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Greetings from Father Yvan

Ka'ohā nui, Hello, Bonjour

Father Yvan likes to call himself Pa Yvan Sergy, a Fidei Donum Priest from the diocese of Basel in Switzerland. He has been a priest for the last 16 years, spending 13 years in the Hamilton diocese at the Cathedral in Hamilton (5 months), Gisborne as assistant priest (4 and a half years), Tauranga as assistant priest (2 years) and as Parish Priest in Gisborne again for 6 years. Since then he has been in the diocese of Te Fenua Enata in the Marquesian Islands in French Polynesia for 3 years.

He is Parish Priest of two islands, Ua Pou and Ua Huka in the Northern Group. Since last year he has also been appointed as Diocesan Chancellor by Bishop Pascal Chang Soi, the Ordinarius which means he will most probably be going to stay a long time there because as Diocesan Chancellor he has a big responsibility that cannot be annulled that easily. He doesn't mind at all because he is happy to help Bishop Pascal who is very keen on his work and ways.

Since June 2016, Pa Yvan has had some tests done in Tahiti because he started to struggle to lift his right toes. The result is MND (Motor Neurone Disease), but the diagnosis hasn't confirmed which exact case. He doesn't have all the symptoms of the famous Charcot or Lou Gehrig sickness, though it is still the MND. So far he can still walk but with a stick and now he needs a driver because he can't drive anymore as his pelvis is too weak to lift his legs. Pa Yvan would like to share how he feels about this issue and how he is deeply at peace.

His priestly motto is the seven last words of Jesus Christ on the cross: "Father, I put my spirit into your hands!" Well, he found this motto even before his ordination and was always very loving of it, hence why he took it as his priestly motto, even when his spiritual Father told him: "it is a difficult one"!. Well, when you love deeply and with confidence and trust, there are no difficulties!

Pa Yvan does thank the diocese of Hamilton who has started to pray for a miraculous healing through the intercession of Sr Suzanne Aubert, for her sanctification. The diocese of Te Fenua Enata prays too, so that they are not losing a priest where there are only two of them!

See the photo of Pa Yvan sitting by the crib that he together with the sculptors from the parish on the island created for the Advent season. He created this inspired by the pestle and plate called "tumu akau me te hoaka" that are used there to make "kakou", which is made with bread fruit.

For those of you who know Pa Yvan, I'm sure we would all like to wish him all the best with his health. Father was at the Hamilton Swiss Club's 50th Jubilee celebrations held at the Claudelands Events Centre in July 2006, and was the celebrant at the Mass we held the following day where we were very privileged to have the Swiss-Kiwi Yodel Group from Auckland perform. One of Father's wishes is that the Yodel Group travel to his Island to perform. I wonder if this is possible?

Compiled by Anita Zuber
with information emailed by Pa Yvan

Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	David Vogelsanger, Ambassador
President	Hans Vetsch Ph 07 855 3294 or 021 658733. Email: Hans.vetsch@swiss.org.nz
Secretary	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Mobile 027 498 5170. Email: Anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz
Vice President	Anna Blattler Phone 07 884 9567. Email: tearohacamp@gmail.com
Editor	Heidi Wehrle Phone 07 834 9286. Email: cwehrle@ihug.co.nz
Treasurer	Sandrine Smith Ph 021 418 695. Email: treasurer@swiss.org.nz
Riflemaster	Manuela Epp Phone 07 210 0982 or 0210 8483029. Email: eppnz@farmside.co.nz

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

Delegate	Peter Ehrler, 46 Wesley Ave, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth 4310 Ph 06 753 3441. Email: pehrler@clear.net.nz
Deputy Delegate	Peter Canziani, 30 Herekiekie St, Turangi 3334 Ph 07 386 7775. Email: canziape@gmail.com

Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

Auckland	Daniela Bossard, 3C/28 Stanwell Street, Parnell, Auckland 1052 Ph 027 527 5835, Email: daniela.bossard@swiss.org.nz
Hamilton	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Mobile 027 498 5170. Email: Anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz
Taranaki	Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD24, Stratford 4394 Ph 06 7628 757. Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz
Wellington	Odile Stotzer, 27 Anne St, Wadestown, Wellington 6012 Ph 04 586 3095. Email: wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com

Swiss Government Representatives

Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Custom House Quay, Wellington 6140 Email: well.vertretung@eda.admin.ch Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington . Phone 04 472 1593
Consulate of Switzerland	Peter Deutschle, 15 Fifth Avenue, Mount Albert, Auckland 1025 Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honrep.ch

