



## *Marist Missions*

Easter 2020

*"We should be missionaries of prayer and missionaries of action."*  
(Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, SM)

As we celebrate Easter, we are grateful for the opportunities the priests and brothers of the Society of Mary are given to bring our ministries to where they are most needed around the world. Our ministries would not thrive if it were not for your support, prayers, and financial contributions.

I write to you this Easter season to share information about the work being done by Marists in our foreign missions that you help to support. When our founder, Ven. Jean-Claude Colin, wrote to Pope Pius VII outlining his plans for the Society of Mary, he was clear about its focus: for each Marist to seek to care for their own salvation and others "through missions to non-believers and believers alike, in any part of the world."

Since 1836 the Western Pacific area of Oceania has been a primary mission focus for the Society of Mary. The Oceania Marist Province is vast, covering an area as large as Western Europe, and is comprised of eight main areas: Bougainville (PNG), Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. Here Marists are engaged in parish and vocations work, and in education.

Just last year, the Marist community, in collaboration with the Catholic communities in the Big Bay, Santo area of Vanuatu, welcomed the opening of two new churches in the villages of Pesena and Vusilolo (see pictures on the back of this letter). The opening of the churches included a blessing by Bishop John Bosco Baremes, SM, and coincided with the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. There was much joy and many prayers offered in thanksgiving for all who helped make the opening of these churches possible. Marist missionaries have worked in the area of Vanuatu since 1847. Two American Marists, Brother Roland Bernier, and Bishop Francis Lambert, served in this area of Oceania in the past, and currently, there are fourteen Marists working in Vanuatu.

This is a glimpse of one significant project in the Oceania Marist missions that has recently occurred in part due to your support and contributions to our foreign missions. Your prayers and financial support have helped us continue our ministries here and in other parts of the world where we are most needed. Please know that you are considered a part of the Society of Mary, as you share in our work.

I ask for your continued prayers for the lives touched by Marist missionaries around the world. Please do what you can to help us financially so that we may be able to carry on the work Fr. Colin, SM began in 1836 and to keep bringing the compassionate love of Our Lord to the world in Mary's quiet way.

As always, be assured that you and your loved ones remain in our daily prayers. Wishing you peace and hope in the resurrection of Our Lord.

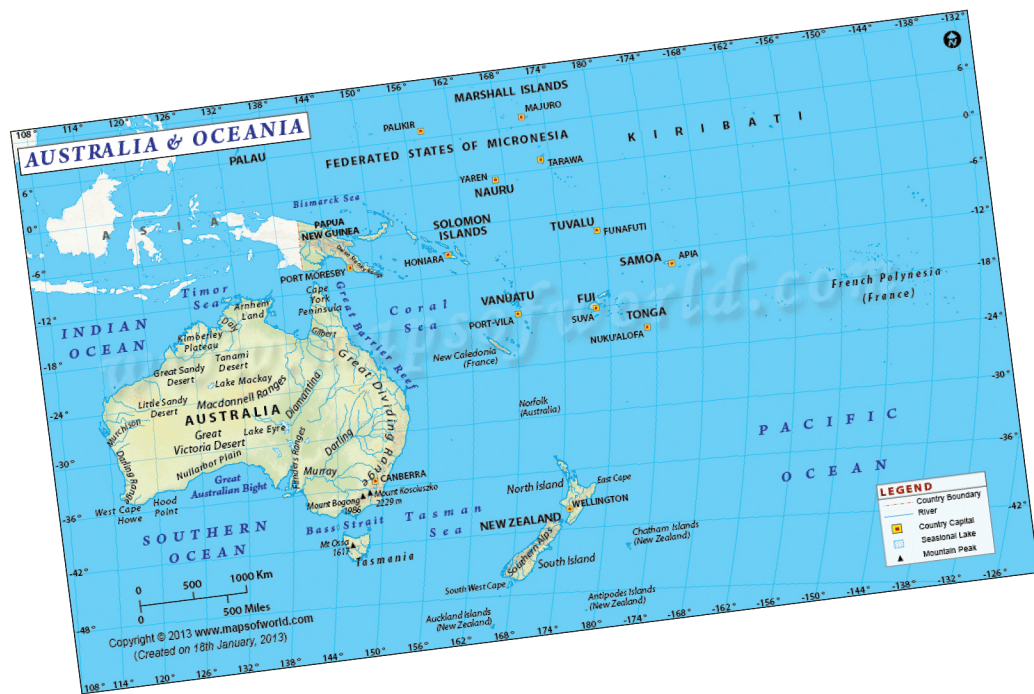
May God Bless You Abundantly,

Rev. Walter Gaudreau, SM  
Director, Marist Missions Office of the U.S.

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MARIST MISSIONS OFFICE,**

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# Opening of Two New Churches Big Bay, Santo, Vanuatu



Bishop Baremes, SM with Confirmandi in Big Bay



Bishop Baremes, SM with Marist Community in Vanuatu

