



SM bulletin

FOURVIÈRE 1816 - 2016

Friday, 4 September 2015

General Administration

In the first week of its plenary meetings the GA received reports from the Superior General on his visitation of the European Regions of the Netherlands (with Norway) and Germany and from Fr Larry Duffy on his visitation of Oceania and the International Novitiate. Reports were also given on the recent workshop for the City-Centre Churches and the meeting of Marist Laity, as well as updates on various units of the Society.

The Superior General has re-appointed Fr Didier Hadonou as District Superior of Africa; given permission for the sale of the Bilgola holiday house and the eventual sale of the college property in Burnie, Australia; and for the taking on of a new parish in Callao (PV).

The council also gave consideration to two proposed projects in Africa, the ongoing project of a school in Dakar, Senegal and the building of a student hostel in Bambili, Cameroon.

MEMORY OF FIRST MARIST MISSIONARIES IN AKAROA, NZ



In August 1840 the first French settlers arrived in Akaroa, New Zealand, where at that time there was already a British presence. A few days after their arrival, on 24 August, they were led in a Mass on the foreshore of Akaroa harbour by Marist Missionaries Frs Jean-Baptist Comte and Jean Pezant and Br Florentin. This was the first Mass celebrated in the South Island of New Zealand. By the end of the year, the Marists had baptised seven children, conducted two marriages and two burials. 175 years later, on Sunday 23 August, Bishop Barry Jones led a Commemoration Mass in the 150 year old St Patrick's Church in Akaroa. The New Zealand provincial, Fr David Kennerley, preached to a full church. They were joined by concelebrants Frs Paul Shannahan and Peter Conaghan, who has spent his life time as a Maori Missionary.

PICPUS FORMATION GROUP HOSTED BY MARIST COLLEGE SUVA

When the Marists first set out for Oceania, the Picpus Fathers (Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary - SSCC) provided practical assistance and hospitality in Paris, Chile, and some other Pacific islands as Bishop Pompallier and the first group of Marist missionaries made their way across the Pacific. At that time the Picpus were responsible for the apostolic vicariate of Eastern Oceania while the Marists had just accepted responsibility for Western Oceania. Nearly one hundred and eighty years later the two congregations are co-operating once again: recently the American province of the Picpus Fathers and Brothers have moved their formation house from San Francisco to Suva. Two formators and seven seminarians have arrived in Fiji in recent weeks. They are a very diverse group with people from Tonga, Futuna, the United States and Indonesia. A formator and four seminarians are living at Marist College, while the others are living at Pacific Regional Seminary. They join the Marist community for Mass and meals and some other community activities.

CHAPTER 19 OF COLIN'S BIOGRAPHY

Another chapter of Fr Colin's Biography by Fr Justin Taylor has been made available for reading. Chapter 19 closes the time of Jean-Claude Colin as superior general of the Society, and brings the story to 1834. It can be downloaded from the GA website in the section on the founder. <http://www.maristsm.org/en/founder.aspx>

DECEASED CONFRERES

We pray for

Fr Jean Bouche, aged 97, from the province of Europe (France), who died on 29 August, and for

Bp George Pearce, aged 94, from the province of the USA, who died on 31 August, May they rest in peace.

