

Railaco Vila, Ermera, TIMOR LESTE  
Cellphone No.: +670-77037527; 75052949  
murayamahyoe@gmail.com



ESCOLA SECUNDARIA CATÓLICA  
NOSSA SENHORA DE FÁTIMA - RAILACO (NOSSEF)  
Latest Updates 2024 July-December

### *To our Friends and Benefactors,*

This year, from September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis visited Timor-Leste. The theme was "*Que a vossa fé seja a vossa cultura*" (Let your faith be your cultural identity). More than a hundred of our teachers and students went to Dili (Tasi Tolu) to attend the Papal Mass spending two nights in camping. About half of the total Timorese population (700,000) is reported to have participated in that Mass. Many people cried with tears of joy and gratitude.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, our 12<sup>th</sup> graders held a farewell party. After they took the National Exam in mid-October, they organized various graduation commemoration activities, such as building a small house for our gardener, drawing and painting on the wall of one of our classroom buildings in November. They collected their own money to buy the materials. The school also contributed some money to buy the paint and some additional materials. Those who were not so active in the classroom revealed their talents in carpentry and painting. They are quite motivated and excited to try their very best during that time.

We don't normally celebrate Christmas at school because it's a school holiday. The students and teachers celebrate Christmas in their local chapels and communities. There's no nativity scene in school. However, this year we have beautiful graffiti of our Lady of Fátima and a Timorese traditional hut on the school building wall. These represent the annual goal of our school "*Unidos em*

*Cristo—somos filhos de NOSSEF e somos Católicos Timorenses*" (United in Christ—we are children of Our Lady of Fátima, we are Catholic Timorese). We chose this theme to strengthen our unity and to deepen our identity as Catholic Timorese, rooted and grounded in our devotion to Nossa Senhora de Fátima.

When I see our graduating students, I recall the three-year life they spent in our school. In 2024 we had 104 scholarship recipients, and about 60 of them were need-based scholarships. We chose them based on their own desire, commitment, and the needy financial situation of their family. They enjoyed friendships and learning like all other students. I imagine that if they didn't receive scholarships they wouldn't be able to complete their student life at NOSSEF. They came to school on Saturdays to do some cleaning and gardening as part of scholarship students' activities. Many of them got involved in those graduation commemoration activities out of their own initiative and desire. After finishing the painting, they added the theme of the Papal visit to Timor-Leste: "*Que a vossa fé seja a vossa cultura.*" I pray that they will make their faith their cultural identity and maintain the joy of Christmas throughout their lives.

Our Master Plan process is still ongoing. From 2023, we have been planning to renovate all school buildings and include an elementary school, maximizing the use of our current land. It is


essential to address the poor condition of basic education in this country. This has been caused by a poorly organized and outdated educational system and insufficient parenting education. This is causing even poorer learning achievement and a neglected school culture in most public schools. As the government's myopic vision and party politics fail to respond to the need for educating the growing population and the fragile job market, the climate of disappointment has caused disordered expectations for school discipline (factory and military-style education) and little interest in formal education ("Education is meaningless"). Therefore, many people push their children to earn more money faster by working abroad, in Korea, England, Australia, etc.

It is imperative to have a visionary plan grounded in integrity and faith and generating realistic hope and further dreams. 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, because 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.

Although it seems almost overwhelming for me as a priest to cover all of the following issues, NOSSEF needs to establish a good induction program for new employees, a better training program for all employees, a better salary system, a creative and visionary insight about future curriculum designing, a solid work ethic and an understandable culture of commitment and collaboration. There is a Yiddish proverb: "God gives burdens, also shoulders." In spite of all these challenges, God is with us (Mat 1:23), and hope does not disappoint (Rom 5:5). We never forget the generous donation and encouraging messages from our friends and benefactors. We thank you for your self-giving charity to shoulder our burdens. Continue to include us in your prayers and hopes.

May God unite us all in hope.

