



# SM bulletin

FOURVIÈRE 1816 - 2016

Friday, 9 October 2015

## - ARC MEETING -



At the opening prayers of the ARC meeting the confreres participating repeated the Statement of Commitment made first at CS 2013, accepting the challenge to become more focussed, more international, more collegial and more courageous. The nine days that have followed have proved that this initial intention has been realised in what the meeting's outcomes and the manner in which they were achieved. This meeting of ARC has truly been an exercise in fraternal collegial leadership.

A highlight of the stay in La Neylière for everyone was the visit on Saturday to the newly opened *Espace Colin*. An insightful and beautiful audio and visual presentation of Fr Colin and his significance set in the rooms he occupied in La Neylière.

The participants of ARC have been very appreciative of the warm welcome and care received from our Marist confreres, Bernard Boisseau, Bernd Kordes, Ad Blommerde and Jean-Bernard Joly, and the management and staff of La Neylière.

Saturday and Wednesday afternoons were given over to an important part of the annual ARC meetings - the one-to-one conversations that the Superior General has with each of the major superiors. Sunday was a free day on which some took the advantage to visit Fourvière or Le Puy.

Monday was given to discussion of the report on the *Review of Marist International Formation* by Frs Andrew Murray sm and Noel Connolly ssc. The excellent report was well received. A significant judgement of the review was that *the international formation programs in Davao and Rome are functioning well and should be continued and supported*. A number of matters raised were singled out for particular attention by ARC and advice offered to the general and his council as they now address the 42 recommendations of the report.

The items discussed on Tuesday were: The sharing of personnel - the needs of units and of the whole Society requires that trained suitable men be made available to carry out essential tasks throughout the Society – the Superior General will take a role in this; and some amendments to the guiding principles for the Society on ensuring Child Protection.

The prioritisation of ministries, which has been completed in most units, was the topic for Wednesday. Associated with the prioritisation of ministries is the designation of some works as significant expressions of the patrimony of the Society (SD 61) – the major superiors agreed that the Superior General begin to carry out this task in consultation with those involved.

The two provincial groups (Canada, Mexico and USA; Australia and New Zealand with Asia) reported their progress at inter-unit reconfiguration on Thursday. This was followed by a number of reports: City Centre Churches network, the status of the Cause of Fr Colin, the present state of the African school project, the projected Endowment Fund for International Formation. Some time was also spent on vocation promotion and procurement, an area that needs creative attention and sometimes revitalisation in every unit if the Society is to have a future.

Today, the final day of the meeting, will be given over to preparations for the General Chapter 2017 and the final summing up by the Superior General.

For pictures: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8fs8VWOPYM&feature=youtu.be>

