



ESCOLA SECUNDÁRIA CATÓLICA  
NOSSA SENHORA DE FÁTIMA - RAILACO (NOSSEF)  
Latest Updates 2024 January - June

***To our Friends and Benefactors,***

Every year we face new challenges and new opportunities. From last December until May, we lost around 10 of our staff, equivalent to 40% of the total number of our staff, for various reasons. Some left simply because they found a new job, and others were transferred at the request of their religious congregation or the Ministry of Education. The transfer of our vice-director Prof Cesar A. Borges in February was one of these latter cases. A new vice-director was appointed from our faculty members. We also welcomed about 10 new staff members for faculty and administration after the revised safeguarding check and reference check.

Amid these challenging times, I think it was providentially fortunate that we set our annual mission goal together at the beginning of this year. It came from our faculty members' retreat and Jesuit style spiritual conversation. Translated into English, it is "In the spirit of *NOSSEF (Our Lady of Fátima)*, strengthen our unity, enrich our Catholic Timorese identity, and improve the quality of education." Looking back on our journey together in the first half of this year, this process has made us resilient, "hoping against all hope."

In this difficult time, we had great opportunities to work together, deepen our identity, and explore the future of this school. At our New Year faculty meeting, we also established the theme for our school festival "*United in Christ—we are children of NOSSEF, and we're Catholic Timorese*". Prior to school festival activities, we carried out charitable activities organized by each class. Teachers and students planned together, worked together, and relished the fruit together. The fruit is encounter and unity, the roots of our identity—something we must take to heart when we dream and design the future of our school.

We have to strengthen the long-term commitment of our teachers through a good induction program, full-time contract, and ongoing training in terms of professionalism, safeguarding, and the spiritual-personal process. The discussion of the Master Plan is still ongoing. Long-term vision and a feasible plan are needed more than heroic attempts. We want to dream a dream rooted in the history and memory of our parish, community, and nation.

In this sense, it is imperative to start thinking of the following:

1. Good induction and follow-up program for new staff members to strengthen their retention
2. Continue to create opportunities for discernment in common and spiritual conversation to nurture unity
3. Re-create or modify annual school activities to make our school "Ignatian" through the IPP paradigm
4. Try to create networks for additional teacher training in leadership, administration, and safeguarding
5. Create self-assessment indicators to reassess the school's identity and mission

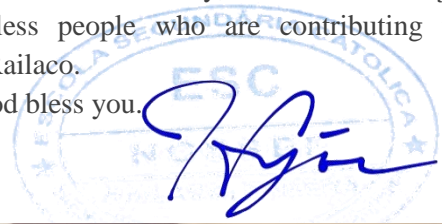
Along with capacity building, or aside from cramming knowledge, there is a spiritual-personal process of education. This "educational encounter" has two dimensions: "the encounter with one's own interiority and the encounter with the educator-authority who leads me along the path to this interior encounter" (Arzobispo Bergoglio, *Curso de Rectores*, Buenos Aires, 2006).

Education does not produce immediate results in one go, particularly in a country that is facing challenges in basic education and parenting education. I hope our current graduates will become good parents who can raise children well-

rounded in terms of intelligence and personality. And when the next generations study at this future NOSSEF, I believe they will have greater impact for the sustainable development of Timor-Leste. Without this intermediate process, I'm afraid future generations will lose out on the Catholic faith and authentic personal and community growth. Authentic education gradually creates true freedom and maturity to adapt to changing times without losing sight of unchanging values. I don't oppose *producing results* with calculable effectiveness, and it is still important to "form useful individuals for society." However, it is also essential to *yield fruits*, to "educate persons who can transform society," which is compatible with effectiveness or efficiency.

We never forget our benefactors who have been helping our school financially and personally—St. Canice's, Jesuit Mission Australia, Sr Rita, the Good Samaritan Foundation, the Peter Trust, Catholic Regional College of Sydenham, Mr Don Jago (Rotary Club Camberwell), Mr Michael Musgrave, Mr Kevin Slattery, Mr Michael Cutajar, and countless people who are contributing the legacy of Railaco.

May God bless you.



