

Friars from Medan Province of Indonesia

1 August 2003

Our co-operation in solidarity with the Province of St. Francis – Medan is continuing to bear fruit with Br. Marcel Simamora becoming the latest addition to our Provincial Fraternity, and the expected arrival of Br. Leo Sipahutar in September.



Br Marcel arrived in Sydney on 14th July and the next day left with the Provincial for Hawthorn – his new home. He has a two year Occupational Training visa issued under the Labour Agreement between the Australian Bishops' Conference and the Minister for Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. Marcel plans to enrol into a University as soon as he completes his "English for Advanced Education" course which he is currently doing at Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn. Although the arrangements are for Marcel to be in Australia for four years, we are hoping that his time with us will extend long beyond this. Having been on

the staff of the Minor Seminary at Pematang Siantar for three years, Marcel will be an asset to our formation programme.

In September we expect Br Leo Sipahutar to arrive from the Medan Province. He is currently the Rector of St. Thomas' Catholic University. Br. Leo is earmarked for our Wynnum Fraternity and will be made available for ministry to the Indonesian community in the Brisbane Archdiocese.

