



# **Archdiocese of Suva Pastoral Plan 2020-2025**

*'CONNECTING IN JESUS' MISSION'*



## The Archdiocese of Suva Mission Statement

The Archdiocese of Suva serves the people of Fiji through charity, integral human development, care for our common home, and prophetic dialogue; so that Fijian people will experience the reign of God's kingdom.

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Suva

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## My Vision To be Church in the World

### MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Jesus who is God's revelation had a mission, namely the reign of God. In fact, Jesus' mission is God's mission. God's mission gave birth to Church. It is not that the Church has a mission, but rather that God has a mission. "Mission precedes the Church." If God is missionary then the Church must be missionary. The Vatican II's document on the Mission Activity of the Church confirms that "The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission

of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father". The Church has continued God's mission for the last 2000 years.

After four years into my episcopal ministry I discerned that it was time for the Church in the Archdiocese of Suva to renew and strengthen its commitment to God's mission. I identified the following needs that necessitates a synod:

1. To re-define the Church's mission through a diocesan pastoral plan,
2. To promote good leadership in the Church's mission through sound diocesan policies and procedures,
3. To promote God's mission through effective catechesis programs on the sacraments, liturgy, and Church teachings
4. To connect the Church's mission to social, economic, political, environmental and moral issues in Fiji.

Hence, on the Feast of Pentecost 4th June 2018, after consulting the Council of Priests, I issued a decree for the convocation of the Archdiocese of Suva Synod.

#### What do we do in a Synod?

In a synod we come to reflect on our lives, our world and our families not to solve all the problems but rather to reflect on them in light of the Gospel and the Church Teachings in order to discern what is God saying to us. Pope Francis states that God looks through the eyes of those on the periphery, that is the poor, victims of injustice, sinners, women and children, sick, peoples' will disabilities. By looking through the eyes of God we will take in the breath of God. The Pope states that a synodal Church is a one that walks together with the people of God and offers a better reading of the signs of the times and listening to God.

#### The Archdiocese Synod and Pastoral Plan

The synod process began with the formation of the preparatory commission who were tasked to design and organize the synodal process. The consultative commission was established to conduct a survey to gather peoples' needs, aspirations, and opinions regarding the Church. The catechetical commission provided opportunities for faith formation and catechesis. Finally, during the three-day synod sessions, the synod members were given the opportunity to give their opinions on the seven synodal themes. The final synodal document was then presented to me during the Synod Eucharistic celebration. Upon receiving the synod document, I prayed and reflected over it and emended it. After further study and reflection, the synod team has now translated the synod document into a pastoral plan.

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan will be published and form the framework for the all pastoral works in the Archdiocese of Suva. We pray that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit the Archdiocese of Suva will bring about God's reign in Fiji.

+ Archbishop Peter Loy Chong



## INTRODUCTION

This Archdiocese of Suva Pastoral Plan 2020-2025 is last phase of a 2-year Synodal consultative process with various groups within the Archdiocese. This brings together all the elements of pastoral planning and renewal processes into the one place resulting in a set of action plans which provide directions for parishes in their short- and long-term planning.

During the Synodal process, there was prayer, awareness, consultation, formation and synthesis of data, so that the 200 Synod members could formulate propositions. These were given to Archbishop Peter Loy Chong at the Synod Closing Mass for his prayer and discernment. He added one more proposition which he titled 'to be a missionary church in dialogue with the world'. These propositions were crafted into proposals under the following themes.

The themes were:

1. [Missionary Church in Dialogue with the World](#)
2. [Church and Sacramental Life](#)
3. [Church and Society](#)
4. [Church Leadership and Governance](#)
5. [Family and Youth](#)
6. [Education](#)
7. [Ecology](#)

One of the identified outcomes of the Synod was the creation of a pastoral plan that would systematically address these seven themes. Action plans were developed using all the information collected during the Synod. All are interwoven with the vital threads of Jesus' mission, new evangelisation and an awareness of the socio-economic political context in Fiji.

The euphoria of the Synod closing Mass 30th June, 2019 has subsided. The people of Fiji await the implementation of the pastoral plan so that their resources of time, talent and treasure can realize the Archdiocesan vision and mission.

The ASPP will be used as a planning template to help and guide us all, to listen and respond to the leading of the Spirit; to be missionary disciples of Jesus in the present and to let the Spirit guide us into the future.

### The Archdiocese of Suva Pastoral Plan

The Archdiocese of Suva Pastoral Plan is a process of praying, discernment and thinking together about the actions of the Body of Christ in a particular time and context. It requires on our part to work with the Holy Spirit, with each other and creation

## MODEL, KEY TERMINOLOGIES AND VALUES OF THE ASPP FORMAT

The ASPP format follows a table matrix model, which has 6 columns and 6 rows. Before the table, there are explanations to justify why the action plan is necessary and the links to each item in the plan.

### TERMS

Below is an explanation of terms that are be used in this pastoral plan.

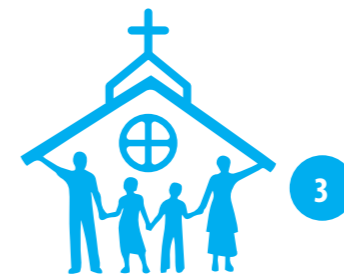
1. ACTION PLAN	An action plan refers to the specific efforts that are made to reach the goals. It describes the exact details and answers the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What will occur and the description of the action steps (TASK)</li> <li>b. Who will carry out these tasks (PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE)</li> <li>c. What resources (such as money and staff) are needed to carry out the proposed actions (RESOURCES)</li> <li>d. What do we expect to happen if the action is completed? It tells the story (OUTCOME)</li> <li>e. When these actions will take place and for how long? (PROPOSED TIMELINE)</li> <li>f. Who will ensure that the tasks are carried out (MONITORS)</li> </ol>
2. DIRECTION	The roadmap since we may unfamiliar places in our attempt to reach at the end of the plan
3. RATIONALE	Provide reasons from data and experiences for the action plan and tasks
4. GROWTH TARGET	The substantial changes that will be evident when the plan is completed in terms of numbers, new programs, quality of life and stages of faith. It is sometimes referred to as impact.



