

SMbulletin

Friday, 2 May 2025

NEWS FROM ROME

Since Pope Francis' death the world is living through very special times and in Rome there is an extraordinary atmosphere. The *Eternal City* is crowded with pilgrims from all over the world, increasing its usual chaos, but, at the same time it is very encouraging to see such a vibrant image of the universal Church.

The Superior General and other members of the General House Community, along with some deacons of Casa di Maria, concelebrated at the impressive funeral Mass for Pope Francis at St Peter's Square on Saturday. For those who wish to read again the widely praised homily of Card. Re, you can find it [here](#) in many languages.

Card. Soane Mafi from Tonga arrived in Rome last week and before going to *Casa Santa Marta* for the Conclave he is staying at the General House. Also Archbishop Peter Loy Chong from Suva came to Rome for the Pope's funeral and stayed at Monteverde.

During the Easter Octave, the students of Casa di Maria held their annual retreat in Formia, South of Rome. Fr John Larsen guided the retreat with a reflection on the theme of the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", based on the Emmaus experience. The retreat was very much affected by the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday and it made the call of being pilgrims of hope even more significant.



FEAST OF ST PETER CHANEL

On Monday, along with so many Marists around the world, the feast of Saint Peter Chanel was celebrated at the General House with the community members, staff, members of the Marist Family Leadership teams in Rome, the Formators and Student of Casa di Maria and other friends. The solemn eucharist was celebrated with Saint Peter Chanel's chalice, and a festive meal was shared with all guests.



ARCHBISHOP SUSITINO SIONEPOE INSTALLED

On Saturday 12 April, Bp Susitino Sionepoe, who comes from Wallis and Futuna, was officially installed as the new Archbishop of Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Archbp Susitino is the first Pacific Islander to



Archbp Michel Calvet and Susitino Sionepoe

take up this role and became the 10th successor of Bishop Guillaume Douarre sm, the first Vicar Apostolic of New Caledonia. The inaugural Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Noumea where the Papal Nuncio, Mgr. Gabor Pinter, eleven Bishops from the region and thousands of the faithful gathered. In his homily, the new Archbishop appealed to all Catholics in New Caledonia, a country that has seen destructive riots and burning last year to be "artisans of peace". Abp. Susitino succeeded Abp. Calvet sm who has held the position for more than forty three years and he is now retiring.