



Champagnat Marists

DISTRICT OF THE PACIFIC

Champagnat Partnership News Brothers & Lay Marists Together

June 2016

Kia Ora, Greetings, Ni sa bula vinaka, Kam na mauri, Talofa lava

Assembly 2016

The Champagnat Partnership Committee (CPC) is well underway with preparations for this years District of the Pacific Assembly to be held at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Auckland from 15-17 December.

Goals:

1. To share how much we have grown since the last Assembly in 2013.
2. To plan practical steps to enable the growth of the Champagnat Marist charism in the next three years – 2017 to 2019.
3. To identify ways for Champagnat Lay Marists to take on greater responsibility for the growth of the charism in the District.

Although this will be a smaller gathering with approximately 60 Champagnat Marists (Brothers and Lay), the CPC encourages both individual and group responses to our pre-assembly package (attached) to assist with the planning and preparation of this significant event.

Responses can be forwarded to Br Carl Tapp at carlrapp@gmail.com by 30 June.

Champagnat Marist Group, American Samoa



Sulita Smith shares an update from the groups latest meeting on 21 May:

Our group is reviewing our mission, in order to direct us. Discussion and at end suggestions; What do the whole group want to be the mission of this group?

1. To be vocational promoters
2. Spiritual Formation
3. Epistolic

So next months meeting Br. Tim Leen is going to talk about this. Br. Chris Poppelwell will input on 'simplicity'. I can see now we are moving into something concrete which will be helpful.



Message from Marist Brothers Primary School, Mulivai, Samoa

MBPS wishes to acknowledge the generous gift from Louise Oliphant and the Young Vinnies from our Marist Brothers College in Auckland, Sacred Heart College. Reading manuals as well as creative reading games were presented to our school.

Champagnat Marist Group, Auckland – Pilgrimage to the North

Heather Kelly Reports:

On February 12th 2016 a group of us met at St Paul's for a light lunch before we embarked on our pilgrimage to the Hokianga. The group consisted of Br Colin Devane, Br Barry Burns, Albert and Lolisi Wolfgramm, Pat Rogers and Heather Kelly. We travelled by mini-bus ably driven by the 3 men. First stop Whangarei then on to Kaikohe where we settled into a motel and found that several other Marist Brothers were staying in the same place as we were all gathering to celebrate Br Romuald's 90th birthday that evening. What a great celebration and what a privilege to share it with the people of Kaikohe.

On Saturday morning we ate then headed off to Whirinaki where we honoured Br Barry's family at the grave of his brother. Wandering round the graves we were saddened by the youth of many of the occupants and were reminded of the fragility of life.



From here it was a relatively short drive to Rawene and the ferry on which we sailed across to Rangiora. Thence on to Purakau, where we remembered the first Marist Brothers to work in New Zealand. Here (and for the rest of our pilgrimage) Br Colin ably told us about the Marist history. At each stopping place we prayed and listened to the history and to our hearts.



Next significant place was Motuti, the final resting place of Bishop Pompallier and a perfect place for a lunch break before visiting Pungaru where we found a group from Whangarei teaching the locals the basics of Rugby.

On from here to Totara Point, the site of a memorial to the people who brought our faith to New Zealand then as the day was drawing to a close we headed back to Kaikohe and fish and chips with the Brothers.

Sunday, breakfast at the brother's house (did we eat all weekend??) followed by liturgy at the adjoining church. (The local priest was in Auckland). We found the people very welcoming and leaving was not a quick exercise but necessary as we were to head for the Bay of Islands. We parked our van in Paihia and boarded the ferry for Russell. Here we visited Pompallier house and went on the guided tour where a very knowledgeable lady told us of our history in that area. In the printery we saw how the leather was prepared and the prints were made. Very labour intensive. We heard of how the presses were hidden so that the metal could not be used to produce shot during wars.



Then, much more in touch with our roots, we headed home on Sunday afternoon.

In the spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat,
Dan Dungey