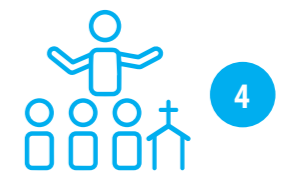
1. Missionary Church in Dialogue with the World



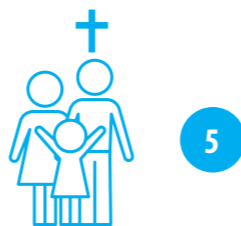
2. Church and Sacramental Life



3. Church and Society



4. Church Leadership and Governance



5. Family and Youth



6. Education



7. Ecology

## VALUES

The ten [10] values that will guide the implementation of the ASPP based on the Catholic Social Teachings.

1. Continuity: The ASPP recognizes the Synod information and builds upon the good that already exists within the Archdiocese while discerning ways to bring about substantial and lasting change.
2. Subsidiarity: The ASPP does not take from the parishes, congregations and associations, the decision-making that rightfully belongs to them.
3. Accompaniment: The ASPP recognizes, respects, and highlights the importance of accompaniment in each person's individual journey of faith.
4. Collaboration: The ASPP believes that we need to work together and discern to do something that is needed, using all of our knowledge, skills and abilities.
5. Evangelical Outreach: The ASPP calls us to bring the Good News of Jesus into every human situation while respecting other faith communities.
6. Unity in Diversity: The ASPP celebrates our cultural and ethnic diversity and build bridges towards unity in Fiji.
7. Creativity: The ASPP creatively responds to the changing demographics and challenges experienced by the Fijian people.
8. Inclusion: The ASPP includes and empowers the youth, women, disabled persons and the marginalised in all our pastoral initiatives.
9. Accountability: The ASPP is faithful to the monitoring and evaluation of plans and projects to ensure committed responsibility.
10. Transparency: The ASPP is guided by informed decisions based upon honesty with facts and knowledge of the Fijian context.



# 1

## ACTION PLAN NUMBER ONE: CREATING A MISSIONARY CHURCH

**Direction** To be a missionary church in dialogue with the world.

### Rationale

- Fiji is a multi-cultural and multi-faith island nation. It is internationally known for the following qualities: hospitality, a place of peace, friendliness, freedom of religion, community spirit, respect for culture and identity, good relations between faiths and ethnic groups.
- In the last 30 years, Fiji has been experiencing rapid social and political change. Our Church leaders were not well trained to pastorally and systematically respond to these changes.
- Most parish prayer programs in the Archdiocese are still focused on popular devotions and pious practices, but has lacked a deeper understanding and reading of the Scriptures and Social Teachings of the church.
- The parishes in the Archdiocese have portrayed an inward-maintenance model of Church. The Church leadership needs to be formed with the skills and knowledge to read the signs of the times that the people in Fiji are experiencing.
- Due to the old understanding of the word 'missionary', the Archdiocese has lacked an evangelical thrust, and therefore need a 'missionary' impulse so that they can look beyond itself and to engage the world, especially with those on the peripheries.

### Growth Target:

By 2025 the Archdiocese of Suva will have a missionary impulse which will result in a renewal of structures that will be more inclusive and open, inspiring pastoral workers to desire to be missionary disciples of Jesus.

📖 This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. Pope Francis 📖



Baptism.  
Eucharist.  
Confirmation.  
Reconciliation.  
Anointing of the sick.  
Marriage.  
Holy orders.

Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1.To continue establish the Small Christian Community (SCC) as the foundational pastoral praxis of the Archdiocese of Suva	Evangelisation Commission COPAS Parish Priest PPC	1.Lumko Resources	Parishes will be made up of vibrant SCCs Church that is prophetic and dialogue with the world.	2020 ongoing	The monthly regional clergy meetings be a forum to evaluate the effectiveness of the SCC.
2. Organize ecumenical and interfaith activities that includes Catholic youths.	AYC, AEC, FCC, PCC, Columban interfaith desk, PPC	Projects, social issues, Inter Religious Dialogue pilgrimages, Vatican docs., Columban intercultural handbook.	Ecumenically and Inter Religious Dialogue minded youth cooperating for the common good in Fiji.		COPAS and APC will be given reports after session for projects.
3. To form and teach the faithful on the application of Catholic Social Teachings to their context.	Evangelisation Commission, Parish Priest, PPC, Caritas,	Catholic Social Teachings	The clergy and faithful are well informed of the Catholic Social Teachings as well as practice it.	2020 ongoing	COPAS and Regional Clergy Meeting will be given report on the progress on the CST application process
4.To network and collaborate with the government, other churches and businesses to continue to promote Fiji's multicultural and multi-faith uniqueness	The Archbishop APC and COPAS Catholic politicians Fiji Council of Churches (FCC) Pacific Council of Churches (PCC)	Fiji Government strategic plan The synodal documents Catholic Social Teachings Evangelii Gaudium	The Fiji economy will continue to grow and receive aid from outside People will be better informed about election in 2022	2021 ongoing	A Talanoa session of all stakeholders will be called to reflect and plan the way forward
5. Provide pastoral leadership and management programs for clergy and lay persons, so that they may be able to read the signs of the time.	Religious congregations in Fiji Institutions of leadership	Leadership programs in Fiji (USP, FNU, Govt, Military, etc.) EAPI (East Asian Pastoral Institute) Leadership and Management Programs	Leadership and management programs organized and sponsored by the AS in partnership with other institutions and organizations Effective and efficient pastoral lay leaders	2021 on-going	Report to COPAS, APC and AFC

# 2

## ACTION PLAN NUMBER TWO: DEEPENING SACRAMENTAL LIFE

**Direction** To develop guidelines and resources for the instruction, preparation and the celebration of the Sacraments.

