



MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART GENERAL BULLETIN

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Dear brothers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, formands and members of the Chevalier Family,

This Bulletin comes to you a few weeks after we celebrate one of the most important feasts for the Church and for our Religious Family: the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The archetype of love, the heart is the centre of the person and the driving force of life. With its constant movements of systole and diastole it struggles all the time to keep us alive and capable of carrying out the mission to which we have been called. We could say, in summary, that the heart is the symbol of caring.

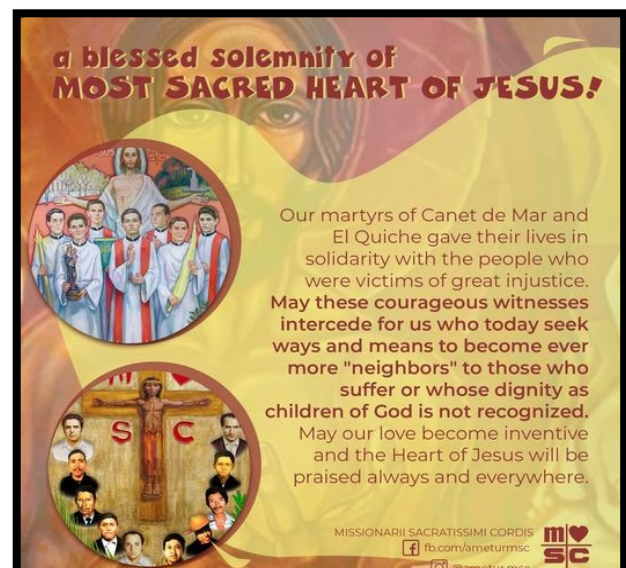
We are still living in difficult times because of the pandemic and we need more and more to care. Thousands of hearts have stopped beating because of this virus, which is causing humanity endless pain. However, as missionaries of love, we are called more than ever to practice care: to care for oneself, for others, for the Common Home. This has been one of the great appeals that comes from the Heart of the Master, since it is from there that the medicine to cure all those who need care comes.

It is with joy that we see, through the news in this Bulletin, that we are moving forward with this enormous challenge of caring. The effort of each one

of us to keep the heart of the Congregation beating intensely and generating life in abundance is evident. Proof of this is our presence in South Sudan through an Irish confrere, as well as the erection of the Pacific Islands Province, as you can see in this Bulletin. Besides the various accompaniments done by the Leadership Team, we invite you to reflect on the main article on the Sacred Heart.




Finally, as we are still living the joys of the beatification of the MSC Martyrs of El Quiché, we thought it would be very important to have a special edition of the Bulletin to tell you about our experiences in that holy land where the blood of our martyrs was shed. So that this news may become part of us, we ask you to share it as much as you can so that we may all be united in one heart.

| Humberto Henriques, MSC



**a blessed solemnity of
MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS!**

Our martyrs of Canet de Mar and El Quiche gave their lives in solidarity with the people who were victims of great injustice. May these courageous witnesses intercede for us who today seek ways and means to become ever more "neighbors" to those who suffer or whose dignity as children of God is not recognized. May our love become inventive and the Heart of Jesus will be praised always and everywhere.

MISSIONARI SACRATISSIMI CORDIS
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EUROPEAN PROVINCES



In autumn 2019 the General Council took an initiative and invited the 8 European provinces to think about restructuring in order to reinvgorate the mission of the MSC for the future and find solutions for their government because the demographic crisis makes it more and more difficult to find confreres for the leadership services. In many congregations this process has led to restructuring. Already in 2009, the General Superior and the chairman of PEC wrote a letter about the ageing provinces inviting them to find solutions. In the General Chapter 2017 “restructuring” was once more a topic.

