

SMbulletin

Friday, 25 September 2020

The death of Sosaia Vaka



With sadness we have received the news of the passing away of Sosaia Vaka on 12 September. Sosaia grew up in a Marist Parish in Tonga and from when he was a teenager, he served the mass, and later he became a sacristan and a catechist. He brought communion to the sick and willingly visited and helped the poor families in his parish. He was a member of the Marist Laity, and went to our Marist college in Tonga. In 2018 he joined the Marist formation program in Suva. Sosaia was loved among the other students and had a great devotion to Our Lady and to the Divine Mercy. He would have started his novitiate at the end of this year. Unfortunately, in August he was diagnosed with cancerous metastases which spread very fast into his lungs. On the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary, at CWM hospital in Suva, accompanied by his confreres, he was called to his eternal home.

A New Parish in Mexico

Last week the province of Mexico received the responsibility of the pastoral care of a new parish, *San Pedro Apóstol*, in the northern peripheries of Mexico City. The parish serves four large neighborhoods, in a very marginalized area, where people live who came from the country side to Mexico City in the hope to find a job. During a celebration the bishop of Azcapotzalco, Mgr. Adolfo Miguel Castaño, handed the responsibility of the parish to a team of four confreres.



This new ministry is part of a series of changes and internal reconfiguration of the province, with the aim of building more missionary based communities. Confreres of this new community will also continue the care of the youth ministry at the Centro Politécnico de proyección (CPP).

Closure of the Jean-Claude Colin Museum in St Bonnet-le-Troncy



On 15 September, Frs Jan Hulshof and Ray Chapman were present at the closure of the museum dedicated to Jean-Claude Colin in St Bonnet-le-Troncy, where Colin lived when he was a boy. Many of those who have visited the Marist places of origin, would know the site well, and will remember Mr. François Chaume, who for the past fourteen years has overseen the work of the museum and made himself available as a guide. They will remember his inspiring talks and his devotion and dedication to Colin. As he can no longer continue his ministry, and the local town wants to use the place for other purposes, the museum was closed. The parish priest will have a display dedicated to the memory of Jean-Claude Colin installed in the local church.