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Friday, 8 March 2024

THE SUPERIOR GENERAL CONTINUES HIS VISITATION OF NEW ZEALAND



Frs Tim Duckworth, Kevin Mowbray, Thige O'Leary, Merv Duffy, John Larsen and Kevin Conroy.

After having spent time in further visiting the confreres and works of the province, last Wednesday the Superior General joined the regular Provincial Council meeting in Wellington (see picture). This gave both the Provincial Council and the Superior General the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern, both at home and abroad. Fr. John Larsen has now completed the visitation of the confreres in the North Island of New Zealand and today he leaves for Christchurch in the South Island, for the last part of his visitation. He is very grateful for the warm welcome he has been receiving by confreres throughout the province, and for the time spent together.

INTERNATIONAL FORMATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The General Council has established a Committee to carry out a review of our International Formation.



The committee is composed of:

- **Fr Martin McAnaney sm** (Chair) from the province of Europe. Martin has been the Provincial Superior of Europe and has a large experience to work in administration and formation, in an international context.
- **Sr Jane O'Carroll sm**: she is current Unit leader of the Marist Sisters in New Zealand. Jane has been Superior General of the Marist Sisters, and has vast experience in Marist formation and administration.
- **Fr Samuel Agcararca svd**: Rector of the Divine Word School of Theology, Tagaytay. He teaches there and at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He has a doctorate in missiology and specializes in anthropology and interculturality.

The committee has been asked to focus, amongst other things, on:

- how well are we forming our students as Marists, in the Church, in this current challenging world.
- evaluating the International Marist Formation Houses in the light of the pillars described in our International Directory of Initial Formation, i.e. human, spiritual, intellectual, pastoral and intercultural formation.
- Marist religious life and spirituality in the formation houses.

A first meeting of the committee took place last week by zoom. The work of the committee will include visitations of our two International formation houses and interviews with people involved in formation, which will include also some former formators and students.

It is hoped that the committee will be able to give their report and recommendations to the General Council by the beginning of next year, and that it will be submitted for consideration at the General Chapter in 2025.