

OCEANIA NEWS BULLETIN

One Heart and Mind for life and mission



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The February MYV topics for the Community and lay group is “Nazareth and the Marist Spirituality”, and for the Youth, “Listen to the voice of God in the midst of the world.”

ADMINISTRATION

The Vicar provincial is currently on visitation of the Marist community in Wairiki, Taveuni Island.

The Provincial has been very active in supporting the Tongan community in Suva in their efforts to help Tonga with whatever they can offer.



Our Sick

Fr James Mokela sm
Fr Emiliano Lasaqa sm
Fr ‘Ofa Vaihu sm

TWO WEEKS AFTER THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION AND TSUNAMI IN TONGA



After two weeks since that fateful 15th of January’s unprecedented volcanic eruption and tsunami, there is an overall sense of relief among the people of Tonga in spite of the devastations caused. Despite the international communication’s intermittent and minimal connection, report from the Sector leader, Fr Ekuasi Manu, has come through. In his words, “how Tonga survived the catastrophe remains vague! Anyway, we’re still breathing and kicking!” ‘Apifo’ou college is at the sea-front and the main wharf and marine base acted as a buffer to lessen

the impacts of the tsunami. There was minimal damage except for the huge task of cleaning up especially the thick layers of volcanic ash that covered the whole school and indeed the whole island. Likewise for the Kauvai parish where our other community is. For the rest of Tonga, the recovery and rebuilding will be a difficult process. The pouring in of humanitarian aids



from developed countries like Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan, the World Bank and Tonga’s neighbors like Fiji and Tahiti, and many aid agencies will help ease the process. Perhaps the emerging need for trauma counseling is a most urgent one at this time and into the future.



A day ago a ship left Fiji on her way to Tonga with 11 forty-foot containers of assorted food, water, and emergency gear and resources. Three of those containers were packed by the Tongan community in Suva after raising funds. The provincial and the Tongan Marists provided leadership roles in this aid project for Tonga.

