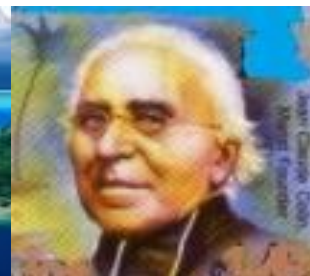




## OMP Bulletin



n° 23 23 Dec 2018

**ONE HEART AND  
ONE MIND FOR  
LIFE AND MISSION**

## A VERY MERRY MARY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED 2019

### ADMINISTRATION NEWS



We welcome **Fr. Justin Ratsi sm**, the fourth member of the Council after completing the projects in Hohola, PNG.

### PROVINCIAL

He is away from office for Christmas.  
Expected back on 28th Dec.

### VICAR PROVINCIAL

He is also away from office for the Christmas period.  
Expected back on 3rd Jan 2019.

### SICK CONFRERES

Please continue to pray for our sick confreres:

Fr Milio Vakasirovoka sm  
Br George van der Zant sm  
Fr John Crispin sm  
Fr Epoki Manu sm  
+Bob Leamy sm

**"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth..."**

### CHRISTMAS THE FEAST OF GIVING



This special Christmas bulletin is to wish every confrere and friends in the Province and beyond, a very special Mary Christmas.

*"...if therefore they are and desire to be true sons of this dear Mother, let them try constantly to breathe her spirit: a spirit of humility, self-denial, intimate union with God, and the most ardent love of neighbor. So they*

*must think as Mary, judge as Mary, feel and act as Mary in all things, otherwise they will be unworthy and degenerate sons..."* (Constitution 228).

We give because God gave first in the first Christmas, *"God so loved the world that He GAVE his only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life"* (Jn 3:16).



What and how are we to give in this Christmas? A Mary-giving Christmas. What did Mary give Elizabeth in her visitation? Certainly not present, a parcel or a card but the Gift of Herself. Her very presence, the best and the hardest gift of all. Perhaps this is the gift that many people long for at Christmas but do not receive.



In addition to the gifts we give, we must also give of ourselves, our presence, and our time. The special gift that money cannot buy.

Mary gave not according to her convenience but according to the needs of Elizabeth. It was not convenient for Mary to travel that dangerous road from Galilee to the hills of Judah. But when she learnt that Elizabeth was six months pregnant she went quickly. Elizabeth needed a helping hand. She stayed there for 3 months, until the Elizabeth gave birth.

Mary gave Elizabeth what she needed and when she needed it—the perfect gift!  
**MAY OUR PRESENCE AND OUR TIME BRING ENCOURAGEMENT AND INSPIRATION TO THOSE WE GIVE TO DURING THIS CHRISTMAS.**

From all the members of the Provincial community and staff 2019.