The initiative of the General Leadership Team made it clear that there was a lack of dialogue. Because of COVID, a meeting of the “younger” MSC in Issoudun in 2019 and a programmed symposium and the yearly PEC meeting were cancelled. So we started with zoom meetings with the provincials of Ireland/GB, France, the Netherlands and Italy on 10-13 May. It gave us the opportunity to listen to them about how COVID had affected their ministry and to discuss with them about the future steps that could be taken to develop a deeper sharing with them and the membership about the future of the provinces. This dialogue is to be continued after the first session of the General Conference in June.

| André Claessens, MSC

COR VITAE

The Cor Vitae Team based in Manila, Philippines has been seeking ways to continue its work in the APIA region in ongoing formation with our three congregations belonging to the Chevalier family, at a time when participants of programs cannot travel and attend in person. Sr Cathie Mwagioidi fdnsc, Sr. Sophy Francis msc, and Fr. Ben Alforque msc have showed exceptional creativity and courage to begin providing ongoing formation programs online. From the time when the idea was first mooted the Team embraced the possibilities with interest and enterprise. Their first step was to enrol themselves in courses so they would be educated in using online platforms. After consulting leaders across the entities of the three congregations they proposed topics and created programs. In May they offered three online programs aimed at *times of life-transition: young members, Mid-Lifers, and Wisdom years*. I was fortunate to be involved with the second two transition groups offering a session on *Integrity in Ministry* to the Mid-Lifers and another on *the psycho-social dynamics in the Spirituality of Aging*. I was delighted to see how many of our members were being reached in these sessions. I had been told for one that there would be near 40 and it ended up being closer to a hundred. Other sessions had similar experiences. There was good feedback on what was presented and this is very encouraging. The team is also working on a series called *Christ Jesus Before Our Eyes: The Spirituality of the Heart and the Human Heart of the 21st Century*. This course will run from July to December 2021, every First Saturday, with the following topics: *The Human Heart in the 21st Century; Dealing with Emotions in Community Life; Managing Differences, Conflict Resolution; Life For, With and Among Others; St. Joseph, Model and Patron of Those who Love the Sacred Heart; Mary: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*. If these seminars are anything like the quality of those in May, they are not to be missed. Please contact Cor Vitae team for more information, corvitae8415@gmail.com.

| Chris Chaplin, MSC



SEDOS SEMINAR

MSC had a strong presence in this year's **SEDOS** Residential Seminar held 3-7 May. What usually is a five-day full-time residential program, this year for the obvious pandemic reasons, and like everything else, it was hosted on Zoom. The theme **Living Green Mission** is of course timed to coincide with preparations for the celebration of *Laudato Si'* Week May 16-25. Some wonderful reflections were presented in relation to three ecological spheres of interest: Education, Sustainability and Spirituality. Congratulations to Richie Gomez MSC of the Philippines Province who spoke brilliantly on the topic of ecological sustainability from his experience of directing the **Centre of the Poor** in Butuan City, and the development of experientially based educational programs, support for indigenous farmers, and sustainable practices, at the Centre's land at Del Monte, Agusan del Sur. The commitment to ecological justice and sustainability is a priority ministry in the province expressed in very impressive action. It was good to see this witness at this seminar which reached a large audience over many countries. Fr. Joshtram Kureethadam, SDB, from the Dicastery for Integral Human Development in Rome spoke on, *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si'*. Fr. Petero Matiratu, SM shared on *Practices and Principles of Tutu Rural Training Project*, which would be familiar to our Pacific Islands Province members and a reminder of our own **Chevalier Training Centre** in Fiji which offers similar opportunities to youth. From the north we heard of the work of Sr. Helen Grealy, RC, and Fr. Brian Grogan, SJ, and the Loving Sister Earth Project. Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM of the JPIC desk of USG/UISG, Rome, gave a special talk on, *Sowing Seeds for the Future*. The seminar closed with Fr. Augusto Zampini Davies reflecting on the aftermath of the Synod on Pan-Amazonia. All in all it was a deeply appreciated and timely seminar. **SEDOS** was founded in 1964 by Superiors General of 9 missionary congregations, including our own Fr. Van Kerkhoven, MSC.

MSC CENTER FOR THE POOR – LIVING MUSEUM LAND MARK



| Chris Chaplin, MSC

ACCOMPANIMENT TO THE PROVINCE OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Pe. Juan Tomás, MSC

Electo nuevo Superior Provincial de República Dominicana



After many months and many travel restrictions, we were able to be present for a week in the lands of the Antilles to accompany our confreres, mainly in their elective Provincial Assembly.

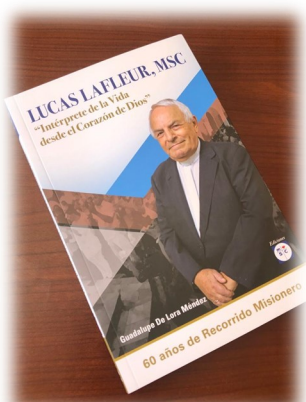
In the short time we were also able to visit the Prenovitiato, the Provincial House, the communities of Altagracia and the Vocation Centre in Santiago, as well as Nagua and Sanchez.

