

SMbulletin

Friday, 9 July 2021

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER IN MEXICO

During the Provincial Chapter in Mexico the capitulants discussed several crucial items for the future: reconfiguration; initial and ongoing formation; possible collaboration with other units, especially in Latin America; Marist Laity and mission, etc. One of the main decisions - with the unanimous consent of the members - was to ask the Superior General to suppress the province and to erect the Missionary District of Mexico (DC 74) by the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, 2021. This new structure will enable the confreres to work with simpler structures of governance in order to be more focused on the mission of the SM in Mexico and beyond.



DISCERNING LEADERSHIP

Three members of the GA, Frs John Larsen, Ben McKenna and Juan Carlos Piña, have recently attended a 'Discerning Leadership' Program, held at the Gregorian University. The whole Program is based on Discernment, both personal and communal, as being fundamental to good leadership. The Ignatian based process over four days fully modelled the type of leadership being proposed to the 26 participants – with significant input sessions, followed by personal reflection, and various group processes. The participants included members from general leadership teams, Vatican dicasteries, and lay leaders engaged in various ministries in the Church.

THE “BUGEY CAMINO”

At the request of the Superior General, in 2020, Fr Ray Chapman started exploring possibilities of developing a 'Camino' through the Bugey region. The Bugey, which symbolises one of the “foundational Marist experiences” (Const. 51), can help Marists to get in touch with the heartfelt desire “to bring the Gospel to all people, especially those who are neglected or abandoned” (Const. 54). With the assistance of Marist Sister Teri O'Brien, Ray has now walked from Cerdon to Belley, covering a distance of 150 kms over a period of seven days. He reports: “*The terrain is mountainous and, at times can be extremely challenging! Fitness and good walking shoes are essential! However, it was a wonderful experience. I came to a deeper appreciation of the courage, determination, tenacity and commitment of our brothers Jean-Claude Colin, Etienne Déclas, Antoine Jallon, and others and of the Marist spirit which enlivened them. However there is still some work to do on the project, we hope that a number of Marists will take the opportunity to walk the 'Bugey Camino' individually or in a group. Walking the hills and valleys of the Bugey reminds us of “the joy of proclaiming the Good News to forgotten people” (Const. 54)”.*

