

SMBulletin

Friday, 17 January 2025

POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS SUSITINO SIONEPOE S.M. ARCHBISHOP OF NOUMÉA

On 14 January, Pope Francis appointed Mgr Susitino Sionepoe sm, currently Bishop of Wallis and Futuna, as Archbishop of Nouméa in New Caledonia. He will succeed Archbishop Michel Calvet sm, who had been guiding the Archdiocese from 1981.

Bp Susitino, aged 60, was born in Wallis and Futuna, and was ordained to the priesthood in the Society of Mary in 1993. As a young priest he served in Tonga and later in New Caledonia. From 2012 to 2018 he was Vicar Provincial of the Province of Oceania, and during his mandate he was also the Regional Superior of Wallis and Futuna. Pope Francis appointed him Bishop of Wallis and Futuna in 2018; he was ordained bishop by Mgr. Michel Calvet in 2019.



TWO PROGRAMS OF ONGOING FORMATION IN 2025

The Society is offering two programs of ongoing formation in 2025: the Marist Summer Studies Program in Rome and the Marist Mission Workshop in Ranong. Those who are interested in participating in one of these programs, are invited to contact their Major Superior. For more information you can contact Fr Ben McKenna.

MARIST SUMMER STUDIES

The program takes place in Rome, Italy, from 9 July to 1 August, 2025, for professed members of the Society, as well as members of the other branches of the Marist family and lay people who are committed to the Marist project. The main focus will be on individual guided reading and research by each participant, in accord with his or her best interest and ability.

MARIST MISSION WORKSHOP

The workshop takes place in Ranong, Thailand, from 5 to 28 November, 2025. Ideally, participants have had at least 5 years' experience of inter-cultural and/or inter-faith engagement. The goals are to deepen the understanding of mission, to clarify our Marist mission spirituality, to experience life with others of different faiths and cultures. This workshop aims to sustain the commitment, enthusiasm and energy of the participants.

FIRST MARIST PILGRIMS IN ROME FOR THE HOLY YEAR



This week three members of Marist Laity from New Caledonia have been guests at the General House. They have travelled 16,575km from New Caledonia to Rome, and they are the first little group of Marist pilgrims in this Jubilee Year staying at the General House. They explained that planning for this pilgrimage arose from the need, not only to be part of the Universal Church in this Holy Year, but most importantly, to pray for peace in New Caledonia and all over the world. Going through the Holy Doors of the four Basilicas of Saint Peters, Saint John Lateran, Saint Paul Outside the Walls and Saint Mary Major was very emotional for them; one of the pilgrims stated that entering the four doors was the highlight of her life as a Catholic. For the three pilgrims it was also a good opportunity to experience warm Marist hospitality as they met with the Priests and Brothers from different regions of the world who are currently staying at the General House.