



SM bulletin

Friday, 18 August 2017

General Administration

While Fr Kevin Duffy continues his holidays in Ireland, Fr Alejandro Muñoz is in Bilbao, Spain, and Fr Paul Martin in Ireland for a short break before facing the immediate preparations for the General Chapter.

In this week's council meeting: following the setting up of a new community in Sahagún, Spain, the new Marist mission to the pilgrims of the Camino was approved; a significant step in the progress of the Colin biography by Fr Justin Taylor was taken with the decision to entrust the publication to the Australian publisher, ATF.

Celebrations will take place within the community of the General House tomorrow on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of ordination of the Secretary General. Fr Tony Corcoran shares his golden jubilee with Fr John Jago, the 10th Superior General, to whom we send our warmest congratulations.

INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE

Since there would have only been a maximum of three candidates for the novitiate due to begin in January 2018, the Superior General with the advice of his council has decided to postpone it for a year. This may be the first year in the history of the Society of Mary when no novitiate will have taken place. However the good news is that for the following year we hope to have eleven novices or more, a more vital number for a formation community.

Fr John Hannan has expressed his appreciation to the novitiate staff, Fr Fernando Ingente, Fr Denis Revi and Br John Votaia for their sterling service to the Society over several years. It is expected that they will benefit from the welcome break to do some further upskilling prior to the next novitiate beginning in January 2019.

WORKSHOP FOR MARIST EDUCATORS

14 Marist teachers of the Province of Oceania met at Lomeri, Fiji, for a workshop between 6 and 11 August 2017. They were joined by Fr Pio Fong as organised and Fr Andrew Murray as facilitator. The goals of the workshop were to build a community of Marist educators in the Oceania, to appropriate the findings and recommendations of the Review of Marist College Ministry in Oceania 2016 and to take practical steps to implement those recommendations. The workshop produced documents on inculcating Marist spirituality in schools, on the induction of lay teachers, on training lay Marists and on the protection of minors. In a Statement to the Province, the teachers proclaimed: 'We believe that the Oceania Marist Province has a future and commit ourselves to encouraging young men to join us in doing Mary's work.' The also affirmed 'the education ministry as a significant way for Marists to be present in Oceania at this time.'

LIVING CELIBACY AS CONSECRATED MARISTS

The Province of Mexico has initiated a formation program, "Living Celibacy as consecrated Marists", following the advise of the Vatican Commission on Prevention of Sexual Abuse. The first episode of the program took place from 7 to 11 of August guided by ALMAS (Lay Association for Maturity on Affectivity and Sexuality among priests and religious). The experience proved to be an excellent way to recognize how our celibate life is related to our central emotions and experience of being ourselves. The participants were grateful for the experience and are ready to continue to the next step.

YOUTH AND VOCATIONS FORUM

A reminder of our website, SM Ministries: Youth and Vocations' Forum, <https://maristyouthinternational.wordpress.com/>. In the present issue, Lay Marist Alexandra Yannicopoulos-Boulet talks about the ministry of vocations as service to the young people and the Marist way to practice it.