



SM bulletin

FOURVIÈRE 1816 - 2016

Friday, 22 April 2016

General Administration

The general council continued its plenary meetings this week. Among the matters treated were the Endowment Fund for International Formation, training programs in financial management, the Colinian Renewal program for 2017. Planning for the General Chapter continued and setting an agenda for the next meeting of ARC was considered.

Brother Michael French cfc from the United States has been engaged as the second co-facilitator for the General Chapter joining Christine Anderson fcj. Michael has done facilitation work with our confreres in America.

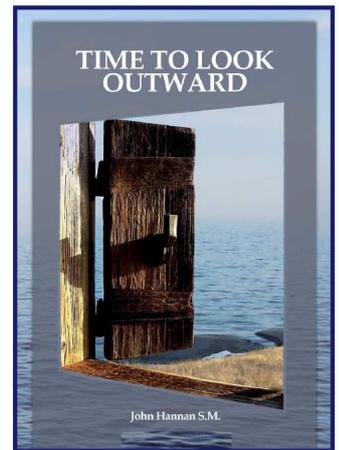
He worked for many years at the Lasallian International Center in Rome, Italy as well as serving as translator, facilitator, and teacher. He has cross-cultural training and experience, including giving retreats, facilitations and workshops in many parts of the world. He is able to communicate in four languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian.

TIME TO LOOK OUTWARD

The new circular letter from the Superior General "Time to look outward: the mission of the Society today" is now published and has been distributed to all units of the Society. The booklets should arrive within the next few weeks. In the meantime the letter is also available on the members section of the Society's website, www.maristsm.org, in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch and Portuguese.

In his letter the superior general addresses the question on how the Society can renew itself and redefine the Marist mission in this ever increasing secularized world.

Both the words of Pope Francis – in *Evangelii Gaudium*, and *Laudato si* – and Fr Colin in our own Constitutions can inspire us to respond to these challenges.



Fr John writes:

"We need to articulate our Marist mission in such a way that when we make concrete choices we can do so confidently, act decisively and invite vocations more confidently.

In grappling with this question I have a dual purpose in mind: to enable our younger confreres to have a deeper understanding of what constitutes our mission in the modern world, and to help all of us to prepare for the upcoming provincial chapters and the general chapter in 2017.

We have been busy implementing the orientations of the 2009 chapter. We have invested a lot of effort working at initial formation, the government of the Society, its finances, the renewal of its members, the allocation of human and financial resources, diminishment and its effects. This remains a work in progress. At the same time there is a growing awareness that, while addressing these issues is necessary, it is not sufficient to ensure the growth of our Society.

In general terms, you could say that since the last general chapter we have been focusing on chapters two, three and four of our Constitutions – Admission and Incorporation of New Members, Forming a Communion for Mission, and Government. I would suggest that there is "something else" that is needed now in terms of "creative fidelity" to the mission of our Society. I believe that, if we want to experience something of the energy and zeal of the first Marists, we need to turn again to Chapter One of the Constitutions entitled Nature and Foundations of the Society. (nrs 2,3,8,9)