

**Marist Missionary Sisters Archives**  
Region Administration Office, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary

Finding Aid for  
Indigenous Religious Vocations Collection



Finding Aid prepared by: Lisa Jeanne Fluet, November 2025

**Summary Information**

Creator: Sr. Therese Deveau, S.M.S.M., Sr. Phyllis Doucet, S.M.S.M., Sr. Gloria Fournier, S.M.S.M., Sr. Mary Beatrice Guerin, S.M.S.M., Sr. Carmen St. Pierre, S.M.S.M., Sr. Mary Carmella/Marie Bourque, S.M.S.M., Sr. Mary Cyr/Marie Rose Parent, S.M.S.M., Mother Mary Pia S.M.S.M.

Title: Indigenous Religious Vocations Collection

Identifier: IRV1-AIV(iv)

Inclusive dates: 1963-2011

Bulk dates: 1969-1999

Abstract: Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary; Indigenous formation, congregations, renewals; Daughters of Mary Immaculate; Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Mary; Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth; Solomon Islands; Papua New Guinea; Fiji; Tonga; Samoa; New Hebrides; New Caledonia

Size: 1 box, .43 linear feet

Storage: Onsite storage

Repository: Marist Missionary Sisters Archives  
Region Administration Office, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary  
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Waltham, Massachusetts 02453  
Email: [maristsistersarchives@gmail.com](mailto:maristsistersarchives@gmail.com)

### **Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** Sr. Therese Deveau, S.M.S.M., Sr. Phyllis Doucet, S.M.S.M., Sr. Gloria Fournier, S.M.S.M., Sr. Mary Beatrice Guerin, S.M.S.M., Sr. Carmen St. Pierre, S.M.S.M., Sr. Mary Carmella/Marie Bourque, S.M.S.M., Sr. Mary Cyr/Marie Rose Parent, S.M.S.M., Mother Mary Pia, S.M.S.M.

**Access:** Archival papers are available to registered visitors, readers, and researchers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [maristsistersarchives@gmail.com](mailto:maristsistersarchives@gmail.com), phone (781) 893-0149, or by postal mail to the address listed on page 1.

**Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to registered visitors, readers, and Researchers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.

**Preferred Citation:** Item description, Marist Missionary Sisters Archives: [name of collection], [series # if applicable], [box identifier #], [folder #], Region Administration Office, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, Waltham, Massachusetts.

### **Biography/Historical Note:**

The Indigenous Religious Vocations Collection is organized at box and folder levels, with item-level detail regarding the materials contained in each folder. The collection represents a compilation of materials focused on the presence, work, research, and memoirs of members of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Mary, and the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth. The collection focuses on developing a history, from roughly the mid-twentieth-century to the early twenty-first century, of the formation of indigenous congregations—the D.M.I. and the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth—in South Pacific locations associated with the S.M.S.M.'s missions in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, New Hebrides, and New Caledonia.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The Indigenous Religious Vocations Collection represents a compilation of written manuscripts, memoirs, academic journal contributions, correspondence, journalistic and periodical records devoted to the history of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary's relationship with the formation of two indigenous religious congregations, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth. The inclusive time-span reflected in these records is 1963-2011, with a bulk time-span of 1969-1999, focusing on initial canonical approbation of the congregations and their continued formation and development into the twenty-first century. The collection is organized in 1 boxes and .43 linear feet, with box, folder and item-level detail pertaining to all contents.

### **Processing Notes**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials—provided that this removal did not damage original documents—and folded items were flattened. All materials are collected in acid-free folders and unsealed, labeled envelopes, bound folders, manuscript bindings, plastic binders, and archival boxes. Original envelopes of all correspondence were preserved. The finding aid contents list is

organized by box identifier, folder number, and contents, with notes on fragility of materials where needed.

### Further Sources

- John Barker, "Missionaries in the Melanesian World." *The Melanesian World*. Routledge, 2019. 77-91.
- Stephen J. Brown, "The Faith in the South Seas." *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review*, vol. 24, no. 94, 1935, pp. 301-12.
- Charles Girard, *Letters from the Marist Missionaries in Oceania 1836-1854*. ATF Press, 2016.
- Margaret Jolly, "Devils, Holy Spirits, and the Swollen God: Translation, Conversion and Colonial Power in the Marist Mission, Vanuatu, 1887-1934," in *Conversion to Modernities: The Globalization of Christianity*, edited by Peter van der Veer. New York: Routledge, 1996.
- Charlotte M. Kelly, "The Catholic Church in Fiji 1844-1944." *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review*, vol. 34, no. 135, 1945, pp. 361-68.
- Hugh Laracy, "Maine, Massachusetts, and the Marists: American Catholic Missionaries in the South Pacific," *The Catholic Historical Review* 85.4 (1999): 566-590.
- Hugh Laracy, *Marists and Melanesians: A History of Catholic missions in the Solomon Islands* Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1976.
- Lawrence McCane, *Melanesian Stories: Marist Brothers in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea 1845-2003*. Lawrence McCane, 2004.

