation to the birth of Baby Jesus in Bethlehem



and was concluded by the Christmas chorus *Adeste Fideles*, sung by the juniors.

At the end of the drama, the Provincial Superior expressed his Christmas wishes and blessed the Christmas party.



### Christmas Eve celebration for the poor



In the joy of the Christmas Eve, the provincial community celebrated the Christmas Eve Mass followed by Christmas show and party for the poor who live in the surroundings of the provincial house.

Before the Holy Mass, the congregation joined the procession carrying Child Jesus to meditate on the mystery of Incarnation. The Christmas Eve Mass was dedicated to the

poor, the people diversely able and the brethren whom our mission aims at, *'to those who far away from the Church and the poorest'*. The homily was delivered by the Provincial Superior. He exhorted the congregation to meditate on the mystery of incarnation of the Child Jesus through their own life situations, through the ups and downs of life, in order to recognize the love and grace of God in daily life.

After the Holy Mass, there was the Christmas show with the message:

*"God won't abandon those who are suffering, unlucky, and poor. He will accompany, share, and help them. The Word made flesh to bring all to his glory"* was conducted by the postulants.



## Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination of Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang, mf, General Councillor.

Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang, mf, celebrated his Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee on 26 December 2019. The solemn holy Mass on this occasion was presided over by His Excellency, Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, bishop of the diocese of Phu Cuong. The former bishop of the diocese, H. E. Most Rev. Peter Tran Dinh Tu, also joined the concelebration. Priests, brothers and sisters from many religious communities and people of the parishes joined the celebration and thanked the Lord.



At the beginning of the holy Mass, H. E. Msgr. Joseph N. Tan Toc thanked the jubilarian for the many services rendered and for his cooperation in the activities of the diocese and the local church, and invited the congregation to pray for him so that he might serve and glorify God more and more.

H. E. Msgr. Peter Tran Dinh Tu, during the homily, complimented Fr. Joseph Quang for his life of sacrifices that is well expressed in his motto: *'May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ'* (Gl 6,14). At the end of the Holy Mass, Bishop Joseph handed over to Fr. Joseph Quang the Papal Blessing.





## Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, patron of the Province of Vietnam

### *Year end Meetings and Welcoming the Lunar New Year 2020 – Communion and Evangelization*

On 11 January 2020, the Provincial House conducted the Year End meetings and welcoming of the Lunar New Year 2020. The community, in a special way, also celebrated the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the patron of the Province of Vietnam.

From the early morning, in the spring-time of lunar new year, the community welcomed many parents of priests and brothers of the Province. There were also many brothers and sisters who were invited to join the patron's day celebration of the Province.



The meeting before Lunar New Year holidays is celebrated every year as a tradition of the Province to maintain the relationship between the Province and parents of priests and brothers of the Province.

As the tradition of the Province, Fr. Thomas Loc, the Provincial Superior, held a meeting with parents of Vietnamese priests and brothers. He also explained to them the many important events of the Province, made them know the future plans of the Province, and requested them to pray for the orientations of the Province in this new year.

The Holy Mass was presided over by H.E. msgr. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, bishop of the diocese of Phu Cuong, and concelebrated by the former bishop H. E. Msgr. Peter Tran Dinh Tu, Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang, General councillor, the Provincial Superior, and many other priests of the Province. The brothers and their parents and sisters were also present. During the homily, Bishop Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc invited all Christians in the diocese to live in the spirit of Communion and Evangelization as the main theme of the



diocese for the year 2020.

After the Holy Mass, the community invited all those present to share the joy of the community on this patron's day, with the lunch party.

### **Football League in Vicariate Forane of Phu Cuong**



The first football league in the Vicariate of Phu cuong, diocese of Phu Cuong, took place at the football field of the Province of Vietnam from 29 December 2019 to 12 January 2020. This first football league of the vicariate forane was founded as a response to the call of the diocesan bishop for the new year 2020 “Communion and Evangelization”.

