



SM bulletin

Friday, 26 April 2019

General Administration

Next week Fr John Larsen will arrive back in Rome.

Fr Juan Carlos Piña is in Spoleto (Umbria, Italy) this week, where he guides a retreat for the seminarians of Casa di Maria .

Fr Ben McKenna and Fr Paul Walsh will attend next week a meeting organised by SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission) in the outskirts of Rome: *"Mission in a Pluralistic World"*.

At the end of next week the members of the General Council will be together for three days of preparation for the May Plenary Council Meeting.

THE SUPERIOR GENERAL IN EDEN AND RANONG



Fr John Larsen spent Holy Week at the International Marist Novitiate in Eden, Davao, Philippines, with the novices and the members of the formation team. He had the opportunity to talk with all the community members individually, and had a session with the novices

and talked about the formation in the Society of Mary. At Easter there was a joint dinner with members of the District of Asia.

Fr John then continued his travel to Ranong, Thailand, where this week the Marist Commission on Inter-Religious dialogue met. The members of the Committee are Frs. Larry Sabud (chairman), Kevin Medilo, Michael Jacques and Gerry Hall (theological adviser). The Superior General introduced the meeting, proposing directions for the work of the group and suggesting its scope and boundaries. The group was then led in a theological reflection by Fr. Gerry Hall. The group dialogued with local Muslim and Buddhist leaders at a mosque and temple.



Time was dedicated to setting the future directions for the Commission. The time in Ranong included meeting with the Marist community and also local migrant people from Myanmar, mostly Buddhists, who have benefitted from the mission of Marists among them over the last fifteen years. The new Marist community house in Ranong provided a welcome home for prayer and hospitality.

RE-OPENING OF THE SANCTUARY OF LA MADONNA DELLA LIBERA

On the evening of 13 April, the whole town of Pratola Peligna, in Central Italy, celebrated the solemn reopening of the Sanctuary of *La Madonna della Libera*. The church had been closed because of damage caused by the 2016 earthquakes, and since then important restructuring has taken place - and yet to be finished. In the past 3 years the Christian



community was first hosted in a theatre and later in a tent to celebrate Mass. The reopening was a festive moment, in the presence of the bishop, local authorities, and a very joyful crowd welcoming the statue of our Lady in the Sanctuary again.