

MAST workshops conducted

- *Bro. Roger Poletti*

For the 6th year in a row, two Marianist brothers have travelled from the United States to work with the people of the Solomon Islands. This year's workshops were lead by Bro. Roger Poletti, who first came to the Solomons in 2006. He was assisted by Bro. John Sandrowicz, who was making his first trip to the islands. The two brothers conducted a total of six workshops in the three dioceses. These included Tanagai, Tauba, Nariekeara, Tarapaina, Buma and Gizo.



The theme for this year's Project MAST (Marianist Apostolic & Spiritual Training) came from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians where he wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The brothers worked to demonstrate to the participants that the work of education is primarily a work of relationship. The work of the Catholic educator must be rooted in a relationship with Christ, the source of our strength. This relationship must then be communicated to the students, regardless of what subject one teaches. Through various classes on Proverbs and Maxims, the Saints, Catholic Education, the Sacraments, and Practical Pedagogy, along with various films, the workshops sought to share with the teachers how this can be accomplished.

During their stay in Buma, the brothers assisted with the Pope Benedict XVI Cup and Youth Rally that occurred simultaneously with the events of World Youth Day. Beginning each day with the celebration of the Eucharist, the participants then spent the day engaged in various athletic competitions. In the evenings, the brothers led the over 2,000 youths in prayer, songs, Eucharistic Adoration, and a variety of talks on how one is to be a witness to their faith.

The brothers are very grateful for the warm reception and enthusiasm they encountered throughout their travels. A special thanks to Bishop Chris Cardone



op, Bishop of Auki for his energy and efforts to help coordinate this year's workshops. Both Bro. Roger and Bro. John look forward to future workshops and a continued alliance

between the Marianist and the people of the Solomon Islands in this evangelizing work of Catholic education.