



# SM bulletin

Friday, 16 December 2016

## General Administration

Fr Larry Duffy finished his visitation of the Province of New Zealand this week. He will now make his annual retreat and celebrate Christmas in New Zealand before moving on to Fiji to work with the provincial and council there, with the formators and to attend their provincial chapter.

Fr Alejandro Muñoz is in Mexico to attend the Provincial Chapter.

## FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE IN EUROPE

Recently in Paris the first meeting of the restructured Council of the Province took place. This meeting was historic because it was the first of its kind under the new statutes of the province. Formally the group was composed of the provincial administration and regional superiors, and now regionals are replaced by representatives chosen by local superiors in each country. The agenda was for the most part taken up with preparation work for the upcoming provincial chapter, which will take place in January 2017. The meeting proved to be a rich exchange of perspectives and highlighted the challenge of communication in the new structure in order to enrich discernment and consultation.

## FR MERVYN DUFFY AWARDED WITH THE JOHN DUNMORE MEDAL



In New Zealand, the *John Dunmore* Medal is awarded annually in recognition of major contributions to knowledge and better understanding of the part played by the French people and French culture in the scientific, economic, historical and cultural development of the Pacific. The 2016 award was made to Fr Mervyn Duffy of the New Zealand province, recognising his research and publications contributing to the knowledge of the early Marist missionaries in the Pacific. Announcing the award, the Federation of *Alliances Françaises* of New Zealand (FAFNZ) notes that "besides theological articles in various publications, Fr Duffy has been a key figure in organising the translation into English of the earliest letters written by the French Marist missionaries who came to New Zealand and Western Oceania between 1836 and 1854, and that posted on the Marist Studies website, the translations create a valuable resource for historians and the wider public."

## TRANSFER OF THE TRUSTEESHIP OF SAINT PERE CHANEL SCHOOL

In April 2016, on the initiative of our Marist confreres in Spain, conversations began with the Marist Brothers to explore the possibility of the Brothers taking over the trusteeship of the *Saint Pere Chanel* School in Malgrat de Mar, to ensure that the school could retain its Marist character. The Society



has served the college since 1908. On 18 November an agreement was signed by which the Brothers have taken over the trusteeship of the school under the auspices of the Champagnat Foundation. Pictured here are Fr Angel Antón sm and Br Jaume fms, chairman of the Champagnat Foundation, signing the agreement.