



Congregazione Clericale

MISSIONARI DELLA FEDE

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M.F. News Bulletin

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- ♦ Christmas Message from the Superior General

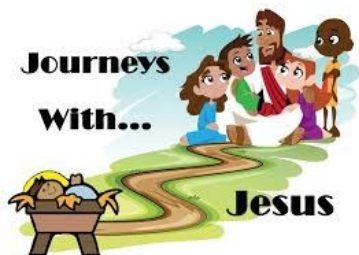
News from the Congregation

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Journeys

With...



Jesus



2021 Christmas Crib at Peter's Square, Vatican

From the Editorial Desk...

With joy we bring out the 24st 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 Christmas &
Grace filled New Year 2022**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021



My dear Confreres and friends,

After weeks of waiting and preparation, we have the joyful arrival of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God to the world. A world which, this year, has again been troubled in so many ways and in which we find ourselves wondering again how we will find a way to deal with an enemy virus that continues to invade our daily lives.

Yet we must not let it take the joy from our life. Despite all the troubles, we must ensure that we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection and the hope that this brings to us all and this world. Our small actions of love and kindness to our neighbours in their time of need, whatever be the circumstances, are our opportunity to spread this message.

A positive step we have taken is by uniting ourselves to the Mother church and it's synodal path at our General Assembly and we will continue this discernment in our parishes throughout the world, following in the footsteps of John the Baptist in preparing the way, in whatever way we can, starting with Christmas.

Let us continue to take every opportunity to see what is truly important in our relationships and help each other by our personal and community actions. I pray that we continue to lead by example and display joy and positivity where there is fear, sadness and negativity. We must not be pulled in this direction but in the direction of our charism.

We have survived another year, with the grace of God, and so I pray that He will continue to protect us and our mission for the days and year ahead. I offer a special prayer for the safety of our congregation in Myanmar for whom this year has been especially difficult politically and continues to be a dangerous time for them. May the Lord wrap his arms around them and their country and bring peace and goodwill to the hearts of those who need it.

I wish you and your families and friends a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year filled with joy and love.

God bless you all.



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

NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION

Visit of the Provincial Superior to Austria

Rev. Dr. Martin Alukaputhussery, MF, the Provincial Superior of St. Paul's Province, visited the mission in Austria from 1 August to 15 September 2021. He had taken great risk to travel to abroad in this time of pandemic for the good of the province



Annual Retreat of the Priest of the Province

For the spiritual rejuvenation the annual retreat was arranged for the priests serving in different parts of India. The retreat started on the evening of 29 November and concluded on 2 December which was led by Rev. Fr. Johnson Francis CSsR. All the priests were strengthened and nourished by the Word of God in order to work in the vineyard of God more effectively.



Perpetual Profession

After seven days of rigorous retreat led by Rev. Fr. Anoop Mundackal CSsR at Mananthavady, eight of our brothers made their perpetual profession on 3 December 2021 at Provincial House, Palakkad. The Eucharistic celebration was conferred by Rev. Dr. Martin Alukaputhussery, MF, the Provincial Superior of St. Paul's Province. In the presence of the provincial, his councillors and the participants, eight of them professed

publicly the three evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience. It is one of the most happiest and memorable day for the entire congregation of Missionaries of Faith and especially for the St Paul Province as they commit themselves totally in the hands of Gods.



General Body Meeting

It was held on 3 December 2021 in the evening. All the priests and newly professed members were present for this meeting and shared their mission experiences.



Inauguration and Blessing of Replica of Calvary

His Excellency, Most Rev. George Pallipparambil, the bishop of Miao diocese inaugurated and blessed the replica of Calvary on 24th July 2021. He appreciated Fr. Shijo Simon for the hard work behind. It is situated at Boakfom village in the Longo parish. It was named as Mount Calvary and was announced as pilgrim centre for prayer and meditation on the passion of Jesus Christ on Calvary. This is the first replica of Calvary in the entire North East of region of Arunachal Pradesh.



Blessing of Foundation Stone

His Excellency, Most Rev. George Pallippambil, the bishop of Miao, diocese blessed the foundation stone for new refectory and kitchen at boarding of St. Mary's School, Longo on 24 July 2021. It is for granting better facilities for the students in the boarding.