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



## NOSSEF ENROLMENTS

<p><b>April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>121 (10<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>110 (11<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>108 (12<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> </ul> <p>= 339 Total Enrolment</p>	<p><b>December 13, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 108 students <b>graduated</b> from 12<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>▪ 227 (116 + 110) students (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade in 2024) <b>advanced</b> to the next grade.</li> </ul> <p><small>* 1 student failed. 2 students dropped out. 2 students were transferred. Some students will be transferred to other schools from December to January as in the previous years.</small></p>
---	--



### Campus Life and Activities

#### July

From July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, NOSSEF received 16 students and 4 teachers from Jesuit and Ignatian high schools in Australia. Our students had a great opportunity to interact with Australian students in English. They seemed to be sharing time and learning together beyond the barriers of language.

After the exam week for the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester (July 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 20<sup>th</sup>), members of the NOSSEF Students Pastoral Team underwent their service learning experience in the Railaco Feeding Program. Then, they went on a 3-hour pilgrimage and camping to Tabulasse, a remote rural village in the neighboring Aileu municipality on July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Our students raised the funds themselves and bought a statue of Our Lady of Graces and donated it to the Tabulasse chapel. Tabulasse did not have an electricity system, so we brought a generator

from school. During our evening prayer and lecture, many people of that village came to the chapel and spent a light-up evening together.

2024 was the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jesuits' presence in Timor-Leste. Jesuits in Timor-Leste organized a pilgrimage event on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, to Soibada, located in the Eastern part of Timor-Leste. It took almost 7 hours by vehicles from Railaco to that memorial site, where Portuguese Jesuit Missionaries started their first mission with a boarding school. All NOSSEF students and teachers joined this pilgrimage and spent one night there to participate in the memorial Mass celebrated by Dom Leandro, Bishop of Baucau Diocese. One of our old benefactors and supporters of the Railaco Mission, Mr Michael Musgrave, also came from St Canice's, Sydney, to participate in the celebration.

## August

Due to the dense schedule during our trimester break, the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester started in NOSSEF on August 7<sup>th</sup>, after the delay of 2 days. Our Student Council members (KORENOSSEF) conducted their leadership formation program in the Montserrat Retreat House of Kasait from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. As is their annual tradition, a truck brought them to the hilltop village on the way to Kasait, and then the senior members led the newly chosen candidates in walking down the steep hill for more than 3 hours. In that evening and the following morning, 3 of our teachers gave talk sessions on Jesuit Education (4Cs), the Student Council Statutes, and Ignatian Leadership. The senior members also shared their experiences and organized some ice-breaking games with Mr Florian, of our MEP French volunteer staff.

To address the need of the pedagogical formation of our new and old teachers so as to strengthen employee retention, we invited Fr Sidelizio Hornay Pereira SJ (the former Rector of the Jesuit teacher training college ISJB in Kasait) to give an intensive lecture on Ignatian Pedagogy on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms Jo Brady from ISJB also accompanied some of our young teaching staff (a few of them are ISJB graduates) that afternoon. Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loyola in Kasait generously invited

10 of our students and 2 teachers to attend their Science and Math Expo on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our Jesuit Regional Superior, Fr Erik John Gerilla SJ, made his yearly official visitation to Railaco. He directed a flag-raising ceremony at NOSSEF on August 19<sup>th</sup>, gave an inspiring talk to our students, and sat down with our faculty members for questions and discussion on August 20<sup>th</sup>. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, a Japanese NPO *Lafaek* and Sister Kumi Nishikawa (Irmãs Escravas de Sagrado Coração) visited NOSSEF to donate 7 wheelchairs for the Railaco Mission.

An enrolment support program *Cursos de Santos Pastorinhos de Fátima* started on August 26<sup>th</sup>. This program was created last year to prime local Railaco children for greater enrolment and better adaptation to our school. Like last year, some 30 students from a nearby junior high school attended the afternoon lessons in Math, Portuguese, and English for 90 minutes 3 times a week in the Railaco Parish Hall. Thanks to the financial assistance from the Jesuits of the SJ HOUSE Community in Tokyo, Japan, we could pay for the local part-time teachers (alumni of NOSSEF) and afternoon tea and snack prepared by the NOSSEF Canteen.





