



# SM bulletin

Friday, 16 March 2018

## General Administration

Having attended the extraordinary chapter of the Australian Province, Fr John Larsen will now travel to Bougainville for ten days of visitation.

Fr Juan Carlos Piña continues his visitation of Peru.

## EXTRAORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER IN AUSTRALIA

In Australia an extraordinary chapter was held from 13-15 March, to make decisions on leadership and governance issues due to factors caused by aging and diminishment and in the light of some legal changes introduced by the recent General



Chapter. The Chapter decided that Australia would remain a province for the time being, but acknowledged the immediate need to begin transitioning towards some other structure in the coming years. This journey will be made in collaboration with the General Administration, the international Society and with the MAP partners. In the area of the selection of a new Provincial the chapter decided to adopt a new method now permitted by the Society's Constitutions and legislation. Following a consultation of all members of the province, an election will be carried out within a session of a provincial chapter. This change in legislation has yet to be approved by the GA. In his letter to the membership of the province, Fr Bob Barber thanked Fr John Larsen for his presence, "which shows that the whole Society of Mary deeply values what we have done at our Chapter and underlines the importance of the steps we have taken in the life of the Society".

## THE FARM OF NKOLOMAN—YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON



"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. (...) All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (*Laudato Si'* 13,14)

During his recent visit to Cameroon, Fr Paul Walsh had the occasion to visit the farm of Nkoloman, which is an innovative project of the District. In 2015 the District bought 5.5 hectares of land in the heart of the Equatorial Forest. The land produces mainly cocoa, but has also plenty of tomatoes, onion, garlic, cucumber, carrot, garden eggs, pepper, leek, beetroot, basil, lettuce etc. The aim of the project is to help the African district in becoming self-sufficient in the future, to provide people with work, take care of their families and meet the expensive and precarious life expectation of Yaoundé. It is also an instrument for the District to sensitise young Cameroonians to be aware that they can build up a future for their country, instead of migrating overseas.