Canonical Visit to Novitiate House

Rev. Dr. Martin Alukaputhuserry MF, the Provincial Superior of St. Paul's Province and his councillors visited the novitiate house at Sempatti, Tamilnadu on 2 July 2021.



Semi-Christmas Celebrations

The Parish of Our Lady of Good Health Church, Sempatti celebrated Semi- Christmas at Paraglate Loving Orphanage for Children on 5 December 2021. Under the guidance and initiative of the Rev. Fr. Bosco, MF, the parish priest of Sempatti, the generous parishioners dedicated the day for the orphans and shared the love and joy of baby Jesus with the children by giving them the gifts out of their contributions.





The Blessing of Presbytery

The new presbytery at Our Lady of Velankanni parish, Malampuzha was blessed and opened by Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, the bishop of Sultanpet, on Saturday, 21 August 2021.

Wholeheartedly and sincerely we thank Archdiocese of Cologne, MF Fathers, Donors and Parishioners for their benevolent support and effort for the fulfilment of this priest's residence. Now the pastoral and social activities of the parish can be done in a better way possible.



The Blessing of the New Church Bell

The new Church Bell of Our Lady of Velankanni parish, Malampuzha was blessed and opened by Rev. Dr. Martin Alukaputhuserry MF, the Provincial Superior of St. Paul Province on 12 December 2021.



Free Eye Check Up And Medical Camp

Free eye check-up and medical camp conducted at St. Joseph church Kattakulam on 06 December 2021, under the supervision of doctors from Kannur district hospital. The medical camp was inaugurated by the Parish priest, Fr. Tom Jose. Dr Ram and chief coordinator Lathika, Parish Secretary Mr. Ignatius T J, addressed the gathering. Around 200 people irrespective of religion benefitted from the medical camp.



Conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph



The conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph in the Parish of Kattakulam took place on 12 December 2021. The celebration started with a solemn candle procession with the statue of St. Joseph. Later the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Tom Jose, MF, the parish priest. The celebration concluded with the festal meals. Almost all the faithful participated in the liturgy.

Province of St.Peter (IND)

News from Pallagutta Parish

The awaited dream for the house of God in midst of the faithful in Medikonda village of the Pallagutta Parish in the Diocese of Warangal was fulfilled on 26 July 2021, with the blessing of the newly constructed church dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Most Rev. Dr. Bala Udumala, Bishop of the diocese of Warangal, inaugurated and blessed the Church, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, the Provincial Superior who thanked his Excellency for his continuous concern and support to the Province. He also Congratulated and thanked Rev. Fr. Raju Dasari, mf, for this great work, and all the faithful who joined their hands for the completion of the construction.



Priestly Gathering and New Priests Day celebration

On 3 August 2021, at NTR Colony, Eluru, the Priests of the Province gathered to renew the spirit of fraternity. It was a blessed day as all the confreres could meet each other physically after a long time of gap due to the pandemic Covid- 19. The same day the Province as a family thanked God for blessing the Province with four more priests. The Newly Ordained Priests presided over the Eucharist, thanking God for all the divine blessings. The Provincial Superior thanked everyone for their presence.

News from Kalwakole Parish

On 08 August 2021, the mission Parish of Kalwakole in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, solemnly celebrated the event of the First Holy Communion. The people thanked and praised God for granting their children the grace to receive the most holy Body and Blood of Christ. Rev. Fr. Raju Kolli, mf, the Parish Priest, thanked the Priests and the faithful who were present for this celebration and also thanked the religious sisters who prepared the children. Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, the Provincial Superior and all the Confreres of the Province congratulated the Parish Priest.



Visit to the Bishops of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam

The New Provincial Team paid visit to the Archbishop of Visakhapatnam Diocese, Most. Rev. Prakash Mallavarapu, D.D., and to the Bishop of Srikakulam Diocese, Most. Rev. Vijay Kumar Rayarala, D.D. The bishops expressed their happiness regarding the commitments and ministry of the priests of Congregation working in their dioceses. The Provincial Superior thanked the Bishops for their support and encouragement given to our priests working in these Dioceses.



At Visakhapuri Kondagudi Mary Matha Shrine

Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, together with the councillors offered the Province and all the confreres working around the globe into the hands of the Visakhapuri Kondagudi Mary Matha and sought her blessings and care. They also offered the Holy Eucharist for all the Missionaries of Faith.