## September

At the request of our biggest funding supporter, Jesuit Mission Australia (JMA), we encouraged our students to draw some pictures on Clean Water Access and on Healthy Agriculture, etc. The school organized an artwork competition with prizes. Many students from different classes submitted their drawings and paintings. Our faculty members voted for the winners. We were happy to discover many students' hidden talents and creativity.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, there was an installation ceremony of the Student Council KORENOSSEF during the First Friday Mass. From September 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, we had special holidays for the Papal visit to Timor-Leste.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr Domingos Lopes Lemos, Secretary of State for secondary education (Vice-Minister of Education), and his team visited NOSSEF. In his welcoming speech, the director of NOSSEF expressed his concerns about the government's large-scale headhunting recruitment of Catholic school teachers for public schools and the lack of a sufficient supply of textbooks from the Ministry of Education over the last 10 years.

From September 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, some students and teachers of NOSSEF visited 6 local junior high schools in the surrounding areas to introduce our school and its admission procedure, prior to the submission period for admission application (Sep 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Oct 7<sup>th</sup>).



## October

From September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup>, our 12<sup>th</sup> graders made a 3-day retreat in the Montserrat Retreat House, Kasait, divided into two groups. Jesuit fathers and brothers working in Kasait (CSIL & ISJB), RJM Sisters, and Railaco Jesuits took turns in accompanying the graduating students. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, during the Mass at Railaco church, they received a blessing on their pencils, erasers, and rulers. There was also an installation ceremony of the new NOSSEF Student Pastoral Team. That afternoon, the 12<sup>th</sup> graders cleaned their classrooms thoroughly for their National Exam venues, while 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders were praying the rosary at the school and parish grottos. After cleaning the classrooms, the 12<sup>th</sup> graders also prayed the rosary until 16:00.

After the National Exam, the graduating 12<sup>th</sup> graders started their graduation commemoration work of making a small gardener's house and a painting of Our Lady on the wall. There was a ceremony for laying the cornerstone of the new gardener's house on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> was the last day of the enrolment support program "*Cursos dos Santos*

*Pastorinhos de Fátima.*" Two of the teaching staff prepared and handed out certificates of participation to those who attended 10 times or more. The NOSSEF entrance exam was held on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Out of 209 of those who submitted their application forms, 180 came to take the exam in 4 subjects (Math, Portuguese, English, and Religion).

While the school was busy conducting the entrance exam and checking the grades, 3 teachers and Fr Hyoe travelled to a renowned Jesuit high school in Semarang city, Indonesia. They took a 6-hour bus ride from Dili to Kupang (West Timor), then caught a flight through Bali to Semarang. Whereas Fr Hyoe returned earlier (October 31<sup>st</sup>), 3 of our teachers spent a full week of school immersion at Kolese Loyola Semarang until November 3<sup>rd</sup>, directly observing the systematic school curriculum, Ignatian pedagogy and campus ministry, the financial system, team teaching in advanced learning facilities, school discipline, the activity of the student council, etc. The cost was covered by private donations that Fr Hyoe received during his visit to Japan.





## November

After the national holidays of the All Saints Solemnity and the All Souls Memorial, lessons started again on November 5<sup>th</sup>, immediately followed by one-day recollections for 11<sup>th</sup> graders (November 6<sup>th</sup>) and 10<sup>th</sup> graders (November 7<sup>th</sup>), and the oral entrance examination and interview (November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>). Out of 180 people who took the written exam on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 168 passed, and 162 came for the interview.

The following Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, our 12<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed Friendship Sports Games with the 12<sup>th</sup> graders of Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola (CSIL) at NOSSEF. After the sports games, the students of both schools performed some entertaining songs and music with a band set.

From November 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, the final exam (tests for promotion) for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders was conducted. On the second day of that exam week, all of a sudden, the Ministry of Education visited to donate a full Marching Band set to NOSSEF. The donation had been promised by the Secretary of State for Secondary Education during his visit to NOSSEF on September 16<sup>th</sup>. However, due to this sudden visit, we had to interrupt our previously scheduled meeting with Mr Willy Tan (JMA) and Ms Maya Cranitch (impact research consultant) for 2 hours. On November

26<sup>th</sup>, Mr David de Carvalho (Dean of Education, Philosophy and Theology Department of Notre Dame University) visited us to probe the possibilities of a service learning program for their college students.

