



# SM bulletin

Friday, 11 May 2018

## General Administration

The Plenary Meetings of the General Council started this week.

On Friday, Fr John Larsen hosts a meeting of the four Superiors General of the Marist Family.

## FR JOHN LARSEN AT MARIST FAMILY GATHERING IN THE PHILIPPINES

While the Superior General was in the Philippines a few weeks ago, hundred Marists from the five branches gathered in Davao to strengthen the Marist Family bonds. The Island of Mindanao is blessed with several movements of the Marist Laity, Marist Sisters, SMSM Sisters, Marist Brothers, and Marist Fathers. The theme of the meeting was "Doing Mission in Asia Today as Marists." Fr John gave the keynote address which was followed by a workshop in mixed groups to produce reflective statements and suggest collaborative strategies. There was a vibrant spirit of family and sharing the name "Marist." It was agreed that the mission called for contemplative prayer and reaching out with openness as a community to the peoples of Asia. In this way the Gospel will have a joyful presence in the lands of numerous major religions.



## YOUNG MARISTS NEIGHBOURS PROGRAMME



In the course of his recent visit to New Zealand, Fr Paul Walsh participated in a week's programme organised by Fr Mark Walls from the New Zealand province and his team: The *Young Marists Neighbours programme*. The week offers a group of 13+ young students from seven Marist schools an exposure to the challenges facing vulnerable communities in the interior of the country. Fr Paul joined the group while spending a few days with the community of Mutupara, in the region of Rotorua, a town which grew up around the logging industry, where the population is facing economical crisis and various social and health problems. Our young people were invited to explore the town, meet the people, and then reflect on what they heard and saw in the light of the Church's social teaching. The second half of the week was spent at a Maori primary school in conjunction with a project to defend and advance the culture and the lot of the Maori in conjunction with a sustainable relationship to the forest and the land. While meeting some extraordinary people, the young people were invited to examine their own attitudes and life-styles, and to confront the reality of how some of their more vulnerable fellow-citizens have to struggle to thrive in this very affluent country. Their reflections were nourished by various texts illustrating the social teaching of the Scriptures and of the Church's tradition.