### Rationale

- Most of the faithful in Fiji still believe that it is through the seven sacraments that we encounter Jesus Christ. Yet there is a need for faith formation programs and updating of religious teachers/instructors and catechists.
- The faithful feel that the changes to the Eucharist and other Sacraments, like inculturation, translations and preparations have caused confusion.
- Many of the faithful, especially liturgy committees, catechists and teachers, desire that norms and resources be available to them so that they may be more effective in the preparation and the celebration of the Sacraments.
- There is a lack of respect for regulations and Sacramental protocols i.e. marriage preparation and the inability of Catholics to explain their faith to others is regretted. Due to the lack of understanding on the teachings and laws regarding marriage, people are leaving the Catholic church.
- The I-Taukei expressed that the Fijian translation of sacramental instructions should be reviewed and updated. This would enable the Catechists to better assist in the preparation of the Sacraments and Catechesis.

### Growth Target:

By 2025 the Archdiocese of Suva will have written norms, books and related resources to strengthen the sacramental life of the church.

Our personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life is nourished in the home, school and parish through prayer and the Sacraments, for it helps in the discernment process so that we might have a sound and upright moral life.

*(Ecclesia in Oceania 2002)*





Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1. Review, adapt and update the present resources kit (books, videos, webpages, e-books booklets) on Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, RCIA preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Archdiocese Pastoral Council,</li> <li>The Parish Priests</li> <li>Parish Pastoral Councils</li> <li>Parish Commissions</li> <li>Corpus Christi RE Teachers</li> </ul>	All resources used in the Archdiocese on Baptism Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, RCIA. Translators	1. Archdiocesan Resource Kit on the Sacrament of Baptism Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, RCIA.	<i>Easter 2020 to 2022</i>	The resource kit is presented to COPAS (Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Suva), APC (Archdiocese Pastoral Council) and regional clergy meeting. Monitored by the Archdiocese of Suva pastoral planning team and the two coordinators
2. Review the RE curriculum and resources used in the teaching of the sacraments in our Catholic schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 10-member team from the following commissions: faith formation, evangelisation, education.</li> <li>All parish priests from the 3 regions. PPC and Parish Liturgy Commissions</li> </ul>	All resources used Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.	Archdiocesan Resource Kit on the seven Sacraments	<i>August 2020 to August 2021</i>	The resource kit is presented to COPAS, APC and regional clergy meeting. Monitored by the AS pastoral planning team and the two coordinators
3. The regional clergy meeting to draw up guidelines for the celebration of the Liturgy in Fiji according to the liturgical norms and context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parish priests from the 3 regions.</li> <li>PPC and Parish Liturgy Commissions</li> </ul>	GIRM The Roman Missal Documents on Inculturated liturgies Ecclesia in Oceania	1. Guidelines for celebration of liturgy	<i>July 2020 to 2021</i>	The guidelines are presented to the regional clergy meetings Monitored by the COPAS and Faith Formation Commission
4. Formation Workshop of the Archdiocese and parish Commission members and Catechists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archbishop and designated facilitators. Archdiocesan and Parish Commissions</li> </ul>	The resource kits Synod documents on sacramental life	1. Reflect on personal faith life 2. to review the resource kits 3. Write a project proposal for publication of books	<i>August 2021</i>	Evaluation process by the pastoral planning team Publication of Books The Chancellor and Financial Administrator tracking the proposal
5. Catechesis program for catechists, parents, guardians on the seven sacraments of the Catholic church given by the Parish Priest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Priest</li> <li>PPC</li> <li>Regional Catechist Leaders</li> <li>Faith Formation Commission members by region</li> </ul>	The resource kits	1. Reflect on sacramental life 2. Study the book	<i>2023 to 2025</i>	Report developed by the liturgy and faith formation commission

# 3

## **ACTION PLAN NUMBER THREE: FORMING EFFECTIVE CLERGY AND LAY LEADERS**

**Direction** To configure the clergy and the laity to Christ the High Priest by providing on-going formation for priests and renewal programs for the lay leadership, so that the governance of the Archdiocese is effective and efficient.

**Rationale**

- There is a need for clergy pastoral leadership and management programs to improve pastoral administration and financial management.
- There is an urgent call for on-going formation programs for clergy so that they might address the challenges and temptations they experience in the different stages and contexts in their priestly life. For example: over consumption of yaqona, lack of preparation for the homily, and a clear understanding of diocesan spirituality.
- The parishioners experience an attitude of authoritarianism and clericalism by their parish priests. Many feel that priests lack knowledge, skills and attitudes to effectively and efficiently lead the parish.
- There is a universal call to train lay leaders for the church so that they might help the clergy with managerial skills to effectively serve and respond to the numerous pastoral challenges.
- The priests and laity feel that they should be up-skilled and be provided on-going formation in communication, pastoral planning, strengthening pastoral structures (e.g. PPC and Commissions) and change management.

