



ESCOLA SECUNDÁRIA CATÓLICA NOSSA SENHORA DE FÁTIMA - RAILACO (NOSSEF) Latest Updates 2022 July-December



To our Friends and Benefactors,

After studying and relishing the 20-year history of NOSSEF last year, we have gradually started to prepare for the next 20 years. We reconfirmed our educational commitment to local children, especially those who have less opportunity for formation in a Catholic secondary school. We also hope that that our education can reach underprivileged families in rural areas. Now the school is at the point of renewing its facilities and buildings. We need God's grace, prayer, discernment in common, greater collaboration, and networking.

Last August, on the Solemnity of the Assumption, Mr Michael Musgrave emailed me that St Canice's has passed the A\$1 million mark in contributions to her sister parish Railaco. This is "a cup of cold water for the little ones" (Mt 10:42), "two small coins of the

poor widow" (Lk 21:2), repeated hundreds of thousands of times, with prayer and hope. With the simple but repeated acts of giving, our countless benefactors have given us signs of great hope that God will never abandon his people in misery but continues to bless them. We thank all of you, our friends and co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

Again, we'd like to recall in gratitude the consistently recurrent support and prayers of our friends and benefactors. Without their concrete assistance and donation, this school could not have kept running since the national independence up until now. We especially give thanks to the community of St Canice Parish, Sydney, Sr Rita Hayes and The Good Samaritan Foundation, the Catholic Regional College of Sydenham, the Peter Trust, Mr Don Jago and his

Rotary Club Camberwell, Mr Kevin Slattery, Mr Michael Cutajar, and Jesuit Mission Australia.

There are two principal pillars of Catholic school education. One is "formation of the human person" of youth as a universal right, and the other is "the initial and permanent formation of teachers" [*Gravissimum educationis*, 1, 9]. In order to provide Catholic secondary education to local youth in Railaco and surrounding areas, formation of our teachers is crucial.

So far, our school has 21 teachers. Among them, 5 including myself are religious, 3 have contracts with the government (salaries are paid by the government), and all the others are part-time teachers paid by the school. We are in the process of finding a more sustainable system to support our part-time teachers. However, professional compliance and stable salary are not sufficient to solve all the problems. Teachers need vocation. "The work of a lay educator has an undeniably professional aspect; but it cannot be reduced to professionalism alone. Professionalism is marked by, and raised to, a super-natural Christian

vocation" [*Lay Catholics in Schools: Witness to Faith*, 37]. Vocation requires God's grace, our prayer, and on-going formation. In addition to this, there is a lot of other work in progress.

Mr Michael Musgrave said, "Railaco is not just about asking for money for fundraising. Railaco is a reality." I thank God that somewhere in the corner of this world some (or all) of you have seen this reality with the eyes of mercy and hope. Reality is sometimes sad and discouraging, but your eyes have been making a difference to this reality by concrete action. Responding to your generosity, we hope to form and educate more young people to be men and women for others. Again, we thank all of you and thank God through you.

We wish you a blessed new year. May God bless you. Please pray for us.



Fr Hyoe Murayama SJ

Director of NOSSEF school (2021~)





Campus Life and Activities

July

July 31 was the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits' congregation, and from 2021 to 2022 the Jesuits and collaborators celebrated the Ignatian Year, commemorating the conversion experience of Ignatius 500 years ago. NOSSEF organized an Ignatian Week from July 18 to 23 at the initiative of Fr Herculano SJ, campus minister of NOSSEF. We watched a movie on St Ignatius, celebrated a commemorative Mass, and had a lecture on the conversion of Ignatius. On July 29, ten students and ten teachers participated in the closing events of the Ignatian Year at the Dili Cathedral, organized by the Society of Jesus Timor-Leste Region (lectures, symposium, and exhibits). The following day, there was the priestly ordination of two Timorese Jesuits, Marito Monteiro SJ and Calisto Seco Colo SJ at the cathedral. 50 NOSSEF students and several teachers attended the celebration.

As a phase of learning, some teachers organized

outdoor research experience for students on Saturday, July 23. The Social Science track students of the 11th grade went to the Maubara fortress site and the Ai-pelo prison site for their historical research. The Natural Science track students of the 12th grade went on a one-day trip in Manatuto for their geological survey, observing the rock formation and mineral resources.

From July 25 to 27, through the mediation of Fr Bong SJ, an Australian dentist named Dr Peter and 3 Timorese dental assistants from Maubara came to offer free dental service at Railaco. Many NOSSEF students received a dental check and treatment.

On July 27, NOSSEF welcomed Sr Rita Hayes SGS and Ms Catherine Creswell, Director of the Good Samaritan Foundation. The Good Samaritan Foundation has offered scholarships for many students for a long time now (63 scholarships for 2022). Again we shared our thanksgiving for NOSSEF's 20th anniversary with them.



