

# Congregation of the Sacred Hearts

## United States Province

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*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly .... And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him ..." (Col 3:16-17)*

February 2024

*(Name)*

*(Address)*

*(City State Zip)*

*(Salutation)*

May you have a blessed and holy Lent. May your 40-day Lenten journey be a time of grace for you. Through your Lenten fasting, prayer, and almsgiving may you deepen your connection to God, and your awareness of how much you are loved and cared for by our heavenly Father.

The U.S. Province continues to be blessed with new vocations. We ask for your prayers for these men this Lent and throughout the year. As you discern your Lenten almsgiving, would you please consider a financial gift to help defray the costs of their formation and education?

### The Pre-Novitiate

We currently have six candidates for the Pre-Novitiate in 2024. Mathieu Vaitulukina (Futuna), Iowane Tuiviani (Fij), Patelesio To'oa (Tonga), Atonio Damuni (Fiji), Tu'ifua Halafihi (Tonga), and Mark Makasini (Tonga). This is an "extended" Lenten journey for them. It is a time of prayer, personal growth and some practical pastoral experience as they discern whether or not they are being called to a deeper participation in the life of the Sacred Hearts Community and enter the Novitiate. Our current Pre-Novitiate Program is requesting a budget of **\$50,000** for the year.

### The Novitiate

On Tuesday, January 22, 2024, five men began their novitiate year. Jeremiah Nestor (Nez) Marcelo, Talilotu Ulupano (Tonga), Kasimero Bule (Fiji), John Vitolio (Samoa), and Apisalome Setefano Veitoyaki (Fiji) entered the Novitiate in Hemet, California.

The Novitiate year is a graced time for them to make a personal response to Christ. During this 366-day journey is an opportunity for growth in their relationship with God, themselves, and others. They will continue to discern their vocation to and clarify their motives for entering the Congregation and their readiness for formal commitment to religious life in the Congregation. Please keep them in your prayers. This year's budget for the Novitiate is **\$112,000**.



**Our Mission: To contemplate, live and proclaim God's love in the world.**



**Lomano Fifita**

## Post-Novitiate Formation House - Fiji

In February, the Pacific Regional Seminary began its 2024 academic year. Six men continue their studies for priesthood or for a profession or ministry other than priesthood. The program in preparation for ordination to the priesthood is a seven-year program. We have students from year three to year six. For each candidate, the total expenses are about **\$24,000** per year.



**Sepulona Lutelu**



**Juan Carlos  
Martinez**

### How Can You Help?

We invite you to consider sponsoring one of our six future SS.CC brothers and priests on their formation journey. You, a group of friends, a parish organization, or a parish might consider sponsoring one seminarian for a full year.



**Marc Roque**

Other ways to help include:

- **\$4,000.00** – for the annual tuition per seminarian
- **\$3,200.00** – for the annual food cost per seminarian
- **\$5,750.00** – for a month's rent for the formation house in Suva, Fiji
- **\$1,600.00** – for the formation curriculum (retreats, pastoral, recollections, etc.) for each seminarian.



**Soane Siua**



**Taivite  
Uluilakeba**

**Congratulations to our newly ordained and perpetually professed. Thank you for supporting them.**



**Fr. Saia Fainga'a, ss.cc.**  
**Ordained a Priest**  
**December 16, 2023**



**Br. Lomano Fifita, ss.cc.**  
**Professed Final Vows**  
**January 27, 2024**



**Br. Emmanuelle Del Castillo, ss.cc.**  
**Professed Final Vows**  
**February 10, 2024**

We are thankful that the master of the harvest continues to bless us with laborers for our Sacred Hearts mission and ministry. As many of you know from your own experience, educational costs put a real strain on finances. Once again we humbly ask you to consider helping us with the formation of these men. Please consider it in your prayer and give as you are able. Each gift, of any amount, is gratefully received.

You are remembered in our daily prayers. May you have a blessed and fruitful Lent and joyous Easter,

**Rev. Edward Popish, ss.cc.**  
**Development Director**