About 55 MSC gathered at the MSC Vocation Centre in Santiago for the Elective Assembly on 16 April. The confreres working in Canada could not make it, nor could those from Cuba and Haiti. It was a fraternal and hopeful atmosphere. Fr. Juan Tomás García Pichardo was elected for three years as

Provincial of this MSC province which, although it is still called the Dominican Republic, has already begun to be the province of the Antilles because there are members from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Canada, as well as from Cuba. Interculturality is present.

We congratulate Juan Tomás and thank Juanito Rodríguez and the councillors who completed their service of leadership for the good of the mission in this Taino land, a land that has rhythm and music at its heart, a land full of very joyful and enterprising people. The Antilles are known as a place of tourist paradises, of dreamy plains; but at the same time, it is a land of many challenges and new "frontiers-liminality-and clamours" that require this MSC Entity to continue with the processes of transformation of mentalities, apostolates, and structures of community life... for the good of the mission. Our brothers and sisters are found in all the countries of the West Indies and Canada where, guided by the Gospel of Jesus, they serve the People of God, and are invited to allow themselves to be transformed and enlightened by the future as it emerges.

We miss such significant people as Br Bruno Joyal and Br Jorge Teasdale who are now with us from heaven. It was wonderful to note that the book by Lucas Lafleur, msc "Interpreting Life from the Heart of God" has now been published. It is the memory of 60 years of missionary life of our dearest Lucas whom so many of us know. Thank you, Lucas Lafleur for your witness and joy in mission and for being a translator in so many MSC Chapters and Conferences.



| Absalon Alvarado, MSC

ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO



Coming together in an elective assembly of the Province of Central America and Mexico on 19, 20 and 21 April, with the motto "God Will Provide" (Gen 22, 8), we listened to the information from the General Administration communicated by the delegate Fr. Humberto Henriques in relation to the processes that are being undertaken at congregational level, and then proceeded to the election of the new Provincial Superior.

Fr. Humberto emphasized that the realization of the motto chosen for this Assembly will be possible with the help of all the members of the Province. For "God Will Provide" is a response of obedience, trust and commitment to God, which becomes a declaration of faith. For that reason, according to him, we are all invited to follow the paradigm of the pilgrim, someone on a journey, not settled, but always in an attitude of continuous movement.

In line with these ideas, the delegate general presented to the members of the Province the method "Theory U" which is used in different environments of civil life, but which is now being applied at the ecclesial level, because it is a means that can help us to bring together; to make concrete the objectives that we set ourselves as a congregation, at the macro level, and as a Province, at the micro level.

This theory consists of achieving the objectives through a process, namely: co-initiating, co-feeling, witnessing, crystallising and incorporating. According to Fr. Henriques, this helps to motivate unity in community and mission, as well as seeking new ways of communion where what we feel, what we dream for our group is expressed. The members of the Province, gathered in small working groups, analysed our MSC "being and doing" in this region of

the world. Next interactive games were played, to conclude by the sharing of what each one feels and believes about the Province. This resulted in a synthesis of the formation and its proper application to our realities. From this sharing it became clear that, in spite of our limitations, we feel an energy emerging, and with it, a joy and missionary spirit with a positive vision of the future that awaits us. The important thing, according to Fr. Humberto, is that the members of the Province feel part of the whole that is the Congregation, we are part of a living ecosystem, of which Jesus the Lord is the motor and life-force; without Him nothing makes sense.

On 21 April, after a prayer and invocation of the Holy Spirit, the new Provincial Superior was elected, Fr. Raúl Ruíz Mena, who was working as parish priest of the parish of San José de Bocay in the northern part of Nicaragua. In his response, Fr. Mena thanked the members for the trust placed in him and invited everyone to take up again the Gospel and our Constitutions as a way of life in our consecrated reality. Joaquín Herrera Bayón was thanked for his years as Provincial Superior and for all the good he has done for this province. After the election, on April 23, we participated in the beatification of our MSC martyrs and lay people in the diocese of Quiché, Guatemala, a reason for hope and prophetic witness in our missionary life.