August

From August 8 to 13, the students took their 2nd trimester examinations. This year the school did not face any interruption caused by the pandemic. Our students gave their best to filling out their exam sheets. On August 10, Fr David SJ with his 5 companions, and Mr Peter Dodds from St Canice Parish Sydney visited our school. After the exam week, on August 15, Ermera Catholic Secondary School of the Immaculate Conception (IMACON) visited NOSSEF for a friendship sports games. Our students and teachers showed their maximum

hospitality in preparing snacks and coffee for some 70 visitors from our sister school. From 2003 to 2014, when Railaco was not yet a parish, NOSSEF was affiliated to IMACON and was licensed to sign diplomas. "On the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception visited Our Lady of Fátima." From August 16 to 19, some extracurricular activities (trimming a big old tree, volleyball field extension, and repair of an old classroom building) were conducted by our scholarship students and teachers.





September

The 3rd trimester started at NOSSEF on August 31. Regular school life started again. On September 2 and 3, the new Student Council (KOR|ENOSSEF) carried out their Leadership Formation Program in Montserrat, Kasait. In July they had chosen their new members and new president in a presidential campaign, voting, and election. As is our school tradition, they walked 5 km of a steep mountainous adventure road and deepened their friendship and

solidarity in contemplation and action.

On September 7, Ms Kath Rosic, Mr Willy Tan, and Mr Zach of Jesuit Mission Australia visited NOSSEF. The Jesuit Mission provides large amounts of subsidies for our school operation every year. We shared with them our profound gratitude for the 20-year history of NOSSEF. They checked the child-safeguarding protocol of NOSSEF and its dormitories (boarding schools).



September [conitnued] On September 17 (Saturday), NOSSEF held a teachers-parents meeting. The agenda included report card distribution, voting and electing new Parents' Council leaders, granting certificates of appreciation to some former/veteran teachers, and a lunch meeting in each class. The students prepared food for their parents and teachers. In the afternoon, there was a dormitory parents' meeting. It was a long day.

From September 19 to 30, 21 students from Instituto de São João de Brito (ISJB), a Jesuit teacher training college, made their class observations at NOSSEF. On September 23, the Jesuit Regional Superior of Timor-Leste, Fr Joaquim Sarmiento SJ, made his yearly visit to NOSSEF, had a conference with the teachers, and gave a talk to the students. On September 30, our computer science teacher Jeremias was married in Railaco church.

October

On October 7, the Student Council (KORENOSSEF), the Pastoral Team, and the Parents' Council were installed during the First Friday Mass. From October 10 to 12, the first group of our 12th graders made their retreat in Kasait. Fr Herculano SJ, Br Nelson SJ, Br Thá SJ, and Sr Natalina SPC accompanied them. The second group followed the same schedule from November 13 to 15. The rest of the students and all the teachers

prayed the rosary at Railaco church. They divided into three groups (at the grotto in the Railaco Clinic, the grotto in the parish garden, and the main chapel). On October 21, during the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the 12th graders asked for the blessing on their pencils, erasers, and rulers). The National Exam for 12th graders (in 6 subjects) was held from October 24 to 26, followed by the Local/Municipal Exam (in 3 subjects over 2 days).



October 15 (Saturday), there were written admission exams. 202 candidates submitted registration forms, 192 took the exam, and 175 candidates passed the written exams.



November

After almost 2 weeks of holidays (for the National Exam and national holidays), NOSSEF started the final part of the 3rd trimester, but only 10 days were left before final exams. Some students participated in a running competition at a Portuguese school in Fatuquero, and 3 NOSSEF students won prizes in the competition. Students refreshed themselves with a one-day recollection of 10th graders (November 11) and 11th graders (November 12) at Railaco church, accompanied by Fr Lan SJ, Srs Olga SPC and Esperança SPC. On November 11, Bro Thá SJ was officially welcomed with Tais during the Mass.

From November 17 to 23, the 3rd trimester exams were held. Due to the spread of seasonal colds, all of us used masks during the exams. COVID-19 vaccinations were also conducted at the end of the exam week at NOSSEF. Even though a couple of our teachers were sick for more than a week, our

teachers' first deliberation meeting on the Master Plan for the entire school buildings (SWOT, suggestions to Master Plan on Formation, Ecology, and Social condition) was held.

On November 25 and 26, Entrance Interview Exams were conducted at NOSSEF. Among the 175 candidates, 155 students came for the interview, and 140 students passed the interview (results were announced on December 5).

On November 30, there was a farewell ceremony for UNTL (National University) trainee teachers (David, Jacob, Zenaida). At the end of their 5-month teaching experience, they donated a wooden magazine rack. Class 10 CSH B organized a lunch party commemorating their patron St Canice and shared the food together with them. Aside from teaching their subjects, the three trainees accompanied 10th graders as assistant class advisors.



