



## Marist Worldwide Missions

Easter 2022

Dear Marist Mission Office Friend,

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this Easter season, the priests and brothers of the Society of Mary are thankful for the opportunities to bring our ministries to where they are most needed in our world. Our ministries would not thrive if it were not for your continual support, prayers, and financial contributions.

Our founder, Venerable Jean-Claude Colin and the first Marists believed that Mary wanted a Society named after her, to act on her behalf in a world in crisis. This was the Mission she was entrusting to them and this conviction inspired them to do great things for God in Mary's name and under her direction.

As Pope Francis said in his 2022 World Mission Day message, "I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church ... that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth! Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!" Inspired by the spirit of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marists strive to do God's will and carry-on the work of Fr. Colin as they bring the joy of the gospel to the world as missionary disciples, bridge builders, instruments of reconciliation and bearers of the Good News in Mary's quiet way.

In highlighting the work in our Marist missions, I want to share news with you from our mission in the Tonga sector of the Marist Oceania Province as they continue to recover from the powerful underwater volcanic eruption and tsunami that struck on January 15th. Tonga is home to more than 104,000 people, with the majority of the population living on the main island of Tongatapu. The Marist mission in Tonga began in 1842 in the town of Pea on Tongatapu. The Marists are involved in parish ministry at Kauvai Parish and in education at the oldest Catholic secondary school in Tonga which is run by the Marists, Apifo'ou College. Over the years the work of Marist missionaries has spread to over fifteen areas among the islands of Tonga.

Shortly after the devastating events of January 15th, the leader of the Tonga sector, Fr. Ekuasi Manu, SM reported, "How Tonga survived the catastrophe remains vague! Anyway, we're still breathing and kicking!" Fr. Manu shared that fortunately there was minimal damage at both Apifo'ou College and Kauvai Parish with the huge task being the clean-up from the thick blanket of volcanic ash that covered everything. About two months after these events, Fr. Aisake Vaisima, SM, the Oceania Province bursar, reported that "the rebuilding has begun with humanitarian and relief aid from all over the globe." Fr. Vaisima reported that in the midst of the recovery efforts, the people of Tonga were also impacted with an outbreak of COVID-19 after having been COVID free for almost two years. He stated that while the urgent material needs are being addressed by the government and non-profit organizations, such as Caritas Tonga, the negative psychological impacts on over 80% of the population will continue to be an urgent and lasting concern.

I ask for your continued prayers for all our Marist missions, especially for our Marists and the people of Tonga as the rebuilding continues. Your prayers and financial support have helped Marists carry out the "work of Mary" and bring hope through our ministries around the world. I ask you to please consider doing what you can to help us financially so that the work in all our global missions may continue. I also invite you to submit your prayer intentions at <https://www.societyofmaryusa.org>.

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.

Shalom!

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

## Marist Worldwide Missions

**Yes!** I want to help further the work of Mary and the Church  
through the Marist Missions Office

**Donate Online at:** [societyofmaryusa.org](https://www.societyofmaryusa.org)

*(Your gift is tax deductible.)*







# Marist Mission in Tonga



## Marist Community in Tonga

**Top row (Left to Right):** Fr. Steven Lugaibai, SM, Fr. 'Anaua Finau, SM, Fr. Sipiliano Faka'osi, SM  
**Middle row (Left to Right):** Fr 'Ekuasi Manu, SM, Fr. Viliami Kiola, SM, Fr 'Ofa Ki Taiwan Vaihu, SM  
**Bottom row (Left to Right):** Fr. Mikaele Misinale, SM, Fr. Ika Kaihea, SM, Fr. 'Epoki Manu, SM, Fr. Christopher Hifo, SM



## Volcanic Eruption and Tsunami on January 15, 2022 and Aftermath



**Volcanic Ash Clean-up**



**Humanitarian Aid**



**Watching from highest point as tsunami waves destroy their village**



**Tsunami Destruction**



# The Power of Prayer

Through prayer, we are joined together with those who support our mission.

If you would like us to pray for your loved ones or any special intentions, please submit a prayer request at:

[www.societyofmaryusa.org/connect/prayer-request/](http://www.societyofmaryusa.org/connect/prayer-request/)