At the end of the Assembly Fr. Humberto thanked us for all the good energies received and said goodbye wishing us blessings. It had been an assembly full of hope and communion, in search of common objectives to live our being and missionary work.

| Irwin David, MSC
(Central America & Mexico Province)

ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

After the Beatification celebration in El Quiché, it was possible to accompany some of the MSC communities in this province. Not everything was possible due to the obvious restrictions of Covid, which were still complicated in those days. We were able to dedicate some time the day before the Beatification to share with the members of the communities of Nicaragua and Mexico.

As a general leadership we were able to be present in the local communities of El Salvador, Alta Verapaz and Guatemala City. We were able to hold meetings using the communal wisdom method. We found it very valuable to reflect on and share the reality of the members of this MSC Entity, allowing them to illustrate it to us through some of the lights and invitations that these communities felt that God is giving them at this time.

As local communities they feel invited to:

- Have their feet on the ground, to give new answers, to strengthen prophetic presences, to be with the people as living and committed witnesses.

- Continue to take risks, to have convictions, to be strong in order to serve with wisdom, allowing ourselves to be guided by the Spirit and to be patient and tolerant with each other's story. To forgive each

other.

- Be a meaningful community. To form a community, not to go our own way. To be an authentic family - to live the family spirit that our MSC constitutions speak of. Not to believe that each one of us has the whole truth. To listen to each other, to be patient, to remove labels, to care for and respect each other. To be with the people - to promote closeness to God's people. To learn to assume and accept limits. To be witnesses. May our community life bear witness to what we proclaim.

Among these challenges, our brothers and sisters in Central America and Mexico continue to try to co-construct and co-create relationships that help them to live processes of reconciliation and thus build an authentic eco-system, a body where each member of the group is valuable and necessary for the missionary project.

The reality of this area of the world, which is one of the most violent, marks the commitment and the spirit of risk that our brothers live there. The commitment in the rural areas and in the urban areas is expressed in a diversity of ministries, parishes, education of indigenous people, addiction recovery and health promotion, among others. The blood of

the martyrs continues to make this MSC Entity continue to live the Prophetic Spirit that has characterised it in the different generational eras.



| Absalón Alvarado, MSC

In the accompaniment of our brothers in Central America and Mexico, I also had the opportunity to accompany the only interprovincial House of Formation that the MSC Congregation has: the MSC Latin American Theologate, coordinated by CA-MSC. It is a project that has taken many years to create, and that, despite hard difficulties, misinterpretations, under-evaluations, etc., has been able to stay on its feet. As the General Administration, like the previous Administration, we continue to believe that projects like this one are really actions and projects of the Spirit, planned to face the emerging futures. The Latin American theologate is an example of the present and future of religious life - interprovincial, synodal, intercultural. The challenges and aspects that need improvement are still many, but we see with great hope that this MSC formation project continues to move forward. We hope that little by little in other parts of the world we will be able to implement and co-create formative spaces like this, for only in this way will we prepare for the international future which is the only possible way to continue to be significant in today's world as MSC.

We encourage all the Entities involved to continue to do their part so that this future, which is already emerging through the Latin American theologate, does not stop emerging, in order to keep our MSC Charism alive. This will not be possible if we go back to our self-centred “separatisms”, egocentric nationalisms, the tendency to look at reality only from the point of view of "my" own Entity - province, region, section or community - to a kind of provincialism and clericalism that today kills so much of the missionary identity of the MSC Charism, Spirituality and Mission.

Currently in the Latin American Theologate there are two formators and nine MSC religious in formation from Brazil (1), Dominican Republic (1), Haiti (1), Nicaragua (1), El Salvador (1), Guatemala (4).

| Absalón Alvarado, MSC



MORTUI

MSC deceased between April/2021 and June/2021

NAME	PROVINCE	DATE	WHERE HE DIED
AUGUSTIN POLONG	PHILIPPINES	02.04.2021	QUEZON CITY
JOSE ISAGANI PASCUAL	PHILIPPINES	07.04.2021	MANILA
KARL HEINZ HOPPE	NORTH GERMAN	08.04.2021	HILTRUP
CLEMENS MAURICIO	PHILIPPINES	06.06.2021	LOUISIANA – USA