News from Bathili – Srikakulam

The Parish of the Bathili in the Diocese of Srikakulam have celebrated the Annual Feast of the Holy Family on 20th of August 2021. On the same day the renovated Church was blessed by Most Rev. Vijay Kumar Rayaral D.D., the Bishop of Srikakulam. The joy of the faithful in the parish was doubled with these twin celebrations of Annual Feast and Blessing. Most Rev. Vijay Kumar Rayarala D.D. solemnized the Eucharistic celebration for the good of the Parish and the faithful.



Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai mf, the Provincial Superior, the Councillors of the Province and the priests of the Deanery have concelebrated in the Holy Eucharistic Celebration. Most Rev. Vijay Kumar Rayaral D.D., and the Provincial Superior congratulated Rev. Fr. Anand Babu Gantedi mf and gave the festal greetings and blessings to the faithful.



Feast day celebrations At Provincial's House



The Feast of our Patroness Mary Queen of Confessors of Faith was solemnized in the Province of St. Peter, India at NTR Colony, Provincial's House. Very Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai mf, the Provincial Superior has presided over the Eucharist, concelebrated by the other confreres. The Major seminarians and some of the religious had a joy of partaking in this celebration. The feast was also solemnized in the local communities of the Province.



News from Peddakorukondi Parish



September 10th 2021 is a remarkable day in the history of Peddakorukondi Parish for two reasons. Firstly, the blessing of renovated St. Joseph's Church, and secondly, the First Holy Communion celebration. The renovated St. Joseph's Church was blessed by Most Rev. Maipan Paul D.D., Bishop of Khammam Diocese, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai mf, the Provincial Superior. Most Rev. Maipan Paul D.D., has expressed his happiness regarding the ministry of the Missionaries of Faith in the Diocese of Khammam. He has appreciated

Rev. Fr. Pushparo Vara mf, the Parish Priest for his commitment, the faithful for their steadfastness in following the Christ and the Christian virtues. Rev. Fr. Pushparo Vara mf, has thanked all the people who have contributed for this noble work.



News from Yerraguntapalli Parish



On 21st October 2021 the people of God in Makkinavrigudem village of Yeraanguntapalli Parish praised God for the blessing of the renovated "Infant Jesus Church by Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera D.D., Bishop of Eluru. The blessing was done in the presence of Rev. Fr. Maria Joji RAI mf, the Provincial Superior. Rev. Fr. Prasad Yajjala mf, thanked all the Priests. He also expressed his gratitude to the people who contributed and collaborated in this noble work. Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polemera D.D., and Rev. Fr. Maria Joji RAI mf congratulated and appreciated Fr. Prasad Yajjala mf.



News from Nadipalli Parish

In the mission Parish of Nadipalli, the foundation stone for the Chapel at Krithunipeta village was blessed and laid by Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera D.D., Bishop of Eluru, on the 08th November 2021. And the foundation stone for the grotto of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Ramachandrapuram village was blessed and laid by Very Rev. Fr. Maria Joji RAI mf, the Provincial Superior on 13 November 2021. They appreciated Rev. Fr. Arulraj Dasari mf, the Parish Priest for undertaking this work. Rev. Fr. Arulraj Dasari mf, thanked Most. Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera



D.D., Bishop of Eluru and Very Rev. Fr. Maria Joji RAI mf, the Provincial Superior. He also thanked the priests present. In a special way he expressed his gratitude to the donors and the faithful.

News from the Formation House



The Province of St. Peter rejoices for the brothers Bro. Sanathan Malabisoi mf, and Bro. John Vankayala mf who made their Perpetual Profession in the hands of Very Rev. Fr. Maria Joji RAI mf, the Provincial Superior, on 25th November 2021. And also for the brothers who were instituted for the ministry of Acolyte and Lectorate in the hands of Very Rev. Fr. Maria Joji RAI mf, the Provincial Superior, on 22nd November 2021. Rev. Fr. Provincial Superior blessed and congratulated the brothers who made their Perpetual Profession and who were instituted for the Minor Orders. He also thanked Fr. Paul Palipe mf, the Rector the Holy Trinity Major Seminary for his noble work as a formator.