There were nine teams from seven parishes in the Phu Cuong vicariate forane, a team of the seminarians of the diocese of Phu Cuong, and a team of the juniors of the Province. The league matches were conducted on 3 Sundays. The matches were played with intense sportsmanship with the supports of some sponsors and benefactors. The juniors of the Province won the champions trophy.





## Vice-province of Italy

### **MF Italy Assembly**

The Vice-province of Italy celebrated its first general assembly on 7-9 January 2020 in the generalate in Rome. All the priests working for the vice-province were present. Superior General, Fr. Jesus Dajac, presided over the sessions during which the various commissions presented and discussed the articles of the General Directory.

At the end of the work, the secretary presented some proposals to be explored during this year so as to have some rules in view of a local directory. 12 proposals were summarized to be developed:

1. Write a book with the history of the congregation
2. Community project
3. Triduum to the Holy Trinity
4. House of formation
5. Promote forms of support for priests
6. Week for Christian Unity
7. Vocation ministry
8. Train the formators
9. Promulgate a specific theme every year
10. Eucharistic adoration on Thursday
11. Presenting to Superior General irregular situations to be solved
12. Sharing of goods

The Missionaries of Faith present were able to live with joy all the moments of the assembly: prayer, meetings and moments of leisure. Fr. Domenico Borge, Vicar General then invited everyone to a fraternal meeting to be held on April 14, always in Rome.



## Vice-province of Myanmar

### **MF Myanmar Assembly, September 17-19, 2019**

Fr. Jesus Dajac, Superior General of Missionaries of Faith, presided over the Eucharistic celebration together with the members of the Vice-province of Myanmar. In his homily, he emphasized: “We will start our assembly with God and explained that we will verify, discern, decide, act on and celebrate our Religious vocation according to the constitutions. Assembly is not only a meeting or sharing; but it is a living with the Church. Therefore the assembly has a sense of unity with the Holy Church.



### **Admission to Minor Orders of Lectorate and Acolyte**

MF Major seminarians, Bro. Henry, Bro. Dionysius received the ministry of Lectorate and Bro. Martusalem, Bro. Giovanni received the ministry of Acolyte on September 20, 2019 in the Cathedral of Christ the King, during the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Bishop Stephen The Phe, Bishop of Loikaw.





## Annual Retreat of MF Priests, 3-7 December, 2019



The annual retreat of MF priests (Myanmar) participated at Fr. Carlo Salerio Retreat Center from 3-7, December 2019. Retreat preacher was Archbishop Basilio Athai. (Archdiocese of Taunggyi).



## Superior General's Canonical Visit to MF Myanmar Communities

After MF Myanmar Assembly, the Superior General started his first Canonical Visit to the communities of our Vice-province. He met the formation team and guided how to develop and promote formation programme in the Congregation. He said that formation is O<sub>2</sub> of our Congregation. Then he encouraged our candidates. In formation, we're invited to grow our habits, spiritual, intellectual, and personal accompaniment. Ongoing formation is very important. In this formation, we'll know more about our congregation. The main formator is the Holy Spirit.







## Fr. Roberto's Health

The health and wellbeing of Fr. Roberto has improved by the grace of God and prayers from the people who generously offer for his recovery. Please continue to ask our friends and members of the Congregation to kindly pray for his speedy recovery and complete healing so that his condition can improve soon through the mercy of God and His grace.





### Fr. John's Health Situation

Recently, Fr. John La Sam, mf, went to India for his kidney transplantation. He was able to find the organ-donor and to start the procedure for his treatment. We would like to inform you that the kidney transplantation was successfully done on March 2, 2020. We would like to ask you to continue to pray for him that God may grant him a better opportunity to be cured as soon as possible.



### Appointment of Formator



Rev. Fr. Martino Soe Thein, mf, was appointed by the Vice-provincial Superior as the Formator of Domus Mater Fidei Seminary at Doungankha on February 1, 2020.

