

Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250

The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

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Culture of Care — a Pathway to Peace

Pope Francis released his World Day of Peace annual statement on the 1st of January with the title: "Culture of Care – a Pathway to Peace". This statement invites our world to create a culture of care and a spirit of fraternity versus the way of nationalism, conflict and individualism.

Pope Francis highlighted four foundational Catholic Social Teaching principles to promote a culture of care namely: care for the dignity of the person; care of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged; care of the common good and the care of creation.

The mission of the Marist Mission Centre is founded on the Gospel and the Catholic Social Teaching principles.

The project at Nkoloman, Yaounde, Cameroun, Africa, is a wonderful example of a project that fosters the care of creation and promotes the dignity of young people. These young people are at risk of leaving Africa as 'boat people' in search of a better future in Europe.

The project at Balay Pasilungan in the Philippines is for 'street boys' who are homeless. The Nazareth Prayer Centre in Suva, Fiji offers spiritual nourishment for the community in these challenging times. The 'good news' is that all the programs supported by MMC have been able to continue during Covid-19 and where necessary have adjusted to on-line learning and social distancing guidelines.

Due to popular demand, Fr. Paul Glynn sm, a former Marist missionary in Japan, has had two of his best-selling books reprinted. They are 'A Song for Nagasaki' and 'The Smile of a Ragpicker'.

They are stories of faith. One a man's story of conversion in response to the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and the other a woman's story of care for Tokyo's most destitute 'dustbin sifters'. See back page for more information.

With my thanks and gratitude for your generous support during these challenging times.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



Pope Francis



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



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www.maristmissions.com

CARE OF THE POOR

Bangladesh, Dakar: Anondo Neer

— AMCOA Project —

The 'House of Joy' conducted by the SMSM Sisters is a place of welcome and healing offering education and support for children with intellectual, physical and social impairment and for their families. The mothers of these children are often blamed and shamed for the child's disability and then abandoned by the father's family.



Right: A 9 year old girl with profound intellectual and physical disabilities. Her mother, married at 13, mother at 14 to her profoundly disabled daughter and later to her son, shows the suffering and courage of so many of the poor. Her mother came to the 'House of Joy' to move away from her violent husband.

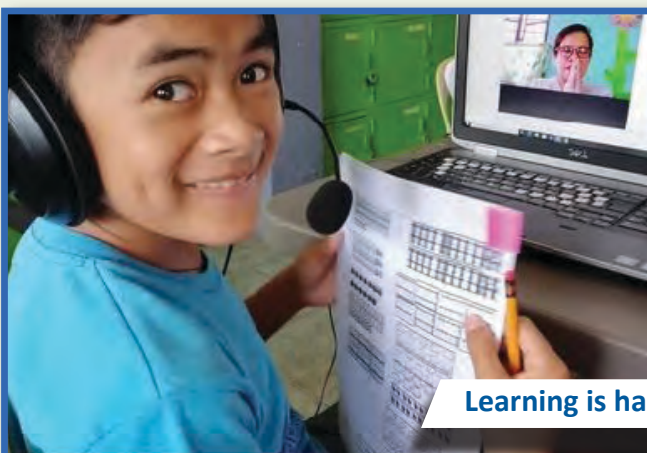


Above: A 16 year old girl with Down's syndrome, intellectual impairment and quite severe visual problems. She has learnt the alphabet and is very happy and proud of her skills in making paper bags, which are an income earning source for the centre.

ONLINE LEARNING

— AMCOA Project —

Philippines : Balay Pasilungan



Learning is happiness

The Marist Fathers provide a safe and caring place for boys who are homeless and at risk of being caught in the cycle of poverty, exploitation and abuse. Education is the key to a future of hope for these young boys. Learning during lockdown has enabled the Centre to develop the computer and on-line skills of all the boys.

CARE OF CREATION

— MFIM Project —

Africa, Cameroun: Yaounde, Nkoloman

In response to the call of Pope Francis to foster ecological development, the Marist Fathers in Yaounde have started a most unique project in a dry rural district known for its lack of opportunities for young people. Fr Luigi Savoldelli SM from Italy, is the founder and director of this project.

Trees and crops are planted, nurseries built, pigs and chooks are cared for, water wells, solar pumps, composting systems have been installed, produce is sold at nearby markets and young people are educated. They sell their produce at local markets to create a sustainable livelihood for the community.



Left: Twenty young people have graduated with a 'Certificate of Professional Competence'. These young people who all come from poor villages will now return to their home communities to set up a community based Agri-Poultry project.



A Future with Hope



Fr Luigi sm and student

FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

CARE OF OUR SPIRIT

Fiji, Suva: Nazareth Prayer Centre

— MFIM Project —

The prayer centre is an oasis for the people of Suva and this is especially so during the time of Covid-19. After the initial shock of lockdown in the first part of the year, there was an increasing demand for retreats and days of reflection. People from all parts of the community were seeking spiritual nourishment, including families, lectors and Eucharistic ministers, lay people, priests and religious. The ministry of meditation in schools also continued during 2020.



A time for prayer during Covid-19

Fr Paul Glynn's Books



'The Smile of a Ragpicker' is about Satoko, a modern Japanese woman from a wealthy aristocratic family who abandoned everything to live and work with Tokyo's destitute 'dustbin sifters'. She died in poverty aged only 29. The pathway for her canonisation has been initiated.

'A Song for Nagasaki' is about Takashi Nagai, MD pioneer professor of radiology, who died of atomic disease following the bombing of Nagasaki. This is a deeply moving story of Takashi Nagai's spiritual pilgrimage from his native Shintoism to a lively Christian faith. The book has sold over 100,000 copies in 17 languages.

These books are for sale at \$15.00 plus postage and are available from the Marist Mission Centre. All profits from the sale of the books go to support the poor and destitute.

Contact MMC at admin@maristmissions.com for more information.



Gifts in Your Will
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