



SAMOAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started in a small way by a Samoan Marist Sister, Maria Monica, from Samoa. She was approached by parents in Kingsland Community and in 1970, with the help of the parents, Maria Monica founded the Samoan Sunday School. She started quietly, with a handful of children in Kingsland, then moved to Otara and thirdly

to Mangere East. The idea was favoured by the Samoan Community in Auckland.

After three to four years, some of the Samoan Community wished to start Sunday School in their parishes. The number increased so has the responsibility. Materials were sent from Samoa and distributed to various communities in Auckland. A central office was set up consisting of a Chairperson and three others, plus the coordinator, either a nun or a priest. Mr. Tuilaepa Le'ava'i from Manurewa, was the first chairperson for some time. Then I, Ipo Vaea, succeeded for a few years and was re-elected for two years, until now.

Sunday School tutors are mostly volunteer people in the communities. They run the Sunday School in the community. They elected a chairperson and three others for a two year term to control the running of the Sunday School.

The programmes are translated into Samoan but can still use the English, if one wishes to do so. The other 20 Sunday Schools use the same programmes every week, except school holidays and a few exceptions.

About ten years ago we all came together to celebrate Mass, towards the end of the year. We started in St. Josephs, Grey Lynn and moved first to the Cathedral then to the Town Hall as numbers increased, where we have been since 1983. Last year we couldn't book the Town Hall and had to move to the Logan Campbell Centre which cost over \$2000. I have booked the Town Hall this year on the 23rd September and we invite everyone in the parish to join us.

Towards the end of the year, we test the children on their understanding of the programme and their progress of their faith, then hold a prizegiving, usually together with the community farewell party of the year. A Mass is celebrated, last year by Father Fletcher at Fagaparoa Beach, before the prizegiving, followed by a sumptuous dinner party. Hopefully the same will happen again this year.

Thanks,
Va'alelu Ivo Vaea.

*read
this!

YOUTH NEWS

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

As I am sure we are all aware, this special edition of Tatou Tatou was produced to commemorate our Silver Jubilee. On behalf of St Anthony's Parish Youth Group, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty congratulations to each member of our congregation for their support and participation which has culminated in the warm and caring atmosphere characteristic of St Anthony's, Mangere Bridge.

In the last twenty five years our church has grown, transformed and been renovated to accommodate the ever growing number of parishioners and their ever more diverse cultures. We now have our own distinct identity, proud of its many cultures, worshipping as one family under God.

For the last five years, the Parish Youth Group has existed with the aim of reaching and writing the young people in our church. We have felt it to be an honour and a privilege to have taken an active part in the liturgy of our church. We must also acknowledge the support we have received over the years from the Parish Priest and many other parishioners.

Thanks to this type of encouragement and with God's help we have grown and prospered as a Youth Group. We must stress once again that St Anthony's Parish Youth Group is exactly as its name implies: a Youth Group for all young people within our parish.

At this time I would like to extend a warm invitation to all the youth in our church to come along and join us. Our meetings are held in the church hall every Wednesday from 6.30 pm until 8.30 pm.

May St Anthony's continue to prosper as God's family for another twenty five years.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Jacinta Fidow