### Priestly Ongoing Formation

The MF priests, along with the Diocesan clergy, participated in the ongoing Formation programme from 19 to 21 February 2020, conducted in the Pastoral Centre of the diocese of Loikaw.



## MF Brothers' Summer Course from 23 to 27 March 2020



## *First Holy Communion of MF Parish Community*



## Vice-province of Oceania

### MF Oceania Assembly

The Vice-province of Oceania held its Assembly in Samoa from 15 to 17 January 2020. The theme was: “Sense of belongingness and co-responsibility”. Confreres were split into commissions and were to share and elaborate on certain areas or aspects of our Congregation and give reports. The Vocation Pastoral team was made up of Fr. Iosefo Timu, Fr. Douglas Fido and Fr. Ioane Anitelea; they looked into a brighter and fruitful formation for our young men for the future. The community project was led by the priest who are currently serving in the Parish of the Holy Family in Porirua, Wellington of New Zealand. Fr. Andrew Antonio, Fr. Tuli Paulo, Fr. Isaac Songa and Deacon Peter shared a lot



of what was important and needed for a better understanding of community life, with certain areas where we can develop a stronger sense of belonging to the Congregation. The personal charismatic formation team was made up of Fr. Talipope, Fr. Vijayalle and Deacon Tino. The financial status and guidelines team was made up of Fr. Iosefo Timu, Fr. Etuale Toleapai and Fr. Micheal Vito. The Assembly was also catered by the confreres, with everyone helping out when needed.

Three days may look short, but it did feel like more, especially with the number of documents and reports given by various groups. The whole Assembly was well prepared and presented by the council members, all confreres had parts to play and feedback to be given. This was also a time to talk about certain events happening in our Vice-province, from ordinations to mission appeals. His Excellency, Bishop Alapati Mataeiliga opened and concluded the Assembly with the Celebration of the Holy Mass for our little Vice-province Assembly. Even though very busy, he found time to come to our humble abode in Vaitele Uta on both occasions. After the Assembly it was time to relax and wind down, and a farewell to some of our priests who had certain duties to attend to in the parishes. Together with our benefactors from Samoa, we had a feast for a king prepared, and you could tell by the facial expressions of Fr Jess, he was in for a treat.

After the Assembly, the Superior General had the opportunity to meet with our young men who wanted to be in the formation of the Missionaries of Faith. 5 young men, born in Samoa, spent a few minutes with him to share their feelings and understanding on the journey they are about to embark on. The community in Samoa did an awesome job hosting the Assembly, with the needs of all the confreres being met with a smile. The Superior General also enjoyed some down time, with relaxation at the Lalomanu beach with some of the confreres and young aspirants. He did not stop there, he also had the opportunity to celebrate Mass in one of the parishes we are serving in, the Parish of Mary Immaculate in Malie, where Fr. Peniamina Siitagata is the Parish priest. He also visited New Zealand, with stops over in Auckland, where he met the Bishop of Auckland, Most Rev. Patrick Dunn, in Wellington, where he encountered Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and Apostolic Delegate to the countries of the Pacific. He also got the chance to meet Cardinal John Dew, whom he had the pleasure of meeting in Rome to talk about the mission in Wellington, where we have Fr. Andrew Antonio, Fr. Tuli Paulo, Fr. Isaac Songa and Deacon Peter serving in the parish of the Holy Family, Porirua. Together with the community of Porirua, the Superior General and the Superior of the Vice-province, Fr Talipope, celebrated the Holy Mass in the Parish with the faithful. It was a beautiful start to the new year with new hopes for the future in our Vice-province of Oceania. We will take everything that the Superior General has shared, and put into action all we have elaborated on, especially our sense of belonging to the Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith.

May the Most Holy Trinity and Mary Queen of Confessors of Faith assist us so that, full of joy, we bear witness to the whole world of the love of God and his mercy.

### Kava Ceremony

Welcome to Oceania Vice - Province:  
Fr. Jess Dajac, Superior General



#### **MF NEWS BULLETIN**

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