**Growth Target:**

By 2025 the Archdiocese of Suva will have established a formation program for priests and laity so that have a competent pool of persons to assist in the governance of the Archdiocese.

On-going formation is an indispensable requirement in the life of every priest and in his exercise of the priestly ministry. In fact, the interior attitude of the priest must be distinguished by an on-going openness to the will of God, following the example of Christ.

*(Ratio Fundamentalis 2016)*



Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1. Adaptation and Implementation of the norms on On-going formation for priests, from the RFIS (no 80 – 88)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COPAS</li> <li>• Vicar for Priests</li> <li>• Regional Clergy Meeting</li> <li>• Diocesan Clergy Executive</li> <li>• PRS Fiji Diocesan Clergy</li> </ul>	The Ratio Universalis 2016 Pastores Dabo Vobis USCCB Basic Plan,	A document on On-going formation on clergy of the AS.	October 2020 ongoing	A report given to regional priests every two months: May, July, October
2. On-going review and update the Catechist Center Formation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COPAS, APC</li> <li>• Navesi Catechist Centre Staff and Leadership Team</li> </ul>	The Catechist Formation Program is revised and printed	A Catechist formation program that is contextually relevant is put in place	May 2020 ongoing	A report is presented by the selected team to COPAS, APC and AFC
3. Identify and train potential priests and lay leaders for pastoral administration and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of On-going formation</li> <li>• Catholic Education</li> <li>• APC and COPAS</li> <li>• Vicar for Priests</li> <li>• PPC</li> </ul>	EAPI and other institutions	A list of 20 lay leaders Who are given training and formation overseas	2 January 2020 2 September 2020 Repeat until 2025	The Curia team is given the names and monitor the process from application to graduation.
4. Review and define the functions of the ecclesial bodies: CURIA, COPAS, AFC, APC and Commissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External review team</li> </ul>	Policies of the Archdiocese, Canon Law 460 – 572 Organizational review and structure literature Communication channels and change literature	Report and recommendations for considerations for ecclesial leadership	May 2020	Quarterly reports from team to be discussed by APC, COPAS and AFC at their meetings in April, August, October and January
5. To strengthen the regional clergy structure to include the monitoring role and forum for pastoral issues and fraternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COPAS and APC</li> <li>• Director of Ongoing Formation</li> <li>• Vicar for Priests</li> <li>• PPC</li> </ul>	Policies of the Archdiocese, Canon Law 460 – 572 Organizational review and structure literature Communication channels and change literature	New knowledge and skills for priests concerning their governance role in the Archdiocese	April 2020 ongoing	Report presented at the Diocesan Workshop and Clergy Convocation

# 4

## **ACTION PLAN NUMBER FOUR: STRENGTHENING OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

**Direction:** To create pastoral ministries that will accompany families so that they become aware of the value of Christian marriage and the family.

### **Rationale**

- The breakdown of the institutions of marriage and family has resulted in the high number of irregular marital situations, divorce, new unions, *de facto* relationships, solo parents and mixed marriages.
- The morality and sexual ethics of Christian Catholic family life are challenged by the lack of understanding of the beauty of Christian marriage.
- The high statistics of domestic violence and sexual abuse point to a deep rupture in the foundation of society, namely the family.
- Many families are affected by the high cost of living, rising poverty, unemployment, housing difficulties, rural neglect, crime, domestic abuse, violence, rape, drug abuse, suicide, child abuse, and teenage pregnancies, abuse of digital technology and non-communicable diseases (NCD).
- In Fiji, the forces of secularism and globalization have introduced a new materialistic and individualistic culture rapidly displacing the communal values and traditions

### **Growth Target:**

By 2025, the Archdiocese of Suva will have family ministries that will accompany regular and irregular families to be agents of evangelisation.

With heartfelt joy and profound consolation, the Church looks to families who faithfully follow the teachings of the Gospel. The Church thanks them for their witness and encourages them to continue. Because of these families, the beauty of an indissoluble, ever-faithful marriage is made credible

(The Final Report of the Synod of Bishops on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World)



Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1. Review the Family Commission (vision, objectives, constitution, programs & challenges)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Commission</li> <li>• Caritas Fiji</li> <li>• Women's League</li> <li>• Marriage Encounter</li> <li>• Couples for Christ</li> </ul>	Family Commission Constitution and Strategic Plans Book - 'Transforming Love' Parenting Weekend, Natural Family Planning	A report on the study with clear recommendations for the commission and develop a strategic plan	February 2021	Report to the APC, AFC, COPAS and regional clergy meetings
2. To continue to do advocacy and education on the Archdiocese social issues, especially family life and domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caritas Fiji</li> <li>• Women at the Well</li> <li>• Family Commissions</li> <li>• Parish Commission on Social and Ecological Justice</li> </ul>	Synodal documents CST Caritas programs under desk for women NGO's who deal with family issues	A booklet that can be translated into Fijian that would raise awareness to the social issues pertaining to the family	November 2019 ongoing	A Report to the Caritas Board of Directors, APC, AFC and COPAS
3. Translate the marriage book "Transforming Love" and the 4 Vatican documents on marriage and family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VOSA,</li> <li>• Translation Team, Regional Clergy</li> <li>• Archdiocese Communication Office</li> </ul>	Extracts from Ecclesia in Oceania Amoris Laetitia Familiaris Consortio The Final Report of the Synod of Bishops on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World	Books in Fijian language on the 4 documents	May 2020 – February 2023	After translation, chapters of the books are sent to parishes for comment and review. Extracts from the translation is published in the Catholic Times
4. 3 days Workshops for all AS Movements, Associations and AYC on Catholic teachings on family life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Commission</li> <li>• Youth Commission</li> <li>• Marriage Tribunal</li> <li>• PPC</li> </ul>	Familiaris Consortio Synod Documents on Youths	Resource Kits on programs for workshops	May 2020 - 2025	Evaluation Form after each workshop developed by Pastoral Planning Team
5. Train marriage and family counselor teams to accompany couples that need assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archdiocese Spiritual Team</li> <li>• Family Commission</li> <li>• Caritas</li> <li>• Marriage Tribunal</li> </ul>	ME materials and Women at the Well Team, Couples for Christ Resources and Retreat for family's literature	Resource Kits on programs for couple's accompaniment team	May 2021 - 2025	Review by APC and COPAS

