



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SUVA

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ARCHBISHOP'S NEWSLETTER

20 JULY 2026

Unity • Service • Missionary Hope

INTRODUCTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Archdiocese of Suva,

Peace of Christ be with you.

I take this time to sincerely thank you for your support and prayers for the Archdiocese of Suva and me. I appreciate it very much.

13 June marked the thirteenth year of my episcopal ministry. These are years of learning and discoveries as an archbishop. 2026 is a special year because I have now finally discovered something I have been searching for as a leader. I have found the tool for transforming the Archdiocese of Suva into a healthy organization; thanks to Patrick Lencioni's book "***The Advantage: Why Organizational Health Trumps Everything in Business.***"

I have come to believe in the words of leadership gurus who state that "*a good leader is one who is supported by a strong leadership team.*"

"Leadership is not a solo act—it is built on the strength of the team behind you."

John C. Maxwell's whole philosophy is that leadership success depends on building strong teams around you. Patrick Lencioni also focuses heavily on leadership teams; his book *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* argues that strong leadership teams are critical to organizational success.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SUVA LEADERSHIP TEAM

From the beginning of 2026 I have been working on recruiting and building a strong leadership team in the Archdiocese of Suva (AOS) Curia. I am happy to announce the new Leadership Team of the Archdiocese of Suva Curia:

Vicar General	Rev. Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi
Religious	[Name to be confirmed]
Episcopal Vicar for Central Eastern Vicariate	Fr. Mikaele Tikoisuva
Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Vicariate	Fr. Ioane Manasa
Episcopal Vicar for the Western Region	Fr. Veremo Dovarua

MEET OUR CURIA TEAM

Introducing our recent staff appointments at our Curia office.



Boutuiloma Mawi
Chief Operating Officer

We are delighted to welcome Boutuiloma Mawi back to Fiji as our new Chief Operating Officer. With more than 20 years of experience in finance and governance across Fiji and New Zealand, Boutuiloma brings wisdom, integrity, and a deep commitment to excellence in stewardship. A son of Lakeba with ties to Rewa, he is also a familiar and faithful presence at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Alongside his professional strengths, Boutuiloma is a devoted husband and father of four, and is currently completing his Master's degree. We are grateful for the calm leadership and faithful service he now offers to the Archdiocese.



Sapeta Kunau
Chancellor/Executive Assistant

Sapeta Kunau joins the Archbishop's Office with a wealth of experience gained through more than 30 years in the corporate world. Originally from the beautiful island of Rotuma, Sapeta now brings her gifts to the service of the Church with generosity and grace. A firm believer in lifelong learning, she continues her studies at USP while embracing this new chapter of ministry. Her desire to support His Grace with both efficiency and compassion reflects a spirit of humble service, and we are blessed to welcome her into the Curia family.



Susan Sela (MA)
Director Pastoral

Many in our Archdiocese already know "Susie" Sela and the warmth, wisdom, and commitment she brings to ministry. Since joining us in April as Director Pastoral, she has continued to be a source of encouragement and vision for our Church. Having represented the Pacific at the global Synod in Rome, and even presented to the Holy Father, Susie brings both local insight and a deep sense of the universal Church. Formerly a leader at Pacific TAFE at USP, she now offers her gifts to strengthening parish life and pastoral formation. Originally from Moce Island and based in Lami, Susie is deeply passionate about helping build a vibrant, prayerful, and connected Church community.



John Pickering (PhD)
Director of Catholic Education

It is a joy to welcome back Dr. John Pickering as Director of Catholic Education. A respected theologian, educator, and servant of the Church, Dr. Pickering has long shown a heartfelt commitment to Catholic education and formation. Having previously led both the Education and Communications departments, he returns with a wealth of experience and a deep love for our schools. With a Doctorate in Sacred Theology, he continues to inspire others through his dedication to Catholic Social Teaching and his vision for education in the Pacific. His service will help our teachers and students to grow not only in knowledge, but also in faith, character, and hope.



Lenaitasi Vakatora
Communication Coordinator

Lenaitasi Vakatora joined our team in May as Communications Coordinator, bringing with him a wide range of experience and a sincere desire to serve. A proud “Marist boy,” Lenaitasi has worked across banking, sports, and military settings, and is well known for his strong faith and deep respect for Fijian cultural traditions. In this role, he brings together professionalism, humility, and a genuine commitment to clear and life-giving communication. Whether in parish service or in building bridges across the Archdiocese, Lenaitasi’s work reflects a desire to share the Good News with authenticity and care.



Peter Waqavonovono
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Peter Waqavonovono joins the Archdiocese as Youth Ministry Coordinator with a heart deeply committed to the growth and empowerment of young people. A passionate youth advocate, political activist, and dedicated Catholic leader, Peter has spent much of his life helping young Fijians find their voice, especially those from rural and indigenous communities. Rooted in the traditions of Lakeba, Lau, and Batiki, Lomaiviti, and shaped by Catholic education, Peter brings a strong sense of identity, service, and mission to his work. His background in Political Science and Law, together with his broad experience in public service, leadership, and community engagement, equips him well for this important ministry. We are grateful for the faith, energy, and vision he brings as he accompanies our young people with hope and purpose.

We are grateful for those who have accepted or are considering roles of service within the Curia. Their work is intended not simply as administration, but as a ministry in support of the Church’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel, serving those in need, and building communion among our communities. May their work always be guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in faith, humility, and love, as together we continue the mission of Christ in our local Church.

TOWARDS A HEALTHY ARCHDIOCESE OF SUVA

The AOS Leadership Team held our Leadership Retreat on 8–9 April. Guided by Patrick Lencioni’s organisational resources, we developed the Archdiocese of Suva Playbook, which contains statements on: “why we exist, values, what do we do, how will we succeed, what is important right now, and who must do what.” The AOS Playbook brings together the work of the Archdiocese of Suva.

On 4–5 July, we conducted a workshop for the AOS Commissions to help them develop their respective Playbooks. Now we have the Archdiocese departments and Commissions working in alignment. This means everyone is rowing together in the same direction.

I plan to pass on the Playbook tool to priests and parishes so all our parishes are healthy organisations. I also intend to have a full-time coordinator for all the Archdiocese Commissions. This will ensure that all the Archdiocesan Commissions are working effectively.

SYNODALITY

The Secretariat of Synod from the Vatican has sent instructions on the implementation of the Synod’s Final Document. The Archdiocese of Suva’s Synod Leadership Team is currently planning our implementation process. We will keep you updated on our Synodal Journey.

UPDATED PARISH CONTACTS

To assist us in maintaining accurate and reliable communication, I kindly ask each parish office to submit its updated contact details to the Curia Office. A contact information form is attached with this newsletter. Please fill in the details and return a copy to Sapeta Kunau at executiveassistant@aosfiji.org by close of business on Friday, 31 July 2026.

Maintaining current records will help us communicate important diocesan notices, pastoral resources, meeting invitations, and other information promptly and effectively. The same information is also updated on our website.

A Closing Word

I thank all parish priests, parish staff, volunteers, religious, and members of our communities for your patience and collaboration during this period of development. May we continue to work together in a spirit of unity, service, and missionary hope. Let us entrust this work to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all that we do for the glory of God and the good of His people.