Fr Hyoe Murayama SJ  
Director of NOSSEF school (2021~)



## NOSSEF ENROLMENTS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>2023:</b><br/>           97 students <b>graduated</b> from 12<sup>th</sup> grade<br/>           221 (111+110) students (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade<br/>           in 2023) advanced to the next grade.*<br/>           * 14 students transferred out or dropped out; 2 students failed.</p> | <p><b>2024 (as of April 5):</b><br/>           121 (10<sup>th</sup> grade)<br/>           110 (11<sup>th</sup> grade) (2 dropped out; 2 transfer-in; 1 repeat.)<br/>           108 (12<sup>th</sup> grade) (2 dropped out)<br/>           = 339 Total Enrolment</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### TERTIARY EDUCATION (as of April 5)

47 graduates (48.45% of 97 total students) obtained access to Timor-Loro-sa'e National University (UNTL) through the result of the National Exam 2023

- Universidade Nacional Timor Loro-sa'e (UNTL) 29 (47 passed the admission, of whom 29 chose to study there; 6 moved to other schools; 1 entered a diocesan seminary, and 1 entered a female religious congregation; 12 didn't enter UNTL but are taking courses)
- Instituto de São João de Brito (ISJB) 10
- Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ) 6
- Instituto Superior Cristal (ISC) 2
- Instituto Ciências da Saúde (ICS) 2
- Universidade Católica Timorese (UCT) 2
- Universidade Dili (UNDIL) 1
- Universidade Oriental Timor Loro-sa'e 2
- Academia de Música D. Alberto Ricardo da Silva 1



## Campus Life and Activities

### January

The first faculty meeting was held from January 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. We talked to catch up on things like safeguarding and distributed tasks for this year. Some new assignments were established such as Music and Arts Coordinator, Environment Coordinator, Assistant Finance Officer, and Assistant Vice-director for academic affairs. It was a moment of consolation when we decided together our annual mission goal and school festival theme

for this year as the fruit of our spiritual conversation and discernment in common.

The first lessons started on January 11<sup>th</sup>. 127 new students joined our school in both anticipation and fear. The following day the Holy Spirit Mass was celebrated with the entire NOSSEF community in Railaco church. Fr Erik John Gerilla SJ, our new Jesuit Regional Superior and our former Parish Priest, came to celebrate Mass.



## February

In the morning of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, after participating in First Friday Mass at Railaco church, we visited the cemetery in procession to give homage to Fr Samuel C. Dizon SJ, the first school coordinator (director) of NOSSEF, who passed away on Christmas Eve last year. In the afternoon, Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, visited Railaco Mission with his team. We welcomed them at the entrance of the church. He planted a Rambutan seedling at NOSSEF.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was an announcement of the results of UNTL (National University) entrance access based on the result of the National Exam last year. 47 NOSSEF graduates passed to UNTL out of 97 graduates (48.45 %), the highest ever rate of those passing UNTL.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, we held a farewell ceremony for Sister Natalina Mendonça SPC who worked for NOSSEF for 3 years. She finished her ministry last December. The students finally expressed their gratitude and wishes for her one month after they separated. We always notice and understand the importance of the presence of religious sisters in the school. Fortunately this year we have Sr Maria RJM. She is teaching English as part-time.

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, charitable activity was conducted by each class. Some classes went to clean the house and garden of the local clinic, police office, and local authority office. Others

visited people with disabilities, aged and poor people, and the prison. According to the teachers' reflection and evaluation, this experience of charity created invaluable memories of solidarity, compassion, working together as a class community, and deepening identity as a Catholic school.

From February 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, Child safeguarding training was conducted in the Railaco parish hall. All NOSSEF faculty members, Boarding school staff, Canteen staff, Clinic staff, Feeding program staff, NOSSEF parents council members, and some NOSSEF students and boarding students participated in two-day sessions on Positive discipline and Child safeguarding policy given by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and UNICEF Timor-Leste.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, our vice-director Prof. Cesar A. Borges brought the letter from Minicipal Authority saying that he was transferred to the Municipal office. He resigned from the vice director's position at NOSSEF. He worked here for 22 years since the beginning of the school. We thank him and miss him.

