

The Constitution and The Rule of Life of the Moana Community of St Clare

The Moana Community of St Clare is the first indigenous Order of the Diocese of Polynesia. It is a religious Community within the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia.

Historical Background.

The founding Sisters are Sister Kalolaine and Sister Vutulongo. The Community was first instituted on the 19th May 2016 when that the Sisters were released formally from commitment to the Community of the Sacred Name. The release of the Sisters allowed them freedom to pioneer a new Order.

The Blessing and Founding of the Moana Community of St Clare was at Holy Trinity Cathedral Suva on Sunday 11th December 2016. During the Holy Eucharist Sisters Kalolaine and Sister Vutulongo promised faithfulness to vows of poverty, chastity and obedience within the Moana Community of St Clare.

The Community of the Sacred Name came to Fiji from Christchurch in response to an invitation from The Rt Rev John Charles Vockler to establish St Christopher's Home Naulu. The founding Sisters of the Moana Community of St Clare recognize the Community of the Sacred Name as important in their formation.

The new religious Order, the Moana Community of St Clare, is committed to a religious life of prayer and compassionate service. It has assumed the leadership of St Christopher's Home under of its Board with the approval and authority given of the Standing Committee and the Synod. The Moana Community of St Clare in its life and work seeks to work in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia respecting the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia as Visitor and as leader in the life of the Anglican Church in Polynesia (The Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia is generally an Archbishop of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia).

The Meaning of the Name and the Mission of the Order

The word Moana is used by the Moana Community of St Clare to indicate the context of the religious life. Moana, an ancient word indigenous to Polynesia, means Ocean. The Moana Community of St Clare, guided by God's Spirit, seeks to live discipleship of Jesus in ways relevant to the Oceanic context. The Community draws from the wealth of the past but seeks fresh and contemporary expression of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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The word Moana is used as a metaphor of God's immense love. The Moana Community of St Clare recognize the call to explore, live out and proclaim the immense love of God – the love we see in Jesus Christ.

The Moana Community of St Clare seeks to form community -living loving relationships among its Members also in the wider Church and community. We are called into community as disciples of Jesus, as baptized members of the Church. Our lotu as the Diocese of Polynesia is "that in Christ we move together" reaching out to those in need, seeks transformation of unjust structures and honours creation.

The Moana Community of St Clare recognizes the charism of St Clare of Assisi, woman of deep prayer and faithful companion of St Francis of Assisi. Both Clare and Francis were reformers of the Church of their day and sought to follow Jesus Christ faithfully in simplicity and joy.

The Moana Community of St Clare recognizes the five Mission Statements of the Anglican Communion in its life and witness.

The religious life of the Order – the Moana Community of St Clare is defined, as other historic orders have been defined, by commitment to a life of prayer, chastity and obedience. The religious life of the Moana Community of St Clare is a religious life lived within the mission and life of the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia

The religious life of the Moana Community of St Clare is nurtured by the observation of a regular life of prayer to be determined by the Sisters and by involvement in the worship and life of Parishes.

The life of service is to be a life of compassionate service to the poor and in particular to children in need.

The Service of the Moana Community of St Clare to those in need and relationship to Boards and the Diocese of Polynesia

The Sisters of the Moana Community of St Clare are called by the Bishop and the Diocese of Polynesia to serve St Christopher's Home and the Moana St Clare Boys' Home.

The life of service at St Christopher's Home is to be guided and directed by the Board of St Christopher's Home. Likewise, the Moana St Clare Boys' Home will be guided and directed by the Board of the Moana St Clare Boys' Home. The Sisters work under the authority of the Board of St Christopher's Home and the Moana St Clare Boys' Home and are accountable to the respective Boards which operate within authority given by the Diocese of Polynesia.

The Sister or person in Charge of St Christopher's Home is to be approved by the Board of St Christopher's Home. Likewise, the Sister or person put in charge of the Moana St Clare Boys' Home is to be approved by that Board. The Order does not have authority in appointing the Sister or person in authority in St Christopher's Home or the Moana St Clare Boys Home (when formed).

Members of the Moana Community of St Clare

Acceptance into the Order, Aspirants, Novices, Temporary and Life Vows.

In the first stage of joining the Moana Community of St Clare there will be opportunity to explore the religious life alongside the professed Sisters. If a younger or older woman wishes to explore the life of prayer and service alongside the Moana Sisters of St Clare, she must seek the recommendation of her Parish priest and be accepted by the Sister in Charge and her deputy for 1 year as an aspirant. During that time she will experience the life of prayer, be given instruction and be part of the loving service of the Sisters.

If the aspirant so wishes she may choose to continue as a novice for 2 years.

Aspirants and novices will be encouraged by study and given guidance in their lives as followers of Jesus and as religious. Opportunities for study, reflection and guidance will continue beyond the novitiate period.

