

SMbulletin

Friday, 24 February 2023

CYCLONE GABRIELLE HITS THE NORTH OF NEW ZEALAND



Cyclone Gabrielle struck the North Island of New Zealand overnight of Monday, 13 February. The Society has three Marist communities in Napier and one in Wairoa. Fortunately, all confreres are safe, while one church and a catholic meeting house - “marae” suffered water damage. There has been widespread damage in the whole area: many have lost homes, buildings and there is severe damage to farms and crops. Sadly, some people are still unaccounted for and grave concerns are held for their safety.

It is interesting to note that when the first Marists arrived in Hawkes Bay in 1851 they settled in Pakowhai and Meeanee. After experiencing several floods, they moved in 1910 to Greenmeadows, a much higher site, which became Mount St Mary’s Seminary. Both Pakowhai and Meeanee were severely impacted by flooding from cyclone Gabrielle. Our confreres are continuing to support the affected communities and especially those people who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. They are grateful for the many acts of solidarity, kindness and generosity and for our prayers.

NEWS FROM MARIST COLLEGE

As the community of Marist College in Suva, Fiji, was preparing for the start of the new academic year, they began with some in-house programs and orientations for the nine aspirants and nine postulants participating. The two weeks of orientation were concluded with two days of silence with Fr Joseph McHugh, sj who gave an input on prayer and the art of discerning a vocation. The members of the formation team are Frs Denis Revi, Samuela Tukidia, Xavier Sariman and Br. John Votaia. Students are coming from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, Tonga and Vanuatu.



A NEW MISSION IN BRAZIL



At the end of January, The District of South America began a new mission in a parish in Bahia, Brazil. They decided to accept the proposal of the Bishop of Bahia to leave their ministry in the two cities of Palmas de Monte Alto and Malhada and to open one community in the city of Guanambi. The decision aims to strengthen community life as confreres will minister in two parishes in the same city, and also to emphasise ministries closer to our Marist charism, especially youth and education.