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CROSS



The spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross are two terms quite dominant among us, the Chevalier Family. How are they viewed and

understood? In fact, both are very close to our own lives, as believers and especially as religious who participate in the mission of Jesus in a special way. Why is it so close to us? Because the spirituality of the heart is actually the basic attitude that should grow and develop in us as the disciples of Jesus and the sons and the daughters of Chevalier. The seeds of the spirituality of the heart are within us as the gift from God that is needed to live as his children. The spirituality of the heart is not an additional science that must be learned as an all-new knowledge that produces a certain skill. The spirituality of the heart is: "The way we see ourselves before God and our neighbors and understand the identity of our calling as the disciples of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a living lens to that enables us to see ourselves and our reality with God, the source of truth and values of our lives. So, the spirituality of the heart is a keen self-affirmation that

we are the children of God who are involved in developing the values of the Kingdom of God in the midst of this world.

Such is the management of the cross. 'To manage' means to arrange and to organize. What is it that we manage? It is our personal, social, communal and spiritual life, and of course our religious vocation. And why the cross? It is the principle of our life that we choose to unite with Jesus. Every Christian should be able to develop this management of the cross as a personal commitment to Jesus, the source of the values of life. It is actually the treasure of all disciples of Jesus, both lay and religious. For the religious the question is: "How far have they developed it in their life and mission?"

Therefore, the spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross, should ultimately lead to each person as a treasure hoarded by heaps of life experiences. To get it, one has to dig back into the depths of oneself. They are not a wealth to be added but a treasure to be discovered and developed within ourselves. It is not forced 'from outside' but is grown 'from within'.

The Culture of Living Together

One of the dimensions of human life is being -related or being-interconnected to each other in togetherness. In that togetherness, each person is helped to recognize and understand the reality of life and is trained to be part of that togetherness without losing his/her identity. Living together enriches each one, and also gives direction to life and knowledge of God.

Unconsciously, the living together as religious within the Congregation, and more concretely within every community, forms a distinctive life atmosphere, heart-feelings, life characters and lifestyles. This uniqueness stems from many elements such as: missionary works, social services, religious life values, and especially the people involved in the life together. In every relationship and interaction with people, places and works, our spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross are determined, coloured, formed, developed and enriched. Therefore, they are a product of living together. In this case, at the personal level, they are also the result of the contribution, participation and interaction of the members in our communal life together. On the other hand, the failure to develop the spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross is also the responsibility of the community in particular and the Congregation as a whole.

A Process of Grace.

We need always to remember that the spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross are a project 'still in progress', both individually and collectively. The process is like a spiral that keeps turning bigger and bigger and fuller/more perfect; and in that process there is a triangular 'I-God-We' relationship. The spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross have been and are being formed through our life history, for example: with parents and relatives in the family of origin, with friends in the education and formation houses, in the personal life events, in the encounters with the community, and in the exercises of the spiritual life. Everyone has a personal life history at a different

pace in achieving the level of personal maturity and spiritual life. In the process of achieving the better level of living the spirituality of the heart and the ability to develop the management of the cross, the most decisive things are perseverance in the process, openness and humility to see the future direction. In religious life, our confreres are our 'life journey companions'. In this sense, the spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross are a joint effort. If the spirituality of the heart is defined as 'awareness that brings an atmosphere of freedom to create a dialogical friendship...' then, the way of living the spirituality of the heart should be something that is continuously being cultivated together. People who are continuously pressured will never feel freedom and this will make it more difficult for them to process themselves in living the spirituality of the heart and the dialogical friendship. On the other hand, people who don't want to accept pressure in a positive way, will not reach personal maturity and quality of living the spirituality of the heart; and their friendship will only remain at the monological level (seeking the self- truth and winning for oneself).

Furthermore, the spirituality of the heart and the management of the cross are not just a psychological thing. Both are not only connected with the development of personality traits but should be also rooted in the mystery of Jesus himself and the charism of the Founder. A deeper knowledge and relationship with Christ and the understanding of the charism of the Founder, will make our lives more enriched by the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (O Lord, make my heart like your heart).

| *Budi Santoso, MSC*
(Province of Indonesia)

THE MSC IN SOUTH SUDAN

Last Saturday we celebrated Our Lady of the Sacred Heart here in South Sudan. It was a quiet, beautiful day to mark the depth of the love of God shared between Jesus and his mother. It was not, however, the first celebration of the feast here. In fact, Sudan and the Sacred Heart family can trace their history back to the very beginnings of our Congregation.