News from Azzampudi Parish

As the Universal Church solemnized the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier on 03rd December 2021, the Parish of Azzampudi honoured their patron saint in celebrating the Annual Feast of the Parish. Most Rev. Raja Rao Thelagathoti D.D., Bishop of Vijayawada presided over the Eucharist and Solemnized the celebration. The priests from various Dioceses and Missionaries of Faith concelebrated in the Holy Eucharist. Most Rev. Raja Rao Thelagathoti D.D., Bishop of Vijayawada wishes the festal greetings with his blessings to the faithful gathered for the celebration. He also appreciated Rev. Fr. Raju Baluvuri mf, the Parish Priest for his commitment and dedication in his mission. Fr. Raju B mf expressed his words of gratitude.



Province of Vietnam

Participating in the General Assembly with the theme: “*The Synodality in the Structures of the Congregation at all levels*” (September 15-30, 2021)

In the spirit of communion and co-responsibility, responding to the invitation of the Superior General and the General Government, the Province of Vietnam participated and invited all members of the Province to present in the Assembly with the theme: **“The Synodality in the Structures of the Congregation at all levels”**.

In this Assembly, the Province of Vietnam presented and shared several specific activities and experiences of the Province in the cultural context of Vietnam. The General Government encouraged and appreciated several mission activities of the Province in the following areas:

In the area of taking care of Retired Priests: Through past years, the MF confreres of the Province of Vietnam have been taking care of the retired priests at the Priests’ House in the Diocese of Phu Cuong.

In the area of the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People: For many years, Fr. Thomas Truong Hoang Phuc, M.F., has been appointed by the Bishop of Phu Cuong Diocese to be in charge of the Office for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People of the Diocese. This is a particular apostolate with a very wide range of activities. In addition, there are RCIA Classes, Marriage catechism, and other activities for emigrants. The priests and brothers of the Province are engaged actively and effectively in this pastoral ministry.

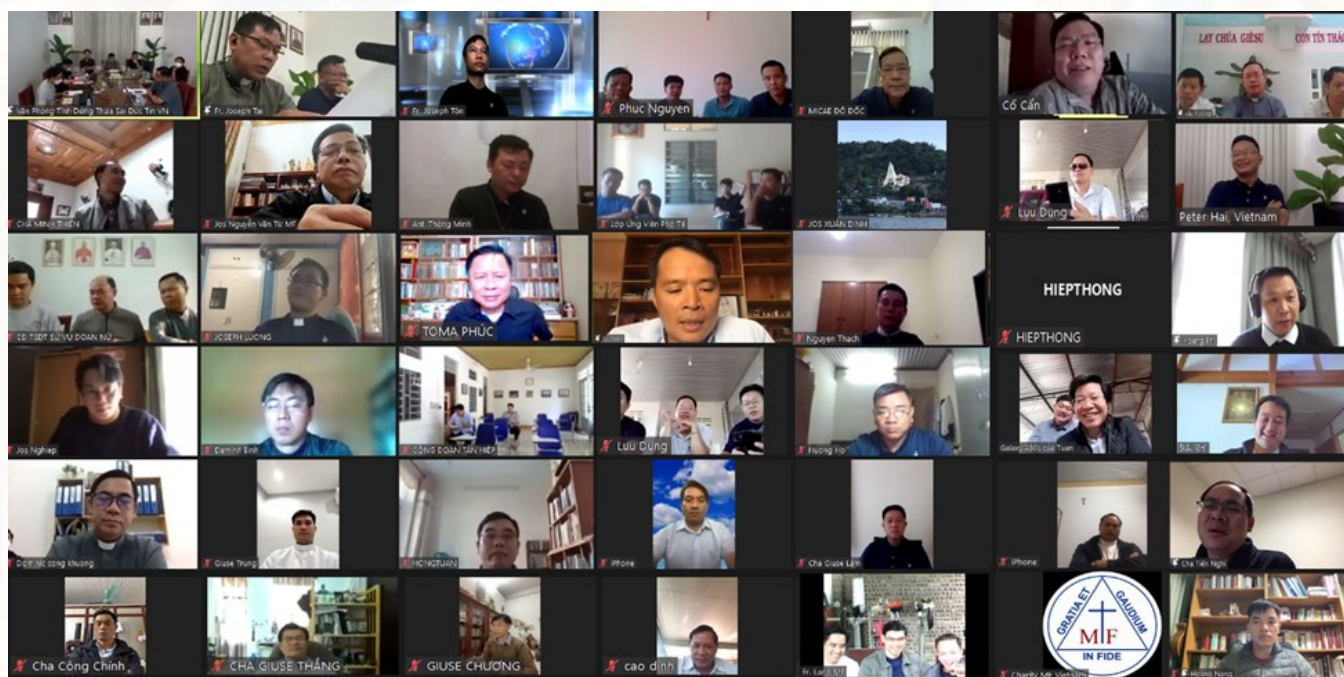




In the area of Evangelization to Ethnic people: The MFVN confreres are also dedicated to serving ethnic parishioners in the diocese of Hung Hoa where their lives are still facing a lot of physical and mental difficulties.