In February there were many visitors: UNTL Medicine Department, Jean-Louis Ghazal, the coordinator of Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP), professors and students from the Dili Institute of Technology (DIT), Willy Tan, the coordinator of Jesuit Mission Australia.



### March

Towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester, our students studied to prepare for the exams. Some Lenten activities were conducted such as the Stations of the Cross and general Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation) during a one-day recollection for students.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, during the First Friday Mass at Railaco church (Fr Roberto SJ, parish priest of Railaco presided), Prof. Lucia M. Martins de Araújo was appointed the new vice-director of NOSSEF. We also congratulated Prof. Lucio Pereira for his promotion to permanently contracted teacher by the government. On the following day, there was an opening ceremony and games for the NOSSEF School Festival



2024. The theme was decided in our New Year's faculty meeting: "*United in Christ—we are children of NOSSEF, and we're Catholic Timorese*".

From March 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, our students participated in one-day recollections for each year level. Fr. Roberto SJ, Deacon Nelinho (Arow) SJ, Sr. Olga Oliveira SPC and her novices, and Sr. Maria RJM accompanied the retreatants.

During the exam week from March 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, before the Paschal Triduum (Holy Week), Mr Michael Cutajar finished making another 50 tables for NOSSEF students. Now 150 students can use his tables.



## April

After Holy Week and Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>), students received exam sheets with marks and corrections. At the same time, they prepared for two events, a farewell party for Kilien, and an alumni event (Friendship games with the 2023 NOSSEF Graduates).

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the teachers and students organized a farewell ceremony and party for Prof. Kilien Douville, a MEP French volunteer. Kilien helped our Railacon Mission, and especially NOSSEF, for 13 months. He decided to stay longer than 4 other French friends so that he could accompany his students until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester. Fortunately, Florian Salvignol (MEP) from the Netherlands arrived in Timor-Leste on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Kilien was able to meet Florian and spend some time together so that Florian could take over and continue his legacy.

It was a great consolation for our teachers and staff to meet our recent graduates again. They organized a friendship game with our current students and teachers. NOSSEF Good Samaritan Canteen prepared lunch food for 45 of our newest alumni. All of us spent an invaluable and rewarding time together in a

refreshing and relaxing atmosphere.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, our regular Teacher-parent meeting was held in NOSSEF. Our new vice-director made a comprehensive presentation on academic affairs and good learning habits. The director talked about positive discipline (listening and motivating rather than scolding and beating) in the family, as well as repeatedly informed parents of the increase in monthly tuition from \$6 to \$8 starting next year.

Only after one week of break following the Education Ministry's calendar, the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester started on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 8 students of the Jesuit teacher training college, Institute of São João de Brito (ISJB), visited NOSSEF to conduct their 5-day class observation prior to their 3-month internship teaching experience. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, to respond to the Jesuit Region of Timor-Leste's request to revise and renew its Regional Apostolic Plan 2019~23, the director and 6 teachers gathered together to share and discuss the memories of good collaboration over the past 5 years through Jesuit-style spiritual conversation.





### May

May is the busiest month in NOSSEF. We celebrate May 13<sup>th</sup>, the feast of Our Lady of Fátima, the patron saint of the parish and school, as the finale of the school festival. The major competitions of the school festival (academic, sports, music, and dance) started on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the meantime, 8 students from ISJB started their teaching experience for three months on May 6<sup>th</sup>. They helped with the school festival. There were a closing Mass and ceremony on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the NOSSEF Canteen. All the classes were awarded with certificates and prizes. Three winning classes received trophies and bigger certificates.

During the May 13<sup>th</sup> Mass, we also celebrated the opening of Our Lady's Statue visit to the school. It seems that this devotional activity

has become a new school tradition since last year. Towards the end of month, the Statue of Our Lady of Fátima visited 9 classes, one night for each class. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, we invited Fr Bong SJ to celebrate the Closing Mass for Marian devotional activity at the NOSSEF Canteen. Each ISJB trainee was assigned to one class as assistant class advisor. They also accompanied the students of their classes in Rosary prayer and classroom decorations. They were also involved in extracurricular activities on Saturdays from May 18<sup>th</sup>.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, after the campaign of three candidates, the voting and election for the President of the Student Council (KORENOSSEF) was conducted.





