

SMbulletin

Friday, 12 April 2024

START OF THE INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE

On Holy Monday, 25 March, the International Novitiate, 2024 - 2025 officially began with a solemn celebration at Cerdon, Eden, Philippines. During the celebration, each of the novices was invited personally to start his journey in the novitiate, with Christ and in the Way of Mary. The Mass was followed by a festive meal. The next day the novices started a silent retreat to reflect on what Fr Colin desired for the Marists: being men of prayer, men of learning and men with a sense of the Church. The retreat concluded with the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. The novitiate community is composed of 15 members coming from 11 countries: 11 novices, one Marist Brother discerning a priestly vocation, and 3 formators.



A BUGEY EASTER EXPERIENCE IN WAINIMALA, FIJI



This past Easter Triduum, Fr Samu Tukidia (Fiji), together with five Marist seminarians, went up into the isolated highlands of Viti Levu to spend Easter with the people of Wainimala. It was a Bugey experience of reaching out to one of the most neglected areas of Fiji. In walking up these mountains, the group was following in the footsteps of our early Marist missionaries, especially Fr Jean De Mazan sm who in 1904

brought the faith into these mountains. Fr Jean de Mazan's name is still remembered by the people and the fruits of his work, together with the many others who served there, were very noticeable in the lively faith of the Wainimala people. Apart from the Masses, the Marist College team held Catechesis sessions with children and Vocation sessions with the youths. The faith witness of the Wainimala people was an eye-opener for the Marist College team. With no roads, the children, youths, adults, and even some elders walked for hours and swam across many rivers to get to the Mass station of Nasava where the Easter celebrations were held. A video of the outreach can be seen [here](#).

CONSPIRACY THEORIZING: ANALYSIS AND SCRIPTURAL CRITIQUE

Fr Gerald Arbuckle has published a new book: *Conspiracy Theorizing: Analysis and Scriptural Critique* (London/NY: Routledge). The book explores how individuals with the Christian faith should react to conspiracy theories, their untruths, and their dangers. It states how conspiracy theories satisfy people's needs for certainty, security, and a positive self-image in a world that they feel is disintegrating. Allan Deck, SJ notes: "Arbuckle sheds light on one of the most critical socio-psychological challenges of our time." The book is available through [Amazon Books and Kindle](#).