The Online Meeting of the Vietnamese Province

On December 13, 2021, Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, MF, the Provincial Superior, hosted an Online Meeting of the Brethren of all the Communities and Missions of the Province in Vietnam and at abroad with the theme: "Vietnamese Province of the Missionaries of Faith: Communion, Participation, and Mission".



The meeting went on well and yielded many spiritual fruits of communion and solidarity among the members of the Province. The Provincial Governance also had the opportunity to listen to the thoughts and aspirations of the Brethren in the whole Province, especially the Brethren who are in the Northern Vietnam Missions and the brothers who are studying at abroad.

The meeting ended with joy and optimism of all the members about a bright future for the development and promotion of the Province according to the pastoral direction of the Vietnamese Church and the Universal Church.

3. Serving in the Isolation Areas for Covid-19 Suspect Cases and Taking Care of the Covid-19 Patients at Hospitals

From August 15 to October 15, there were 3 priests and 26 brothers of the Province of Vietnam who volunteered to serve in the isolation areas for Covid-19 suspect cases and taking care of the Covid-19 patients at hospitals in three provinces: Binh Duong, Dong Nai, and Saigon.



The volunteer trip went on well and left a lot of appreciative sympathy for the patients and medical staffs. The Missionaries of the Faith Brethren have truly become witnesses of the faith, and they have received much praise from the Diocesan Bishop and the local government. This is a meaningful experience for each volunteer, and all of them gained lot of spiritual benefits that contribute to promoting their vocation of the Missionaries of Faith.



4. The canonical visitation (October 27-31, 2021)

Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang, General Councillor, being delegated by the Superior General made the canonical visitation in the Province of Vietnam from October 27 to 31, 2021. During the visit Fr. Joseph had common and private meetings with the Provincial Governance, Formation Board, priests, deacons, all brothers with the perpetual vows who have completed the theological program, and all brothers at the God's Word Institute.



During the visitation Fr. Joseph listened to reports on the following specific contents:

- **The Province of Vietnam:** Annual and extraordinary plans related to the individual member, the organic structure of the Congregation, formation, administration, community development, and mission activities of the Vietnamese Province.
- **The God's Word Institute:** The activities and missions of The Community of the God's Word Institute.
- **Formation:** Evaluations of personnel and training plans of the Province of Vietnam and the formation projects.

The visit ended with the Fr. Joseph making the evaluation and writing a summary of the canonical visitation programme as stated in the MF Constitutions and the General Directory. The thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joseph with all brothers at the institute's chapel.

Currently the Province of Vietnam has more than 224 members, including 61 priests, 07 deacons, 89 brothers, 14 novices, and more than 54 postulants, serving in 12 dioceses and three foreign missionary regions.





5. DECORATING ACTIVITIES FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

In the joyful atmosphere of Christmas 2021 and welcoming the new year 2022, the Province of Vietnam (God's Word Institute Community and some Parishes belonging to the Communities of the Province such as Trung Hoa, Ba Tra, Ba Lua, etc.) is in the process of designing and making up the nativity scene.

In Vietnam, the Covid-19 epidemic is currently still out of control. Therefore, under the common pastoral direction of the dioceses, the Missionaries of Faith always try to create a cozy, joyful, and graceful atmosphere, having mutual care and share among people to relieve pain and loss, which they have been suffering in this difficult time.

The Provincial Governance highly appreciates the enthusiasm and commitment of the Missionaries of the Faith at all missions.

Following are some pictures of the nativity scene in the Province.

a. Ba Lua Parish Community:



b. Ba Tra Parish Community:



c. Yen Dinh - Trung Hoa Parish Community:



d. Trung Hoa Parish Community



e. Provincial House – MF Vietnam





Vice Province of Italy

New Parishes

Recently the Congregation has taken up two more parishes in Italy: Parish of “Nostra Signora di Czestochowa, at Rustica, in the diocese of Rome and parish of St. Andrea at Morena, in the diocese of Frascati.



