



SM bulletin

Friday, 28 November 2014

General Administration

At the general council meeting this week the following topics were on the agenda: a more extended and formal report on the recent meeting in Dakar about the school project, and the involvement in meetings and celebrations in occasion of the *Year of the Consecrated Life* which starts on Sunday.

Fr John Hannan has participated in a three days meeting of the USG (Union of Superiors General). On Tuesday he will leave for a short stay in Ireland.

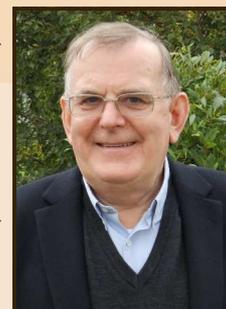
Fr Lote Raiwalui is in the district of Asia where he has been visiting the Marist Mission in Ranong, Thailand.

Next week the members of the General Administration currently present in Rome will be on retreat in Nemi, in the hills at the outskirts of Rome.

The Advent, a Letter from the Superior General

On the occasion of the beginning of Advent, Fr John Hannan has written a letter to the Society. He writes: *"During this period of grace I encourage you to focus attention on the spiritual meaning for our day of God's entry into humanity through a prayerful contemplation of the daily liturgical readings. Flowing from your prayer and reflection I invite you to find concrete ways to reach out to the poor and neglected, following the commanding example of Pope Francis, so that those whose lives you touch feel included and more cherished in a world which at times has to be so painfully alienating."* In his letter Fr John also draws attention to the *Year of the Consecrated Life* which starts on the first Sunday of Advent.

The letter will be distributed to all confreres through their major superiors.



Mission Experience in Ranong



Confreres of the District of Asia working with Burmese refugees in Ranong, Thailand, are running a volunteer program. Volunteers have the opportunity to help Burmese migrant children learn English, to live in a supportive community, and to grow in faith while enjoying an experience of service among the poor. For more information, please visit www.maristthailand.org/volunteers or email Fr Frank Bird: francisbird@gmail.com.

Meetings in Brazil and in Europe

This week, the confreres of the District of Brazil met in Belo Horizonte for the District Assembly. They spent five days together to share the joys and challenges of 2014, to reflect on their mission, and to develop plans for the coming year.



With a renewed spirit and the desire to be Mary's presence in Brazil, they defined the theme of the mission of the district for 2015: "Marists, together in joy and in the desire to be a support for the Church".

In Europe the Council of the Province took place this week, with the members of the European provincial administration, the regional superiors and Fr Alejandro Muñoz from the GA. The main item on the agenda was new provincial legislation designed to encourage greater unity. Attention was also given to a recent letter from the superior general, vocations, finance and the life and mission of the province.