



SM bulletin



Friday, 8 May 2015

General Administration

The GA completes its three weeks of plenary meetings today.

In the last week approval was given for a change in the government structure of the Province of Europe, Fr José Maria da Silva was re-appointed as major superior of Brazil and Peru-Venezuela, the bursar general gave his report on the finances of the Society, the draft report on the Review of Marist International Formation was studied and responded to, the draft agenda of the next ARC meeting was drawn up, and a survey of the Society in preparation for the General Chapter was planned.

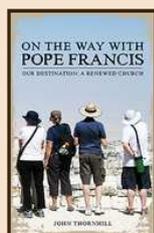
Re-Appointment of Fr José-Maria da Silva



After a consultation of the members of the districts of Brazil and Peru-Venezuela, the superior general has re-appointed the current leader of the districts, Fr José-Maria da Silva, as the Major Superior of both districts for another term of three years concluding on 30 April 2018.

Two Books inspired by Pope Francis

Fr Gerald Arbuckle (Z) has published a new book *'The Francis Factor and the People of God: New Life for the Church'*. In the book he argues that today, the emergence of Pope Francis as ritual leader in the Church has allowed suppressed grief to be articulated in a variety of ways. As a result Church is now experiencing new energy, and opening up to necessary new methods of rebirth and renewal. From that premise, the author develops a cultural-anthropological model of institutional change. He applies this model to what has been happening in the Church since Vatican II, particularly in those institutions and religious expressions that flowered after the Council but have faced difficult realities in the decades since. The book is published by Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books.



Also Fr John Thornhill (S) has recently published a book on Pope Francis: *'On the way with Pope Francis: Our destination - a renewed Church'*. In his foreword Jesuit Bishop Gregory O'Kelly writes: "It seems clear that Pope Francis has put a new spring into the step of the Church... John Thornhill teases out the reflections of the Holy Father, and explains how they are part of the authentic tradition of the Church, and how they are sourced in Vatican II."

Pope Francis Drop-in Centre in the Philippines



Balay Pasilungan, the Marist home for street children in Davao City, has expanded its ministry with the opening of a drop-in centre: "The Pope Francis Drop-In Centre", which was blessed in the beginning of April with a large number of friends and benefactors present. The Drop-In Centre will care for boys who come in straight off the streets and are not yet ready for Balay Pasilungan's more structured residential program. Guests at the

blessing were entertained by the talented young residents who sang and danced. Director Fr Lionel Mechavez acknowledged those who have supported Balay Pasilungan throughout its 26-year history, and asked that this generosity be continued and extended to the Drop-In Center.