## June

One June 1<sup>st</sup>, our Biology and Chemistry teachers organized an outdoor biology research activity for 10<sup>th</sup> graders. They visited salt fields and learned how the salt was made from the sea water.

Railaco parish was very crowded on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Cardinal Archbishop of Díli celebrated the Confirmation Mass on Friday afternoon, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Approximately 500 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Many NOSSEF students

received Confirmation. There were also many other students who attended the Mass as their family members or witnesses. The following morning, the priestly ordination of Nelinho Alves (Arow) SJ was celebrated in the same place. He is the first Jesuit priest from Ermera Municipality, where Railaco is located. The Bishop of Baucau was the celebrant of the Ordination Mass. He is also from Ermera. Our KORENOSSEF students helped as ushers and performed traditional dance during the party after Mass.





## ***Voice from a student***

***Hi, Efigénia, tell us about yourself.***

— My name is EFIGÉNIA OLANDINA XIMENES. I'm from a simple family consisting of 8 people—father, mother, 4 sons, and myself (my older sister passed away). From Caitarahei, fatuquero.

***How do you think that Railaco Mission has benefited your life?***

— I'm grateful for the Railaco Mission which Jesuits have been operating for us. Through their nutrition program (Feeding Program) and education, I and my family have received benefits. When I was a small child, I often went to the Feeding Program and received food and ate together there. Sometimes I took part in some cultural performance of singing and dancing when foreign guests visited us in the Feeding Program. In NOSSEF, the students share experiences, prayers, and joys together through various activities. I'm happy.

***What activities are you involved in at NOSSEF? What did you learn from them?***

— In NOSSEF I was privileged to become a member of the Student Council. In our leadership formation program in Kasait, we walked together, and shared food and experiences together. I'm proud of being part of it. During the school festival, I was given the opportunities to perform poetry, dances, and a song at the stage, and even led the closing programs as an MC. I'm grateful that I improved my talents and gifts so I can now show to others that everyone can make it when they trust and try like me.

***What was the most significant experience to you at NOSSEF? What do you feel grateful for through the learning and activity at NOSSEF?***

— The most precious thing I received in NOSSEF was the opportunities I was given through various activities to develop my talents and capacities. I was impressed by the academic quiz competitions. I was just in the audience, but I was excited when we were seeking and guessing a right answer to each question and shared the joy of learning with others. Aside from school festival activities, I recall the charitable activities organized by our own class. Last year we visited the house of a poor family and this year we cleaned the surrounding area of the local hospital. We learned how to accompany and help people in need.

***What is your dream for the future?***

— When I talk about my dream, my friends always laugh at me because they think I'm very active and a little naughty. However, my dream is to be a nun, a religious sister!



***Through their nutrition program (Feeding Program) and education, I and my family have received benefits.***





## ***Voice from a teacher***

***Prof. Lucio, please tell us about yourself and your good experience at NOSSEF.***

— My name is Lucio Pereira. I have been working at NOSSEF Railaco High School for 14 years, since 2010. One of my unique and beautiful experiences working at NOSSEF is that I have become a mature person through the 4 Cs of Jesuit education and other Ignatian values. With patience, I finally got the contract with the government as a permanent teacher this year 2024, after waiting 9 years since 2013. This is another good experience I received while working at NOSSEF.

***What prompted you to work at NOSSEF for 14 years? Is it your calling?***

— Initially I thought that being a teacher was one of the alternatives for my career. I wanted to continue my studies at the university, but due to the financial situation, I had to get a job. So in 2008, I started teaching at a school. I never thought of it at that time, but I finally realized that teaching is my calling. Learning every day, together with students, through science and discipline, to transform the character of youth, I have found my vocation here, not just to seek money, but to learn and learn...

***Tell us your cherished memories of NOSSEF***

— It was a new experience for me to see that education can gradually transform the character of students to MAGIS. From 2010 until now, I have witnessed the beautiful change of our students. Not all at once, not 100%, but many graduates of this school were successful in their profession (military, police,

civil servants) and in their religious and priestly vocation (most of them still in training). Last year, almost half of our students passed the National University entrance exam. After the announcement, many students, especially those from poor families, sent me messages of thanks.