In May 1881 in correspondence with Fr. Chevalier, Bishop Daniel Comboni wrote about his special devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. A statue given to him by Fr. Chevalier in Issoudun was lost in the Nile and he was writing to ask for another one – this time made of wood. The future saint wrote about ‘her very special protection’ in accomplishing his ministry as the Vicar Apostolic of Central Africa. Indeed, he was so moved he went on to consecrate all of Sudan to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

This blessing extends in a special way to South Sudan. Our Daughters have already been here for over twenty-five years, working in the former refugee camp, now thriving town, of Mapourdit.

They have been with the people during their struggle for freedom, the excitement of Independence in 2011, and the disappointment of the Civil War. They work side by side with Comboni brothers and priests building up the Kingdom of God.

For my part, I am working down the road in Rumbek in the Loreto School for Girls. It is a sad reality that it is more likely for a South Sudanese girl to die in childbirth than finish a basic secondary education. The challenges facing the country are considerable, including food insecurity, the threat of violence, and widespread poverty. However, it is also one of the places where some of the most prophetic, exciting ministry is happening within our Church.

Whether it is through health, education, or outreach to the marginalised, the Church has taken a leading role in South Sudan. We are also focusing a great deal of time and energy on evangelisation, working with small communities to share the Word of God. Given that South Sudan is the same size as France, any work has to be carried out with

meaningful lay collaboration. Our real shortcoming though is personnel. Many parishes within the Diocese of Rumbek have no brothers, sisters, or priests. The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few. Let us pray the Lord will send labourers into his harvest.

God bless you or as we say here Ben Nhialic Areer Kek Wek,

| Alan Neville, MSC
(Province of Ireland)



FINAL VOWS: IN GOD'S HAND



I am Gerwin Mendoza Lumanglas, MSC of the Philippine Province, 37 years old, presently assigned to the Chevalier School, Angeles City Pampanga, Philippines, as a Campus Ministry Officer. I joined the MSC last 2013 and made my First Profession on June 02, 2016.

I have encountered many challenges in my journey as an MSC. The most recent one was last May 3, 2021. I was brought to the hospital and was diagnosed with pneumonia and Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. My blood count level went down to the lowest. My hemoglobin was only 5. The normal level is 140 – 175. My platelet was only 7. The normal level is 150 - 400. I was at the brim of death.

On May 12, 2021 while at my hospital bed, I professed my vows for life of obedience in fraternal charity, consecrated celibacy, evangelical poverty in the MSC Society. Dedicating myself to God and the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart while in the four corners of my room in the hospital was very memorable for me. I was very alive and happy to utter the words of my commitment to the Society in front of my Provincial Superior, Fr. Bogey Cabrera,

MSC together with my witnesses, the Rector of the Chevalier School Fr. Ben Roquero, MSC, and our Chevalier School secretary, CFLA member Mr. Lamberto Arcilla II.

Yes, miracles happen! God works mysteriously. I was terrified and helpless at that moment, but instead of losing hope, I placed my complete trust and faith in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and fervently asked for the intercession of our Father Founder - Jules Chevalier. Now, I feel okay and vibrant although I have to submit to Chemotherapy sessions to ensure complete recovery.

Thanks for the Love and Mercy of God. Everything happens with a purpose. I know that I have still a mission to fulfill and that is “to be the heart of Jesus here on earth.” May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

| Gerwin Mendoza, MSC
(Province of Philippines)

THE NEW MSC PROVINCE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS

While in France in 1887 for his Episcopal ordination André Navarre persuaded Father Chevalier to dispatch a group of MSC to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands to begin a foundation in the Vicariate of Micronesia. So, despite the limited resources of the Society, the first MSC arrived on the island of Nonouti in the Gilbert Islands on the 10th of May, 1888. They were Frs Bontemps and Leray and Bro Webber, members of the MSC French Province. Arriving at the island of Nonouti they discovered that the people had already built a church and a presbytery for them, such was the faith of the people who waited eagerly for their arrival.

In fact, the Catholic Church in the Gilbert Islands had already been "founded" in 1878 by two laymen, Betero Terawati and Rataro Tiroi. They had been baptized in Tahiti while working there as indentured labourers. When the MSC arrived on Nonouti they found more than 600 baptized Christians, a large group of catechumens and a number of church buildings already prepared for them. So, the first task of the missionaries was to catechize the converts and catechumens and help deepen their understanding of the faith. By September of that year some 1000 had been baptized, out of a total population of about 2500.