Throughout the year 2024, the statue of St John-Paul II, the patron of education in Timor-Leste, was travelling around schools in the Ermera Municipality, staying a few days in each school. The statue of the Pope arrived in NOSSEF on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The enthusiasm for welcoming a statue of a Saint in Timor-Leste is outstanding. Teachers took turns spending nights with the statue, and students in classes took turns singing and praying hour by hour, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, until it moved to another school on December 1<sup>st</sup>. During the visit of the statue, there was a flag-raising ceremony in the public field of Railaco on Independence Day, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Our students took responsibility for the marching and the choir. There was also a farewell party for the 12<sup>th</sup>-year graduates on November 30<sup>th</sup>, with the completion and hand-over of the graffiti of Our Lady of Fátima and the gardener's house. Normally there is a peaceful time between the final exam and the teacher-parent meeting, but this year we had many activities, which made our students active and happy.





## December

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sister Maria RJM, one of our English teachers, made her profession of perpetual vows in the Díli Cathedral. About 80 of our students and almost all the teachers participated in the Mass presided by the Archbishop.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, a teacher-parent meeting for 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester was held. During the meeting, a new leadership team of the parents' council was elected through campaigning and voting. Mr Cesar A. Borges, father of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade boy, was elected president. He was our former vice-director, who resigned this year.

As the school wraps up the year, two events remained: the 3-day orientation program for new students and the 4-day retreat for our teachers. We have already announced that 155 students passed the interview, but as in previous years, 10 to 15 new students did not

participate in the program. The Student Council KORENOSSEF and the Student Pastoral Team joined forces to conduct the orientation program. The following week, all the teachers and staff went to the Montserrat Retreat House in Kasait for the annual retreat and annual evaluation. Fr Erik John Gerilla was the retreat director this year. His emphasis on fraternal unity and zeal for collaboration through reconciliation and synodality had a strong impact on our faculty, who have begun to consider a deeper commitment as lay collaborators due to the shortage of Jesuit personnel for each apostolic institution. It was a moment of consolation and relief when we heard on the first day of our retreat that the 12<sup>th</sup> graders of NOSSEF passed 100% in the National Exam, while 4% of students across the country did not pass.