Double Milestones in 25 years

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf.

Our Superior General, on the occasion of the beginning of his 25 year of priesthood, celebrated a solemn thanksgiving holy Eucharistic celebration in the parish of Nostra Signora di Czestochowa, Rome, on Sunday, 24 October 2021, along with a number of priests, faithful and religious for thanking the good Lord for the numerous blessings that he has received during these past 24 years of his priesthood.



25 years of Final Profession



On Tuesday, 16 November 2021, Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf, the Superior General, celebrated a thanksgiving Holy Mass in the parish of Nostra Signora di Czestochowa, Rome, to mark his perpetual promise to the lord. At the beginning of the celebration Fr. Stefano Tan Gun, mf, invited all the priests, religious, and the faithful to the celebration and gave a brief introduction about the importance of the day. M.F religious nuns melodiously accompanied the liturgy.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sunday, 7 November 2021, H. E. Mons. Gianpiero Palmieri, during the Holy Eucharistic celebration, conferred the sacrament of confirmation to 46 children of the parish of Nostra Signora di

Czestochowa, Rome. During his homily his Excellency said: “It is a great joy to be able to serve our parishioners spiritually, in a way that they can enrich their spiritual relation with God where they become not only listeners of the Word of God but also witnesses and missionaries in their local church and community”.

NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

It is a great joy for the Missionaries of Faith two welcome our two new priests. On Saturday 18 December 2021, H. E. Mauro Card. Gambetti, Archpriest of St. Peters Basilica, Vatican City, ordained priests Fr. Jesùs Sair Yrady Blanco, mf, and Fr. Peter Dinh Tran Anh Quoc, mf. Let us pray that they can be holy priests and help many people to walk in the path of holiness.



Vice Province of Oceania

Completion of semester Studies and formation of Novices

Our three novices have completed their first semester of studies at our formation centre in Samoa. The courses were mainly focus of based on Spirituality, Religious Life, MF Constitutions and Charism and also lessons of English language. Our priests here in the Vice Province, despite their pastoral responsibilities, have given a helping hand and shared their knowledge and experiences to accompany theoretically via online the formation of our novices. Amongst our confraternities, are Fr. Andrew Atonio, our Major Superior, Fr. Isaac from St. Peter Province in India, and Mr. Mapuileolo Koloj, a PHD English Instructor at



American Samoa Community College and a parishioner of MF parish. We're looking forward to continuing our "synodality" - "journey together," on February 13, 2022.

Our novices during lessons with the priests via online



Ethan Tevaga starts his Postulancy

Although COVID restrictions were on the high in Auckland, NZ, we have gone ahead with the admission of our new Postulant Tevaga into our initial formation programme.

As our Superior of the Vice province, Fr. Andrew Atonio, MF, couldn't travel due to ban on travels Fr. Iosefo Timu was delegated to officiate the acceptance of Mr. Ethan Tevaga on his behalf.



Mr. Tevaga a New Zealand born, is an active member of his home parish community. His involvement in parish life was the main push for his discernment of his religious vocation. This young man could have gone the Diocesan way, however his admiration of community life and with the MF communities in New Zealand gave him the assurance to start his discernment and admission into our MF community.



Community life is one of our main attractions to the younger generation seeking God's calling to service. So, it is up to us all to maintain this important tool of attraction to gain trust from young people.

New Zealand is becoming secular with more percentage of people with "no religion" and people turning atheist in their own beliefs. Majority of Pacific families including some Samoans are slowly detaching from church due to giving more time for working and to entertainment etc. Therefore, to get one or two young people to contemplate priesthood is a big achievement when even the Diocesan vocation teams are bit struggling to attract young pacific men into the formation programmes. With this we ask all our confreres to pray harder for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life in the MF communities.

Delegation of North America

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, the **Missionaries of Faith – DNA** joyfully announces the Ordination of **Deacon Nguyen Du Truong Hai, MF**, to the Sacred Order of Presbyter through the imposition of hands and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit by the **Most Rev. Thanh Thai Nguyen**, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange (CA) on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6 PM, at St. Philip Phan Van Minh Parish in Orlando, FL.



MF NEWS BULLETIN

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