After the novitiate period, given acceptance by the Head Sister and the deputy of the Moana Community, she may enter temporary vows and be recognised as a Sister of the Order of the Moana Community of St Clare. Temporary vows are renewable every two years. Sisters may be released from temporary vows at the end of each 2 years or before that in special circumstances.

Sisters in temporary vows, with the assent and support of the Community, may choose to take life vows after 4 years as a Sister, if that is her expressed calling and this is affirmed by the professed Sisters and the Chapter.

Members of the Order are open to taking temporary vows which may be renewed. Sisters may also may take life vows.

The releasing from temporary vows is to be conducted prayerfully within a service of worship and the Sister is to be released with gratitude with the blessing of the Church

The taking of both temporary and life vows are to be within services of worship and the Visitor is to be informed and if possible be present.

The Ordering of the Community

The Moana Community of St Clare is led by a Senior Sister chosen by Sisters who have taken life or temporary vows.

Authority in the Community lies with the professed Senior Sister. To help her exercise of authority she appoints a Novice Mistress or Deputy. A small Chapter comprising the professed Sister and 2- 3 appointees by the Sisters should meet to help in decision making and to promote the wellbeing of the life of the Order. As far as possible decisions should be made by consensus.

A Guardian and/or Chaplain should be appointed who will offer support and serve the life of the community. The appointments are made by Sisters in professed life vows. If a Chaplain is appointed her or she needs a licence from the Bishop.

The leadership of the Moana Community of St Clare – the Senior Sister, the Deputy, members of the Chapter and the Chaplain and/or the Guardian are to work for the welfare of the Community and its life of prayer and service. They are to support the Rule of Life and develop ways to express this Rule of Life in authentic ways in the context.

The Moana Community of St Clare is to inform the Archbishop and the wider Diocese of its life and witness. The Archbishop or Bishop of the Diocese, as Visitor, is to be invited to participate in the life of the Community and be alongside the Sisters and their life of prayer and service.

The Rule of Life.

Prayer

The Moana Community of St Clare will engage in times of daily prayer. The Moana Community of St Clare will be faithful in participating in the Eucharist.

Besides regular times of prayer the Moana Community of St Clare would see that the life of prayer is an openness to God at all times.

Members of the Moana Community of St Clare are called to nurture a life of prayer in themselves and others. They are to pray for those in need and for the life of the Church.

Members of the Moana Community are called to be open to study of the God's word and to strengthen their discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Simplicity

Members of The Moana Community of St Clare seek to live in simplicity. Possessions are to be minimum and are to be used for the wellbeing of the Moana Community and to enable hospitality to friends and strangers. There is to be a joyful spirit of sharing and hospitality.

Sisters are to wear a simple blue habit. The simplicity of the Sisters is to mark their solidarity with the poor and those in need.

Companionship

The Members of the Moana Community of St Clare seek to live in community as disciples of Jesus. Their calling is to companionship within the Community and in the wider community. They seek to companion others by offering friendship and support.

Jesus sent out his disciples in mission in twos – as companions. Members of the Community of St Clare seek to participate in the mission of the Church as companions – supporting and caring for one another as they serve the wider community.

St Clare founded a praying community and she ministered to her community of Sisters with humility. Members of the Community of St Clare are reminded that St Clare was a trusted companion of St Francis and that her prayerful support and friendship was vital to his mission and that of the Franciscan movement.

The Moana Companions of St Clare are a separate lay movement who support the life and work of the Sisters. The Moana Companions seek to nurture the life of prayer and live the Rule of Life out in the wider community.

Compassion

The Members of the Moana Community of St Clare seek to live out the compassionate love of Jesus in their service to those in need. Compassion is to be the hallmark of their work. They are to care for those entrusted to them for care with compassionate love. They are to meet members of the wider community with compassion and concern for the wellbeing of all, regardless of ethnicity, status or creed.

They are called to equip themselves for compassionate service. This equipping may

require different forms of study and enabling.

Care of Creation

Members of the Moana of St Clare seek to live rejoicing in God's creation. They seek to live simply, deeply aware of the environment and safeguarding the wellbeing of creation.

They are called to be mindful of St Francis, companion of St Clare and his love of God's creation. They are to care for creation and God's creatures and to work against any forms of abuse or exploitation of God's gifts.

Observance and Participation

The Moana Community of St Clare will observe the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and the Feasts of the Church Calendar.

Besides the Major Feast in the Church Calendar, these are notable Feasts to be kept by the Moana Community of St Clare:

The Feast of St Christopher 25th July

The Feast of St Clare 11th August

The Feast of St Francis 4th October

Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of Jesus

Members of the Moana Community of St Clare will be required to make retreats.

They will be aware of Synods and participate in appropriate ways in other important occasions for the Diocese of Polynesia.