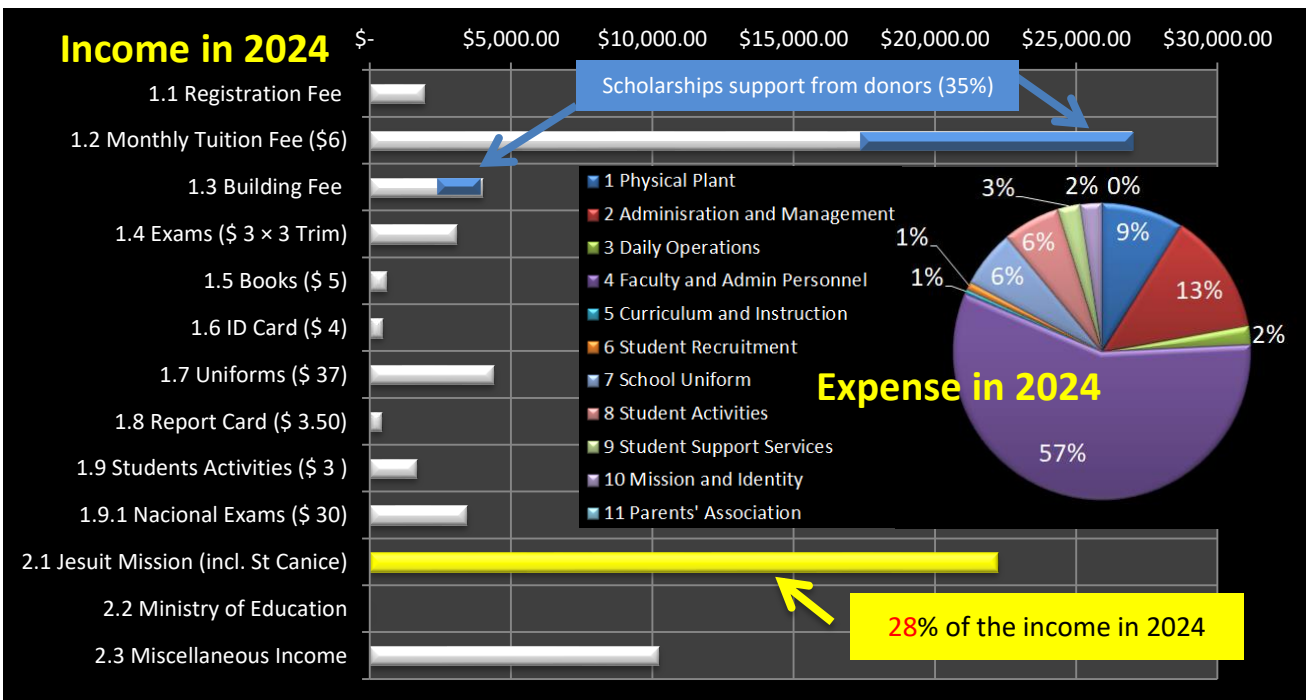


# NOSSEF Brief financial report from January to December, 2024

INCOME		Year to Date
Beginning Balance (from 2023)		\$ 15,599.20
<b>1 TUITION AND OTHER INCOME</b>		
1.1	Registration Fee	\$ 1,946.00
1.2 Monthly Tuition Fee (\$6)		\$ 26,970.50
The SGS Foundation : scholarships for 63 students.		(118 out of 339 students are scholarship students)
The Peter Trust : for 20 students.		
CRC Sydenham : for 21 students.		
SJ House Tokyo : for 14 students <b>NEW</b>		
1.3	Building Fee	\$ 3,977.00
1.4	Exams (\$ 3 × 3 Trim)	\$ 3,052.00
1.5	Books (\$ 5)	\$ 594.50
1.6	ID Card (\$ 4)	\$ 450.00
1.7	Uniforms (\$ 37)	\$ 4,378.00
1.8	Report Card (\$ 3.50)	\$ 427.50
1.9	Students Activities (\$ 3 )	\$ 1,640.50
1.9.1	Nacional Exams (\$ 30)	\$ 3,419.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 46,855.00</b>
<b>2 SUBSIDIES/DONATIONS, ETC.</b>		
2.1	Jesuit Mission (incl. St Canice)	\$ 22,200.00
2.2	Ministry of Education	\$ -
2.3	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 10,220.05
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 32,420.05</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$ 94,874.25</b>



EXPENSES		Year to Date
1	Physical Plant	\$ 7,425.90
2	Administration and Management	\$ 11,045.64
3	Daily Operations	\$ 1,669.25
4	Faculty and Admin Personnel	\$ 47,453.85
5	Curriculum and Instruction	\$ 384.00
6	Student Recruitment	\$ 691.50
7	School Uniform	\$ 5,183.00
8	Student Activities	\$ 5,189.60
9	Student Support Services	\$ 2,058.25
10	Mission and Identity	\$ 1,955.50
11	Parents' Association	\$ 1.50
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 83,057.99</b>
<b>Balance (Income-Expenses)</b>		<b>\$ 11,816.26</b>



Scholarships: SGS Foundation (63 students); CRC Sydenham (21 students); The Peter Trust (20 students); SJ House Tokyo (**NEW**, 14 students)



## Preferências Apostólicas Universais de Jesuitas

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

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

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

Colaborar com *o cuidado da Casa Comun*



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

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

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

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



### Unidos em Cristo

Somos filhos de NOSSEF e somos Católicos Timorenses.

Ho espírito NOSSEF, hametin unidade, haburas indentidade católica timorense no hadia qualidade educação. (NOSSEF nia finalidade ba tinan letivu 2024)