Voice from a Scholarship student



Hi, My name is Elesita Soares, I am 19 years old. I am from Railaco Leten. I have seven siblings, 3 sisters and 4 brothers. My hobby is singing. My father passed away when I was child. My mother is still alive, her name is Anita Amaral. After the death of my father she is the backbone of the family. She is my hero.

I got the information about the charitable scholarship from the school notice board and through the notice given by father director. From there, I filled up the form, and submitted to the office. Finally I was eligible for the scholarship. It was a great privilege for me.

I filled up the form because, I see that my mother is widow and financial poor, and she could effort to support us by herself. Therefore, I decided to apply for the charitable scholarship to reduce her burden and I finally did it.

I am so grateful to the donors. From their support I could study well. I hope one day I could repay them.

After getting the charitable scholarship, I become more active in the church and in the school. I take a lot of responsibility and become more responsible for all the activities in school and in the church as well. And begin to inspire others to work and study with me as well. There are a lot of improvements, especially in my studies, and in my relationship with others.

My dream for future is to join a religious congregation, because I do believe I could help more people like what they did for me. Therefore, what I received I will give back to the people who need my help by becoming a religious nun.

I thank God for given us such generous donors, I will never forget in my life. I would like to pray that, may almighty God bless them and help them in their daily life. I do believe that God will inspire many people to help the needy.





December

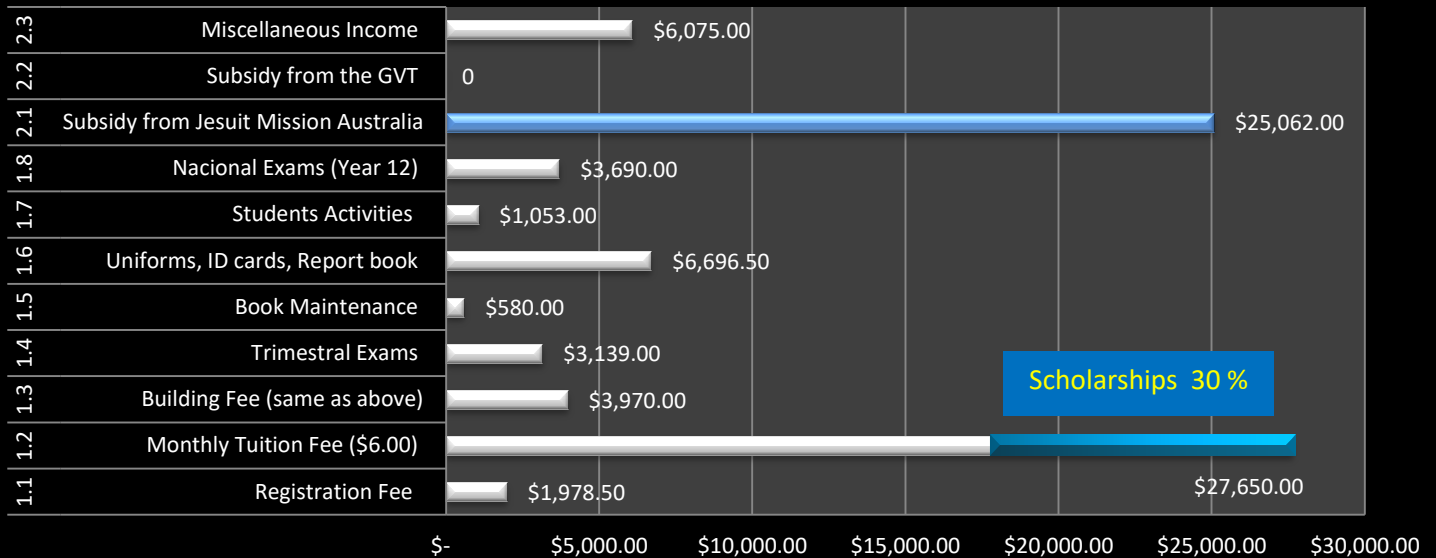
On December 6, Dr David Dawson, a representative of the Peter Trust (scholarship donor) visited NOSSEF. He talked with our scholarship students and joined a lunch party organized by Class 11 CSH B commemorating their patron St Francis Xavier.

On December 10 (Saturday), the teachers-parents meeting for the 3rd trimester was held. During the report card distribution for high-performing students from each class, we chose two students with the highest scores from the Natural Science track and the Social Science track and gave them a laurel wreath. The following week, on December 13, there was a distribution of National Exam scores and a simple Farewell ceremony for the 12th graders at NOSSEF Canteen. The graduating students expressed their emotions during the ceremony. They shook hands with each teacher and exchanged greetings. Some teachers were moved to tears.