### Contents List

Box	File/ Folder	Contents
IRV1-AIV(iv)	1	Envelope: Brother Leo Cleary, F.S.C., "Independence, Creativity and Responsibility in Papua New Guinea" <i>Our Apostolate</i> (August 1973): 167-176. [off-print]
IRV1-AIV(iv)	2	Envelope: Daughters of Mary Immaculate Congregation, Solomon Islands: Project Proposal, Financial Assistance towards General Chapter of Election, 1991 [typed proposal] Correspondence (email): <a href="mailto:smsmrove@solomon.com.sb">smsmrove@solomon.com.sb</a> to Sr. Therese Deveau <a href="mailto:theresedsmsm@yahoo.com">theresedsmsm@yahoo.com</a> , regarding Daughters of Mary Immaculate, 60 years since canonical approbation of the congregation; 29 September 2006. Pamphlet: "Sisters of the Solomons: Foundation and Development of the Congregation of Daughters of Mary Immaculate of Visale." 1979. 28 pages. 2 copies. Photographs: Srs. Laurensia and Odilia, 1997 and 2004, West Virginia.
IRV1-AIV(iv)	3	Envelope: Photographs: DMI Sisters celebrating Final Vows and Jubilees, December 8, 2011. Articles (photocopies): "Happiness is a DMI Sister" <i>News Drum</i> (January 20, 1978). Francis M. Prout, "Solomon Island Nun on Pioneer Mission" <i>The Pilot</i> (August 20, 1966). [2 copies] Election of Sr. M. Donasiana, SMI, as first Superior General (additional copy of excerpt from longer "Happiness is a DMI Sister" article).

		<p>“Sister Rita and the Forest Pharmacy” [undated; no author listed]  Therese Cox, “Tiny islands beckon nuns home” <i>Charleston West Virginia Daily</i> (September 11, 1993).  Charlotte Ferrell Smith, “Retreat allows for time with God” <i>Charlotte Daily Mail</i> (July 29, 1998).  “Nun takes vow in custom dress” <i>News Drum</i> (January 20, 1978).  Correspondence:  From Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB (email) to Sr. Therese Deveau SMSM, 31 July 2005, regarding Sr. Maria Aloisia Alathamalefao, DMI: An Appreciation (eulogy: died June 26, 2005; among first members of DMI sisters).  From Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB (email) to Sr. Therese Deveau SMSM, 22 May 2006, regarding Sr. Pauline Gobua, former DMI Superior General (eulogy: died May 2006).</p>
IRV1-AIV(iv)	4	<p>Bound folder:  <i>Melanesian Novitiate SMSM: 1983-1986</i></p>
IRV1-AIV(iv)	5	<p>Bound folder:  <i>Documents left by Mother Mary Pia on Native Sisters</i> (copies)  Correspondence: from Sr. Mary Gerarda, SMSM and Steering Committee, to congregation, regarding introduction of Mother Mary Pia’s paper on Melanesian Vocations, 8 January 1970.  Mother Mary Pia, SMSM “Melanesian Vocation” (1969-1970)  Correspondence [regarding native congregations and various missions]:  From Sr. Mary Edouard, SMSM, 30 August 1969, regarding Futuna  From Sr. Mary Edouard, SMSM, 30 August 1969, regarding Wallis  From Sr. Mary Cyrilla SMSM to Mother Mary Pia, 3 November 1969, regarding South Solomons  From Sr. Mary Pierina, SMSM to Mother Mary Pia [undated], regarding Fiji, Tonga, Samoa  From Sr. Mary Leona, SMSM to Mother Mary Pia, 5 November 1969, regarding Bougainville and Sisters of Nazareth  From Sr. M. Antonia to Mother Mary Pia, 18 Septembre 1969, regarding New Hebrides  From Sr. M. Ligouri to Mother Mary Pia, 28 Octobre 1969, regarding New Caledonia  Timeline [professions]: Samoa 1875-1955; Tonga 1882-1934  Expanded Timelines: Samoa 1863-1907; Tonga 1871-1899</p>
IRV1-AIV(iv)	6	<p>Bound folder:  “In Faith and Trust we journey together to discover God’s will for renewal, according to the signs of the times.” Proceedings: 7<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, Daughters of Mary Immaculate (1946-1999); December 9-29, 1999; Holy Cross, Honiara, Solomon Islands.</p>
IRV1-AIV(iv)	7	<p>Pamphlets/Booklets:  “Way of Life: Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth,” Diocese of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Easter 1976.  “Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth: The Origin of the Sisters of Nazareth” (1997). 2 copies.</p>
IRV1-AIV(iv)	8	<p>Envelope:  Sister Marie Ignace, SMSM “Beginnings of the Little Sisters of Nazareth: North Solomons.” Translated by Sr. M. Gisele, SMSM. Undated.</p>
IRV1-AIV(iv)	9	<p>Envelope:</p>

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		“Diocesan Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth, Fiji.” July 13, 1963. [no author listed]
IRV1-AIV(iv)	10	Bound folder: <i>Indigenous Sisters: Diocesan and Third Order Regular of Mary/Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary</i> (General Information) Table of Contents: General Information; Fiji; New Caledonia; Samoa; Tonga; North Solomons; South Solomons
IRV1-AIV(iv)	11	Excerpts and photographs (photocopies) from <i>Tautai</i> , Samoan Catholic newspaper, October 30, 1995, on Samoan missionaries (some Our Lady of Nazareth members) leaving Samoa for Jamaica.