



SM bulletin

Friday, 20 April 2018

General Administration

NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS

You are reminded that the novena for vocations leading up to the Feast of St Peter Chanel has begun.

God, our Father,
you inspired St Peter Chanel to leave his homeland in order to proclaim Jesus Saviour of the world, to the peoples of Oceania.

Guided by your Spirit, who is the strength of the gentle, he bore witness to your love, even laying down his life.

Grant that, like him, we may live our daily lives in peace, in joy, and in fraternal love.

May his prayer and example call forth from the midst of the Church many workers for the Gospel, so that your Kingdom may reach to the ends of the earth.

We make this prayer through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Next week there will be a reflection from the Superior General in occasion of the Feast of St. Peter Chanel.

BEING MARIST IN A CONTEXT OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Recently members of "Maristes en Éducation" (which groups people involved in our Marist schools in Europe) gathered at La Neylière for their annual meeting. The theme was "Being Marist in the context of religious diversity". The meeting was characterized by fraternity, collegiality, conviviality and discussions of high quality, with the presence of men and women who desire to deepen the meaning of their work in order to provide better support for their students in a multi-faith society.



One participant described it as follows: "When I was invited to take part in the meeting of at la Neylière, I didn't hesitate. I had already been there six years ago to discover the way of Fr Jean-Claude Colin and, of course, to discover also the very essence of the Marist spirit. That visit had been one of the best experiences of my life. (...) I was struck by the need to listen to the students who say that they are atheist or agnostic, whilst resisting the temptation to judge or, of course, persuade. The value of hearing before being heard was suggested. This idea is both obvious and surprising for us teachers. Moreover, it would be a good thing if the students in the Marist schools felt sufficiently good about themselves that they could discuss their own convictions. With regards other religions, our group spoke about the benefits of finding common ground in different beliefs."

TRIBUTE TO PIET VAN DER AART IN THE RAINFOREST



Brazil has a new nature reserve, a tribute to our Dutch confrere Fr Piet van der Aart, who died last year. At the request of his superiors, Piet studied biology after his ordination. After having taught Biology at St Pat's College in New Zealand, and a short period in the Netherlands, he was appointed to Brazil where he worked as a pastor in a favela and as a guest lecturer at the local university. As a biologist he led many exploratory tours in the Rain Forest, more particularly to the *Reserva Volta Velha*, on the Atlantic Coast, which he had helped to establish. It comprises 2.850.000 m² of the Atlantic Coastal Rainforest, in the North of the state of Santa Catarina, in the municipality of Itapoá. The main goal of the reserve is to conserve biological diversity. The reserve is now named "Reserva Volta Velha – Pe. Piet van der Aart".