From December 14 to 16, an orientation program for the new NOSSEF students was held. The Student Council organized the program, and almost all the teachers took part in it. We were finally almost able to eliminate the old (Indonesian period?) tradition of excessive training and punishment games that upperclassmen had imposed on lowerclassmen.

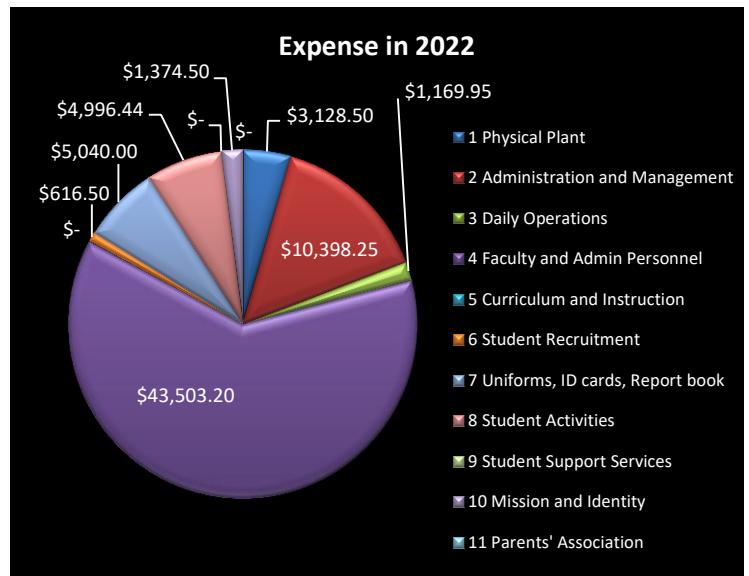
NOSSEF's 2022 academic year concluded with a three-day teacher and staff retreat in Montserrat, Kasait (December 20-22). On the second day, Fr Joaquim SJ gave reflection points to the retreatants and celebrated Mass. We shared our experiences of faith, consolation and desolation of working at NOSSEF, and our feelings and vocation as teachers and staff. On the third day, as usual, the annual evaluation of various aspects of work and commitment took place. The retreat ended with a simple lunch together.

Income in 2022



	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3
	Registratio n Fee	Monthly Tuition Fee (\$6.00)	Building Fee (same as above)	Trimestral Exams	Book Maintenan ce	Uniforms, ID cards, Report book	Students Activities	Nacional Exams (Year 12)	Subsidy from Jesuit Mission Australia	Subsidy from the GVT	Miscellane ous Income
Series1	\$1,978.50	\$27,650.0	\$3,970.00	\$3,139.00	\$580.00	\$6,696.50	\$1,053.00	\$3,690.00	\$25,062.0	0	\$6,075.00

	Beginning Balance (from 2021)	\$ 5,408.94
1	TUITION AND OTHER INCOME	
1.1	Registration Fee	\$ 1,978.50
1.2	Monthly Tuition Fee (\$6.00) 63 students received scholarship monies from SGS Foundation . 20 students from The Peter Trust 21 students from CRC Sydenham	27,650.00 (104 out of 360 students are scholarship students)
1.3	Building Fee (same as above)	\$ 3,970.00
1.4	Trimestral Exams	\$ 3,139.00
1.5	Book Maintenance	\$ 580.00
1.6	Uniforms, ID cards, Report book	\$ 6,696.50
1.7	Students Activities	\$ 1,053.00
1.8	Nacional Exams (Year 12)	\$ 3,690.00
	Subtotal	\$ 48,757.00
2	SUBSIDIES/DONATIONS	
2.1	Subsidy from Jesuit Mission Australia	\$ 25,062.00
2.2	Subsidy from the GVT	\$ -
2.3	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 6,075.00
	Subtotal	\$ 31,137.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 85,302.94



	EXPENSES	
1	Physical Plant	\$ 3,128.50
2	Administration and Management	\$ 10,398.25
3	Daily Operations	\$ 1,169.95
4	Faculty and Admin Personnel	\$ 43,503.20
5	Curriculum and Instruction	\$ -
6	Student Recruitment	\$ 616.50
7	Uniforms, ID cards, Report book	\$ 5,040.00
8	Student Activities	\$ 4,996.44
9	Student Support Services	\$ -
10	Mission and Identity	\$ 1,374.50
11	Parents' Association	\$ -
	Total EXPENSES	\$ 70,227.34
	Balance (Total Income-Expenses)	\$ 15,075.60




QUEREMOS AGRADECER.
 Hakbiit estudante liu hosi 4K. Nune'e bele haboot Na'i Maromak nia Gloria.




NOSSEF Railaco 2002-2022
 ANIVERSÁRIO DE 20 ANOS

EUCARISTIA E ECOLOGIA
 Berço da Relação di'ak entre
 Ema ho Maromak liu hosi
 Natureza

Atu hare buat hotu-hotu founiha Kristu.

Railaco, Timor-Leste, January 10, 2023

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