# 5

## ACTION PLAN NUMBER FIVE: SAFEGUARDING THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY

**Direction:** To sustain a vibrant Catholic school identity and culture so that the recent changes in the educational context of Fiji are addressed in a proactive manner

**Rationale**

- The Catholic Education in Fiji has a distinctive identity and culture that is being challenged by the present Fiji Government policies.
- In the face of these threats the Archdiocese continues to use discernment, networking and inter-faith collaboration in order to protect the distinct character of all Catholic educational institutions.
- There is a rich historical narrative of Catholic education in Fiji which needs to be sustained so that we might remember the dreams and efforts of the missionaries.
- There is an urgent need to initiate a process critical self-reflection, and an organizational review on Catholic education. This process will focus on the ethos, culture, special character, along with strategic planning, and transparent finances system and postgraduate studies for Catholic teachers.
- Every parish community has the responsibility to ensure that the Catholic school identity and culture are maintained and fostered. They must be familiar with church teachings on Catholic Education so that they are able to live it, preach it, and defend it voluntarily.
- Every parish community has the responsibility to ensure that the Catholic school identity and culture are maintained and fostered. They must be familiar with church teachings on Catholic Education so that they are able to live it, preach it, and defend it voluntarily.

**Growth Target:**

By 2025 the Archdiocese of Suva Education Commission that will written programs and policies that sustains a vibrant Catholic school identity.



The complexity of the modern world makes it all the more necessary to increase awareness of the ecclesial identity of the Catholic school. It is from its Catholic identity that the school derives its original characteristics and its “structure” as a genuine instrument of the Church, a place of real and specific pastoral ministry... The ecclesial nature of the Catholic school, therefore, is written in the very heart of its identity as a teaching institution.

(The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium by the Congregation for Catholic Education 1998)

Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1. Establishment of the Catholic Education Commission on Archdiocese and parish level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Director of Catholic Education</li> <li>The Education Committee</li> <li>APC and PPC</li> </ul>	Constitution of Commissions Template from AB Synodal documents Church Documents on Catholic Education e.g. Gravissimum Educationis	Education commission consisting of 1) priest 2) a religious rep 3) education professional 4) a parent 5) a rep from other four commissions	May 2020 - 2021	Quarterly reports to the APC, COPAS and AFC
2. Continue the review of CCTC and other programs for post graduate education and ongoing formation of teachers and managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CCTC Board</li> <li>External Consultant</li> <li>Director of Catholic Education</li> </ul>	Internal review documents e.g. accreditation Church documents USP education department	Report on the future in relation to the Catholic identity	May 2020 - 2021	Report by the external consultant to the education commission which is passed on to APC, COPAS and AFC
3. Organize Catholic Education Week that would include disabled students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principals and Parish priests, PRS, Education Commission CCTC, PTFA and CTAF, PPC</li> </ul>	Models of Catholic Education week from different parts of the world	A program of events for the week with a special theme for a year framed by Catholic identity and culture	May every year	Parish evaluation of the event
4. Develop materials for catechesis in tertiary institutions and establish campus ministry office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education Commission</li> <li>Religious Congregation</li> <li>Catholic Inter-tertiary Students Association</li> <li>PRS &amp; CCTC</li> </ul>	Catholic Universities that have campus ministry office RCIA Resources Adult Catechesis Resources	Catechetical Resources for tertiary students  Workshops and seminars on students on faith formation	2021 ongoing	Report to the APC and COPAS
5. Establish parish pastoral teams to ensure the Catholic identity and culture in the schools within the parish boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education Commission</li> <li>Parish priest</li> <li>COPAS, Religious Congregations</li> <li>PPC</li> </ul>	Synodal documents Vatican Documents	1. Teams that will ensure participation of the parish in the formation of Catholic identity and culture  2. Guidelines that will help the pastoral team	May 2020 and ongoing	Report to the regional clergy meetings and COPAS

# 6

## ACTION PLAN NUMBER SIX: CREATING A VIBRANT YOUTH MINISTRY

**Direction:** To establish a vibrant Archdiocesan and Parish Youth ministry.

**Rationale**

- The young people are the majority of Fiji’s population. The Archdiocese of Suva recognises that youth is God’s gift to the Church and society. Therefore, the parishes must urgently bring them to the center of parish life guided and mentored by priests and community leaders
- Parish priests and pastoral councils must include youth in their discernment process and pastoral planning. Parishes must make youth ministry a priority, so that they can connect to Jesus Christ in freedom and faith
- Youths want to be understood and defend their faith as they are confronted with rapid social changes. They want to critically reflect on the impacts of social media and information technology.
- It is imperative that youths receive teaching in the areas of sexual morality, Christian marriage, suicide, unemployment, substance abuse, and emotional instability.
- The young people know how to be pioneers of intercultural and interreligious encounter and dialogue, in the context of peaceful coexistence.

**Growth Target:**

By 2025 The Archdiocese of Suva will have a vibrant Archdiocesan and Parish Youth Commission.