***I have found my vocation here, not just to seek money, but to learn and learn...***



***What have you learned through working at NOSSEF?***

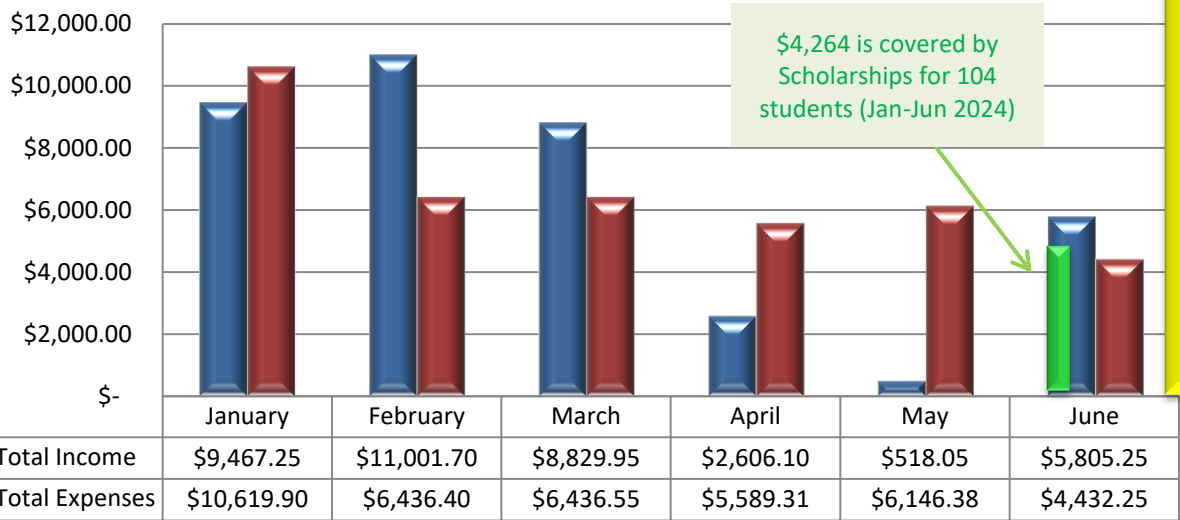
— Through collaboration with the Jesuits in Railaco, I learned punctuality and selfless service. Among many Catholic institutions, those with a Jesuit identity are unique due to this quality of “People for Others.” I am proud to be part of this Ignatian family. Thanks!

# NOSSEF Brief financial report from January to June, 2024

| Currency: USD                            |                     |                     |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |            |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Income                                   | Annual Budget       | January             | February            | March              | April              | May                | June               | %          |
| Previous Balance                         | \$ 15,599.20        |                     |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |            |
| Income (tuition and other receipts)      | \$ 44,405.50        | \$ 8,626.00         | \$ 5,396.00         | \$ 7,699.00        | \$ 2,336.00        | \$ 281.00          | \$ 5,651.50        | 68%        |
| Other Income (School kiosk, etc.)        | \$ 4,500.00         | \$ 841.25           | \$ 5,605.70         | \$ 1,130.95        | \$ 270.10          | \$ 237.05          | \$ 153.75          | 183%       |
| ETR/Donor Support (Jesuit Mission ALS)   | \$ 29,730.00        | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -               | \$ -               | \$ -               | \$ -               | 0%         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                      | <b>\$ 78,635.50</b> | <b>\$ 9,467.25</b>  | <b>\$ 11,001.70</b> | <b>\$ 8,829.95</b> | <b>\$ 2,606.10</b> | <b>\$ 518.05</b>   | <b>\$ 5,805.25</b> | <b>49%</b> |
| Expenses                                 |                     |                     |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |            |
| For faculty and administration Personnel | \$ 47,690.00        | \$ 3,516.75         | \$ 4,541.00         | \$ 4,350.00        | \$ 3,576.75        | \$ 4,294.50        | \$ 3,737.75        | 50%        |
| Other expense                            | \$ 30,945.50        | \$ 7,103.15         | \$ 1,895.40         | \$ 2,086.55        | \$ 2,012.56        | \$ 1,851.88        | \$ 694.50          | 51%        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                    | <b>\$ 78,635.50</b> | <b>\$ 10,619.90</b> | <b>\$ 6,436.40</b>  | <b>\$ 6,436.55</b> | <b>\$ 5,589.31</b> | <b>\$ 6,146.38</b> | <b>\$ 4,432.25</b> | <b>50%</b> |
| Balance                                  | \$ -                | \$ (1,152.65)       | \$ 4,565.30         | \$ 2,393.40        | \$ (2,983.21)      | \$ (5,628.33)      | \$ 1,373.00        |            |

