



SM bulletin

Friday, 8 December 2017

General Administration

With the arrival of Fr John Harhager last Friday, the general council is at full strength. The superior general and council spent the first days of this week together at Villa Palazzola on Lake Albano.

Each unit of the Society has been allocated one of the general assistants as “link person” as follows:

John Harhager

Oceania

Ben McKenna

Asia, Australia, USA

Juan Carlos Piña

Europe, South America, Mexico

Paul Walsh

Africa, Canada, New Zealand

The email addresses of the members of the General Council are:

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP PAUL



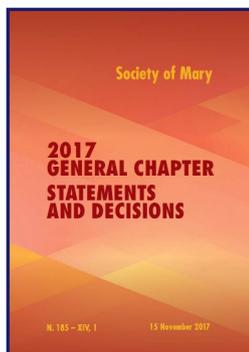
On Tuesday Pope Francis has appointed Fr Paul Martin as the 10th Bishop of the Christchurch Diocese in New Zealand. Even if there is certain sadness to lose Paul's generous contribution to the Society, the news has incited immediately many enthusiast reactions in the diocese of Christchurch, in the whole of New Zealand and among Marist confreres. Bishop Patrick Dunn, President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference said he is delighted with the appointment and declared “On behalf of all the New Zealand Bishops I warmly welcome Bishop –

Elect Paul to our New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference. We know that he will bring a new voice and a valuable perspective to our discussions”.

In an interview Fr Paul said: “It is a real privilege to be chosen as the next Bishop of Christchurch, I'm very positive about it. I'm aware of some of the challenges, excited by the possibilities and grateful for people's prayers.”.

While education has been Paul's primary ministry, for a time he worked in Māori pastoral care, as a chaplain at Hato Paora College, and as a member of the Society of Mary's Provincial Council. Since 1 March 2016 Paul had taken up the role of General Bursar in the Society, and has made a significant contribution in the organizing the Society's finances.

2017 GENERAL CHAPTER STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS



At the end of the General Chapter a redaction committee was appointed to formulate the Statements and Decisions taken by the General Chapter and to publish them. This publication is important as it contains the guidelines—as formulated by the Chapter—for the next 8 years. The English version of the Statements and Decisions has now been published and will be sent out next week to all units for distribution among confreres. The French and Spanish versions will follow very soon. The Statements and Decisions can also be downloaded from the members section of the GA website, www.maristsm.org.

DECEASED CONFRERES

We pray for

Fr Charles Girard, aged 81, of the Province of the United States of America, who died on 11 November.

May he rest in peace.