“I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses. I want the noise to go out. I want the church to go out onto the streets. I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves.”

(World Youth Day, July 25, 2013).





Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1. Creation of a Youth Office with co-ordinators on the regional and parish level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Youth Commission</li> <li>Regional Clergy</li> <li>PPC</li> </ul>	Caritas office model	Nomination and appointment of youth desk person and youth parish coordinators	August 2020	AYC to confirm nomination and appointment
2. Organize ecumenical and interfaith activities for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AYC, Youth Office, AEC, FCC, PCC, Columban interfaith desk.</li> <li>PPC</li> </ul>	Practical ecology projects, social issues, IRD pilgrimages, Vatican docs., Columban intercultural handbook.	5 sessions or projects for young people of different Churches and/or religions each year from 2020.	2020 ongoing	Ecumenically and IRD minded youth cooperating for the common good in Fiji.
3. Organize formation programs, social activities and participation in the World Youth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AYC and Regional Youth Group</li> <li>Regional Clergy</li> <li>CCTC</li> <li>PPC</li> </ul>	Schools Past models World Youth Day activities	Youth who are spiritually formed, socially mature and physically healthy	May each year	Youth Framework Evaluative and monitoring tool
4. To create awareness programs of the negative moral attitudes towards certain groups: LGBT, suicide, mental illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AYC</li> <li>Regional Youth Groups</li> <li>Regional Clergy</li> <li>PRS</li> <li>Ministry of Youth</li> <li>PPC</li> </ul>	Moral Teachings of the Catholic church Government policies International agencies policies e.g. UN, CST	The Catholic youth will practice their faith informed by new positive attitudes towards these groups.	May 2020 and ongoing	Youth Framework Evaluative and monitoring tool
5. To organize Vocation Discernment Retreats for men and women considering religious life and priesthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COPAS</li> <li>Archdiocese Formation and Spirituality Team</li> <li>Formation Directors of Religious Congregation</li> </ul>	<i>Vocational Discernment Retreat from other Dioceses</i>	Men and women will have an opportunity to discern their futures as religious and priests	Advent each year	The COPAS will be briefed on the vocational discernment retreat

# 7

## ACTION PLAN NUMBER SEVEN: CARING FOR OUR SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

**Direction:** To transform Fiji into a socially and ecologically just nation

### Rationale

- The Archdiocese of Suva is called to be a prophetic voice, like Jesus, raising awareness of the present challenges faced by the Fijian people in the area of social injustice.
- It is called to educate and form its members on political, economic, social and cultural issues so that they may stand for justice and lead others to work for the Common Good
- Integral Ecology is about having a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the Global Crisis. We are connected to the environment and it is connected to us. In the *I taukei* understanding when we talk about the “*vanua*,” the land, it is viewed as the extension of our being. As Pope Francis noted in ‘*Laudato Si*’ - “Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live.”
- Climate change and the consequences of development on the environment is a global phenomenon. The Archdiocese needs to address this ecological crisis in a proactive integral systemic manner. To engage and collaborate with other faith communities and civic groups to promote integral ecology as articulated in *Laudato Si* and subsequent Church documents
- The Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is the basis on which to form the faithful on new evangelisation and the social doctrine of the Church to become aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Fiji.

### Archdiocese of Suva Mission Link:

Archdiocese of Suva Mission Link: Caring for our common home, through appropriation the theology of integral ecology (*Laudato Si*) and the Catholic Social Teachings.

### Growth Target:

By 2025, The Archdiocese of Suva will have developed programs and processes that will ensure that Fiji cares for its society and environment

↳ The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.

Laudato Si ↳



Photo by Jailam Rashad on Unsplash

Task	Person(s) Responsible	Resources	Outcomes	Timeline	Performance Indicators
1. To be a prophetic voice for people who victims of social and ecological justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caritas Fiji</li> <li>• Archdiocese Communication Office</li> <li>• APC</li> <li>• PPC</li> <li>• Parish Commission on Social and Ecological Justice</li> </ul>	Catholic Social Teachings	There is intensive Catechesis on the Catholic Social Teachings and people know how to relate, speak and respond to social, economic, political and ecological realities and problems.	<i>2020 on going</i>	A Report to the Caritas Board of Directors, APC, AFC and COPAS
2. To support programs that assist the economically poor in the Archdiocese of Suva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APC, AFC and PPC</li> <li>• Parish Commission on Social and Ecological Justice</li> <li>• St Vincent De Paul Society in parishes</li> </ul>	Extracts on mission to the poor in Evangelii Gaudium and other documents by Pope Francis	Co-ordinated programs on the Archdiocese level. E.g. feeding the poor	<i>2020 on going</i>	Report to APC and AFC
3. Translate Laudato Si and documents from the CST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VOSA, Translation Team,</li> <li>• Caritas</li> <li>• Archdiocese Communication Office</li> </ul>	Laudato Si and commentaries Documents and commentaries for CST	Booklets in Fijian language on the 2 documents	<i>May 2020 – February 2021</i>	After translation, chapters of the booklets are sent to parishes for comment and review. Extracts from the translation is published in the Catholic Times bi- monthly
4. Organize proactive formation and training exercises using CST and Pastoral Circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AYC</li> <li>• Regional Youth Groups</li> <li>• Regional Clergy</li> <li>• PRS</li> <li>• Ministry of Youth</li> <li>• PPC</li> </ul>	Documents and commentaries for CST and Pastoral Circle	With the new knowledge, the parishioners will adapt and apply to the parish structures and programs	<i>2021 ongoing</i>	This is to be evaluated by the regional priests. They will give reports on the progress
5. To network with other organizations that provide services to those affected by urbanization: e.g. housing, education, crime and the neglected elderly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COPAS</li> <li>• Archdiocese Formation and Spirituality Team</li> <li>• Formation Directors of Religious Congregation</li> </ul>	Literature on urbanization in Fiji and the problems caused to communities Resources from Fiji government Ministries and NGO's	A collective awareness of the issues, sharing of resources and a plan to achieve the 'common good'	<i>2020 ongoing</i>	The select committee produces guidelines to parishes on how to respond to the challenges on a parish level. E.g. The out migration from villages' causes distance relationship, dependency attitude and poor planning.

