

SMBulletin

Friday, 17 January 2020

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Last week the members of the General Administration had a three days retreat in the outskirts of Rome to prepare for the plenary session which started on Monday.

Amongst other things the members of the council briefed each other on recent events and decisions from the provinces and districts. Fr John Larsen gave his report on the visitation of the District of Africa. The councilors started also a review of their portfolios and discussed possible future scenarios for the staffing of formation houses.

SPANISH MARTYRS

Ten years ago, the Society introduced the cause for beatification of nine Spanish Marist confreres who were martyred during the 1936 religious persecution in Spain. The late fathers Melitón Carillo and Isidro de Roba worked in a consistent way to gather the necessary documentation. After their deaths Fr Antón Angel has continued with the case in close collaboration with the diocese of Alcalá de Henares. The diocese decided to present one group of 43 diocesan priests, religious and lay people, killed and buried in the common grave in Paracuellos del Jarama, including some of our confreres: Frs Antonio de Santiago, Fausto Muñoz, Romualdo Sáenz, Timoteo Uriondo and Zacarías Feijóo. The diocesan phase of the cause has now been concluded, and the beatification process is to be continued by the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Fr Angel has asked the whole Society to pray for their cause.

Five Years of *Laudato Si'*

This year 2020 marks the 5th Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. Members from each of the four Marist General Councils – Sr Cristina Giustozzi smsm, Sr Anne McCabe sm, Br Ángel García fms and Fr Ben McKenna sm, met recently to reflect on the implementation of *Laudato Si'* in the Marist world. They discussed together the following questions: What are our General Chapters calling us to do? What is happening in our Branch of the Society? What Resources are we using? How can we support each other and work together?



MARIST LAITY MEETING IN BRAZIL



From 9 to 12 January, the seventh National Lay Marist Meeting was held in the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, with the theme "Lay Marists: Identity and Mission". The event brought together a group of 52 participants, composed mostly of young people, from 5 Brazilian states. In addition to the lay Marists, representatives from the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters also attended the event.