



SM bulletin

Friday, 22 March 2019

General Administration

Fr John Larsen made a short stay in Sydney on his way to New Zealand. Amongst other things he had the opportunity to visit the Marist Mission Centre where he met our Marist confreres and staff members.

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE IN SUVA

On 9 March, four Marist deacons—Viliami Kiola, Iosefo Vili, Pio Ravu and Mikaele Misinale—were ordained in Suva, along with seven other deacons, both religious and diocesan. The celebration took place in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, and was presided over by Archbishop Peter Loy Chong. The Cathedral was packed, both inside and outside, with a large congregation



of faithful, families of the deacons, confreres, religious, friends. Many families had travelled from various Islands in the Pacific to be with their sons on this special occasion. The group of ordained deacons may have been the biggest ever being ordained together in the Cathedral of Suva.

SURVEY ON ARCHIVES

Archives merit our concern, as they seek to preserve vital elements of our marist heritage. On the initiative of the GA, and coordinated by Fr Paul Walsh, a simple survey was made last year of the SM's archives, with a questionnaire circulated to major superiors and the units' archivists. The results of the survey were tabulated, and, recently, sent around once again.



The survey was a very interesting exercise, and shows that:

- we have a remarkable range of valuable material and information kept in our archives;
- that this material is accessible through inventories, in most cases;
- that many of our archives are being well looked-after by competent people, people passionately interested in their task;
- that the future is digital;
- that being able to access material on-line is desirable, but, in general, not currently realisable;
- that some units recognise a need to do something to protect and properly organise archival material.

One of the hopes coming out of the survey is that it will facilitate communication between the archivists, with a sharing of concerns and expertise. Another is that asking the questions may stimulate those units who do not currently have adequate provision for managing archival material to address the issue. The GA has committed itself to supporting initiatives.