## Special Terms

1. Synodal Documents The documents that were developed and used for the Archdiocese Synod process.
2. Synodal Process The ten steps that were used to frame the Synod.
3. CURIA The Archbishop, Vicar General, Financial Administrator and Chancellor.
4. Archdiocese Pastoral Council (APC) A group of selected people nominated by the Archbishop to assist him making pastoral decisions.
5. Archdiocese Finance Council (AFC) A group of persons nominated by the Archbishop to assist him in financial administration.
6. Archdiocese Council of Priests (COPAS) The council of priests that advise the Archbishop on the governance of the Archdiocese.
7. Commissions – Archdiocese & Parish Groups of people nominated and approved by the Archbishop to focus on particular ministries.
8. Diocesan Clergy Priest who are incardinated to serve the Archdiocese first under the Archbishop.
9. Regional Clergy Meetings for this bodies A monthly priest fraternity group from the 3 regions in Fiji (West, Central Eastern and Northern) that meets every month to receive report from APC and COPAS and in turn prepare a report
10. Diocesan Clergy Executives Five Diocesan priest chosen to coordinate activities for the Diocesan priests.
11. CARITAS A charity arm of the Catholic Church that deals with issues related to disaster, ecology and social issues.
12. VOSA A service that provides translation of church documents.
13. Pastoral Planning Team A team selected to help implement, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the ASPP.
14. Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) A group of selected people who assist the parish priest in making pastoral decisions.
15. Parish Finance Council (PFC) A group of selected people who assist the parish priest in making finance decisions.
16. Marriage Tribunal A body within the church that helps in annulment cases