After the 2nd World War, attempts were made to encourage local vocations. The first local MSC made their novitiate and undertook their seminary studies in Papua New Guinea. The first MSC from Kiribati was professed in 1965, Paul Mea the present diocesan bishop. For many years' candidates from Kiribati did their formation in Papua New Guinea. Kiribati then became part of the Pro-Province of PNG when it was established in February 1972.

With the foundation of the Pacific Regional

Seminary in Fiji in 1972 it became possible for religious candidates to undertake their ecclesiastical formation closer to home. Since the MSC Formation House was established on the campus of the Pacific Regional Seminary in 1981, most of the MSC from Kiribati were undertaking their seminary studies in Fiji. However, they continued to make their novitiate in PNG (and sometimes some of their seminary studies) until the early 1990s when the novitiate was transferred to Kiribati.

In 1988 the region was separated from the Pro-Province of Papua New Guinea and on the 10th of May 1988 the MSC Pacific Union was erected.

This was also the day when the Union celebrated the centenary of the first arrival of the three French confreres in Kiribati. The first superior of the Union was the late Father Joseph Hegglin. The MSC presence in Fiji also began to expand, undertaking work among the underprivileged youth and alcoholics, as well as in parishes.

The opening up of the Union to a wider presence in the Pacific became more evident when in

1997 the then superior, Father Stephen Dives, transferred the headquarters of the Union from Kiribati to Suva, Fiji.

Before and during 1988 candidates for brotherhood from Kiribati did their novitiate on Abemama, whereas all the others went to Australia, PNG or the Philippines. The novitiate was closed on the 2nd February 1989 in order to upgrade the buildings. In 1990 the novitiate reopened with improved facilities for all candidates from the Pacific. However due to its isolation the novitiate was moved to Wainadoi just outside Suva, Fiji. The new novitiate was opened on the 8th December 1997 with Fr John Ribat (now Cardinal) with 13 novices.





On the 17th October 1998 the new formation house up in Wailoku, Suva was blessed and opened for the students and formators. Today candidates come not only from the traditional source of Kiribati, but also from Samoa, Fiji, Chuuk, and Wallis and Futuna.

Since the General Conference of 2014 in Guatemala the General Administration had journeyed with the Pacific Union offering support and guidance and on the 10th of May, 2021 the Province of the Pacific Islands was canonically erected.

At present there are 49 local members of the Province – 1 bishop, 24 priests, 7 Brothers and 17 students. Members from other provinces also help in the direction of the Province and its ministries: from Indonesia, Korea, Australia, Philippines, and the U.S. The membership of the Province is still generally young and the ministries and works of the PPI are geographically scattered over the Pacific.

The Province consists of two Districts. The Northern District consisting of the island nations of Chuuk, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Nauru. The Southern District consists of the Fiji Islands, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga.

We take this opportunity to thank the past and present General Administrations for their support and guidance through the years that we were a Union. We also thank the Australian Province and the Papua

New Guinea Province who both played a major role in our growth towards becoming a Province. We also extend our sincere gratitude to all the entities of the Congregation who have generously provided us with finance and personnel over the years since the beginning.

As we begin this new chapter as a Province we are reminded that the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart was born in the midst of the uncertainties and calamity of the French Revolution. In a similar way our Province is erected in a time of great suffering and misery because of the pandemic affecting countries all over the world. As a Province we want to be a sign of hope and love to everyone as we stand in prayer and solidarity with all those suffering from this deadly disease.

As members of a new Province, we will fix our eyes on Jesus and together contemplate his compassionate heart. It is in the compassionate heart of Christ, we can find true healing, peace and comfort at this challenging time.

May God bless and protect us all from this pandemic. May our Mother Mary, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart continue to intercede for us and protect our humble Province.

| Gerald Warbrooke, MSC
(Province of Pacific Islands)

LATEST NEWS



On Thursday, April 8, in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Assumption, Arroyo Barril, Samaná, in Dominican Republic, Jesús de León Mercedes (Noelito), was ordained transitional Deacon by the imposition of hands of Bishop Héctor Rafael Rodríguez, MSC, Bishop of the Diocese of La Vega.