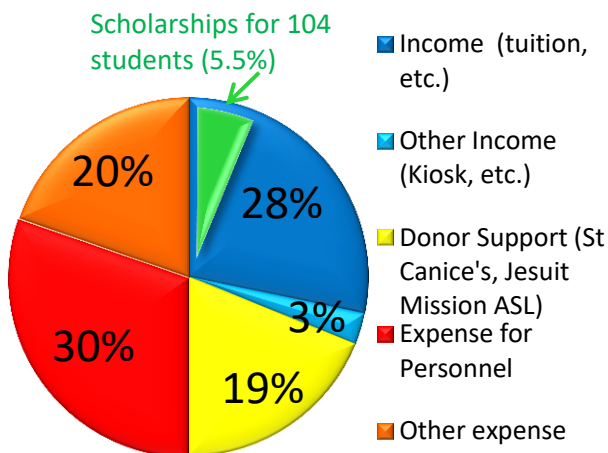
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## Monthly income and expense 2024

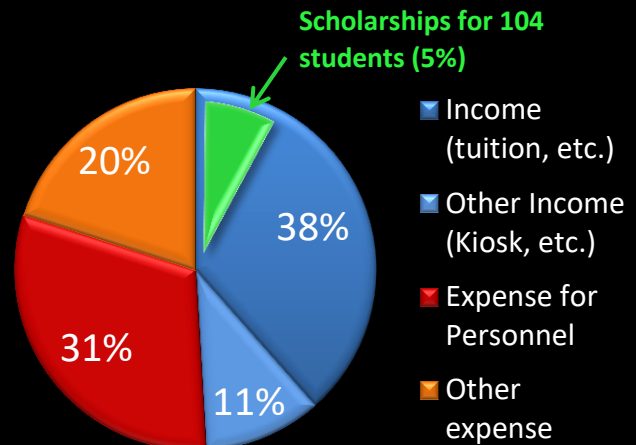


Scholarships: SGS Foundation (63 students); CRC Sydenham (21 students); The Peter Trust (20 students)

## Annual Budget for 2024 (Income and expense)



## Income and Expense from January to June, 2024





# Preferências Apostólicas Universais de Jesuitas

*Mostrar o caminho para Deus* mediante os Exercícios Espirituais e o discernimento



*HATUDU DALAN BA MAROMAK* liu husi Ezersisius Espirituais ho dixernimentu

*Caminhar com os pobres*, os descartados pelo mundo, os vulnerados em sua dignidade, numa missão de reconciliação e justiça



*LA'O HAMUTUK HO EMA KBIIT LAEK SIRA*, marjinalizadu sira iha misaun hadame-malu ho justisa nian

*Acompanhar os jovens* na criação de um futuro cheio de esperança



*AKOMPAÑA FOIN-SA'E SIRA* hodi harii futuru nebe nakonu ho esperansa

Colaborar com *o cuidado da Casa Comun*



Serbisu hamutuk atu *TAU MATAN BA ITA-NIA CASA COMUN (ambiente)*



## Unidos em Cristo

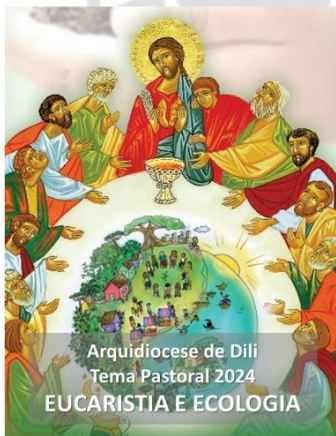
Somos filhos de NOSSEF e somos Católicos Timorenses.

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# UNIDOS EM CRISTO

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## NOSSEF Railaco 2002-2024