



# SM bulletin

Friday, 25 November 2016

## General Administration

Fr John Hannan has returned from his time in the Philippines attending the Asian district's chapter and visiting the international novitiate .

Fr Larry Duffy continues his visitation of New Zealand.

Fr Alejandro Muñoz is in Brazil where he will attend the first chapter of the District of South America.

Fr Paul Martin has celebrated Thanksgiving in the USA and will return to Rome early next week.

## KALENDARIUM

Attached to this bulletin is the Kalendarium for 2017. It is sent out only in digital version. Confreres are invited to print it out locally and distribute it to all members.

## THE SUPERIOR GENERAL VISITS THE NOVITIATE HOUSE IN DAVAO

Fr John Hannan on returning from the Philippines and, before succumbing to jet-lag, reported on his weeklong visit of the International Novitiate in Eden (aptly named!) Davao. He found the novitiate staff, Br John Votaia, Fr Denis Revi, Socius, and Fr Fernando Ingente, novice master and superior, in good form and doing a fine job - "Their



complementary team skills are remarkable". He was able to have a long conversation with each of the five novices: Brad Chadwick (Samoa), Emil Kenewata (Bougainville), Cameron Mota (Bougainville), Hayden Powick (New Zealand), and Yves Tuma (the Cameroon). All spoke appreciatively of the formation they are receiving. Last Sunday four pre-novitiate candidates arrived in Davao to begin a two month initiation course. The program will cover cultural sensitisation and appreciation and those other interpersonal skills so necessary to benefit optimally from what the novitiate has to offer.

## MARIST MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH

The province of New Zealand, in collaboration with Challenge 2000, offers every year the opportunity to a small group of young people who are looking for some "time out", to take part in the **Gap Year Program**. The program provides an opportunity for young Catholics to search for the purpose and meaning of and direction for their lives and to develop leadership skills and a range of life skills so that young people in the future and present are able to lead their communities and Church. It is also an opportunity where the charism of the Society of Mary can be explored by young people. On Saturday the graduation ceremony of the 9 participants of this year's program will take place in Wellington.

In the same spirit, in Atlanta, USA, the **Reach for Excellence** program aims to improve the lives of underserved middle school students through education and opportunity. Many young people have talent but lack access to the tools and resources that will help them flourish. At *Reach*, students connect with talented and creative teachers who help them raise their expectations of themselves and what they can achieve. The program celebrates this year its 15th anniversary. Over these 15 years the program has had more than 300 graduates.