The Province of Rio de Janeiro had three confreres ordained deacons recently: on 24 April Roney Lima Santos MSC was ordained deacon. The celebration took place in the Parish of Santa Terezinha, Vila Velha-ES (Brazil) and was presided over by the Archbishop of Vitoria, Dom Dario Campos, OFM. Another MSC religious of the Rio de Janeiro Province, Washington Pablo de Oliveira Moura, was ordained deacon on May 1. He was ordained by Bishop Gilson Andrade da Silva, bishop of the Diocese of Nova Iguaçu-RJ (Brazil). Patrick Poli da Silva Santos was also ordained deacon on 8 May in Cristo Rei Parish, Itumbiara-Go (Brazil) at the hands of Bishop Fernando Brochini.



Patrick P. S. Santos, MSC



Washington Pablo, MSC



Roney Lima, MSC

Bernardus Teguh Raharjo MSC, was ordained as priest on May, 8th by Ignatius Suharyo, Cardinal of Indonesia & archbishop of the capital Jakarta.



The priestly ordination of our confrere, Isaac Maurice Kaja Lenga, was held in Congo Kinshasa on Saturday 17TH May 2021 in the parish of Saint John Paul II of Limete at the hands of Crispin KIMBENI, auxiliary bishop of Kinshasa. Fr. Isaac chose as his motto the extract from the letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 3 verse 20: "Glory to him who does everything beyond our imagination".



In recent months three provinces have had elections of provincial superiors: The Province of the Dominican Republic has elected Father Juan Tomas, MSC; the province of Central America and Mexico has elected Fr. Raul Ruiz Mena, MSC; and the Province of the United States re-elected Fr Richard Kennedy. Best wishes to these provinces and their superiors that we continue to revitalize our mission everywhere!



Juan Tomas, MSC
(Province of Dominican Republic)



Raul Ruiz Mena, MSC
(Province of Central America & Mexico)



Richard Kennedy, MSC
(Province of USA)



Since the structures are at the service of the MISSION, two MSC regions: South Africa and Venezuela, after a discernment process, have transformed their status as entities and now, for the sake of the MISSION, have become the MSC Section of South Africa and the Missionary Community of Venezuela, which remains part of the Province of Ireland. The WHOLE Congregation accompanies them with prayers. Thanks for their witness and courage to be open to the new challenges of the MISSION.





We affectionately affirm these brothers of ours mentioned below. We hope that their commitment will be without reserve to make the Heart of Jesus loved everywhere.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>
April.2021	Isaac Maurice Kaja Lenga	UAF	PRIESTHOOD
April.2021	Johnny Arnold	PACIFIC UNION	DIACONATE
April.2021	Sosefo Leleivai	PACIFIC UNION	DIACONATE
May.2021	Martinus Rikiwi Setiaji	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Bonaventura Farneubun	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Paulus Edi Nugroho	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Firalen Vianney Ngantung	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Antonius Obe Haryon	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Robertus Tala Roga	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Christian Reza	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
May.2021	Gerwin Lumanglas	PHILIPPINES	FINAL VOWS
May.2021	Giacomo Gelardi	IRELAND	FINAL VOWS
May.2021	Marbi John Aswin	INDIA UNION	FINAL VOWS
May.2021	Joseph Charles Chervier	INDIA UNION	FINAL VOWS
May.2021	Ezéchiel Arsène Couly Ndione	UAF	PRIESTHOOD
May.2021	Pêgdwendé R.Evariste Kyelem	UAF	PRIESTHOOD
May.2021	Georges Angel Amougou Zang	UAF	PRIESTHOOD
May.2021	Raphaël Aimé Chiegain Djidjou	UAF	PRIESTHOOD
May.2021	Jaime Rosique Mardones	SPAIN	DIACONATE
June.2021	Felix II Bermudez (Rein)	PHILIPPINES	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	Lloyd (Hembrador) Mendoza	PHILIPPINES	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	John Chester Pleños	PHILIPPINES	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	Jr (Flores)	PHILIPPINES	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	Tinh Dao Anh NGUYEN	AUSTRALIA	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	Quy Thien BUI	AUSTRALIA	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	Tien Minh NGUYEN	AUSTRALIA	FINAL VOWS
June.2021	Thanh Vu NGUYEN	AUSTRALIA	FINAL VOWS