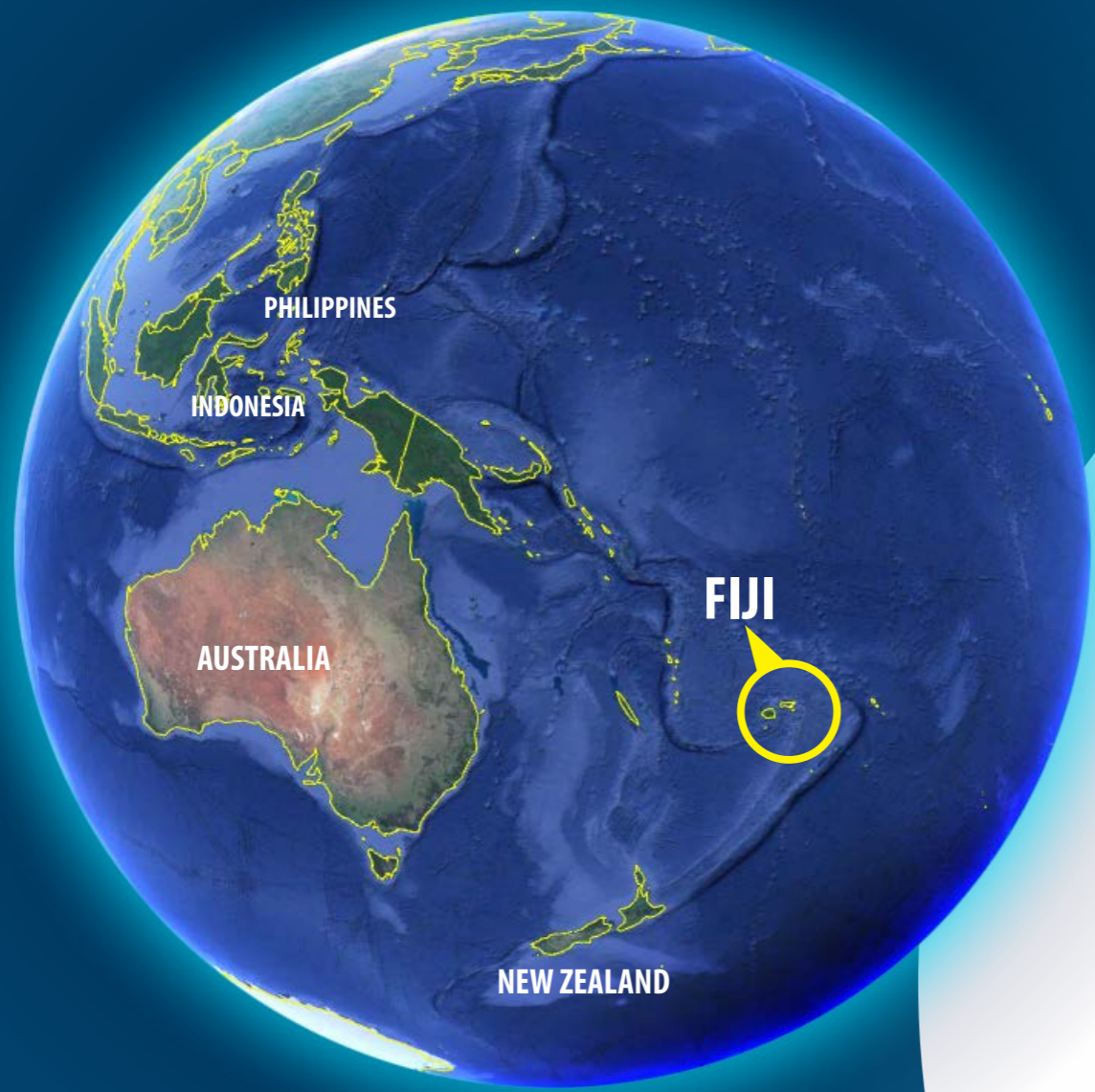
## References

### Vatican Documents

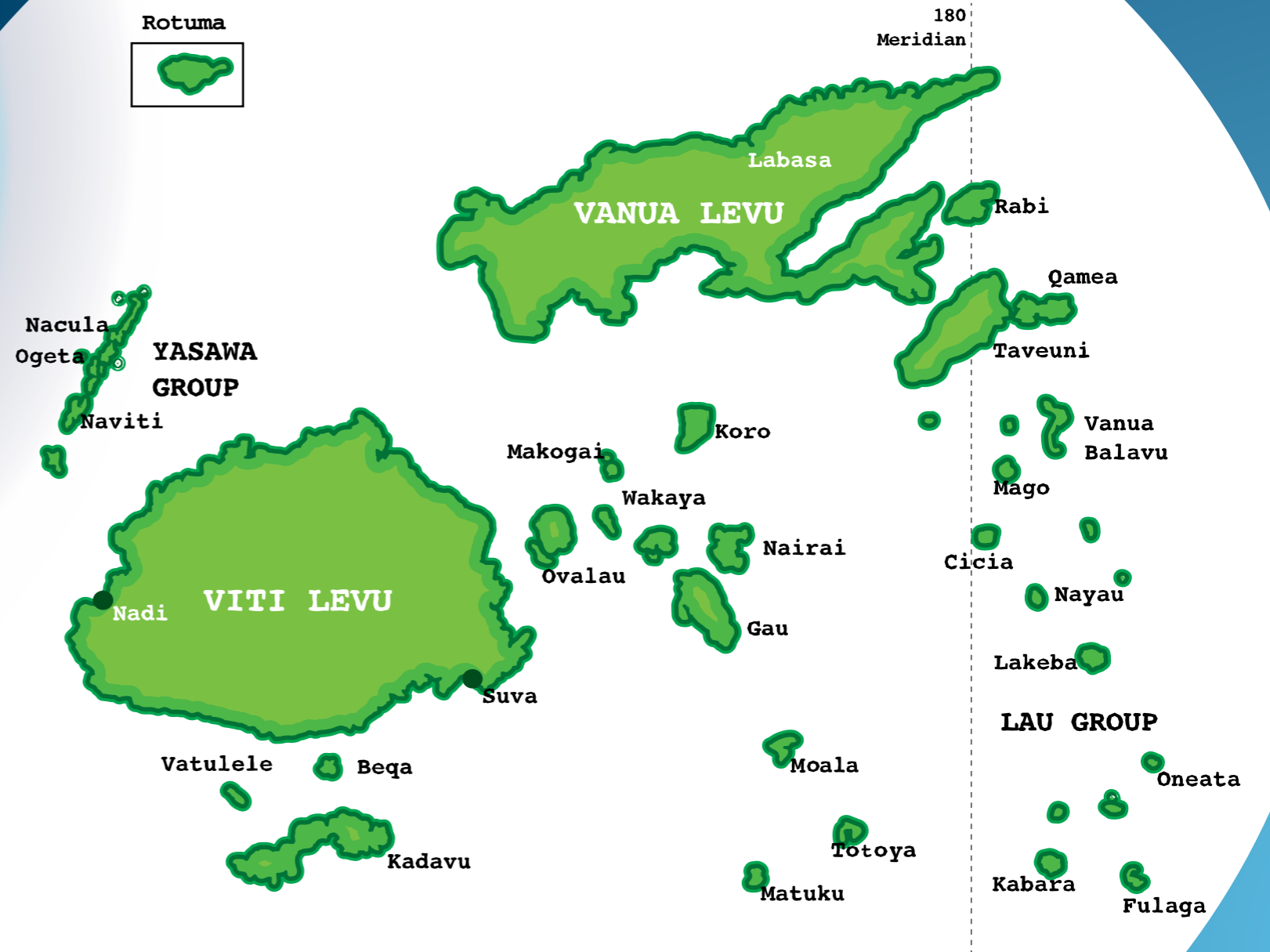
1. CANON LAW A set of rules that guides the functioning of the Catholic Church.
2. CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH A book that outlines the main doctrines of the Catholic Church.
3. ECCLESIA IN OCEANIA A document by FCBCO answering the question what is their understanding of church in Oceania.
4. AMORIS LAETITIA A document on family life.
5. LAUDATO SI Pope Francis document on the protection of our environment.
6. EVANGELII GAUDIUM Pope Francis document on the challenges faced by the church today.
7. RATIO UNIVERSALIS 2016 A new framework for priestly formation.
8. PASTORES DABO VOBIS A papal document on priestly formation.
9. FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO Guidelines on the function, roles and responsibility of Catholic families.
10. CST Catholic social teachings that give Catholics the moral perspective on social, justice issues.

### Institutions

1. CCTC Corpus Christi Teachers College.
2. PRS Pacific Regional Seminary.
3. USP University of the South Pacific
4. EAPI East Asia Pastoral Institute.
5. MEHA Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts



## MAP OF FIJI ISLANDS



## PRAYER FOR SERENITY

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Amen.

*Reinhold Niebuhr*

