

SMbulletin

Friday, 10 May 2024

ARC MEETING IN ROME



Front row: Frs John Harhager, Albert Kabala, John Larsen, Kevin Medilo, Joaquín Fernández, Tony Corcoran and Juan Carlos Piña.

Middle row: Br Joe McKee, Frs Setefano Mataele, Joe Hindelang, Ben McKenna and Kevin Duffy.

Back row: Ms Frances Heery, Frs Tim Duckworth, Chris Ganzon, Miguel Contreras and Kiade Rayalu.

This week the ARC (Annual Review and Consultation) meeting is being held at the General House in Rome. Each major superior attends, and the District of Asia's representation also includes Kevin Medilo, who is the incoming District Superior. Unfortunately, Jacques Arguin from the Province of Canada was unable to attend at the last minute for health reasons.

The days together were conducted in a synodal way led by the two facilitators, Ms. Frances Heery and Brother Joe McKee fms.

The week began on Sunday with a recollection day led by the superior general and included a time of discernment, defining together the most important topics for common consultation for this week of "conversations in the spirit".

Monday was dedicated to the contributions from each major superior who was invited to respond to the question: "What are the signs of the working of the Spirit that indicate the direction you are called to follow within the wider Society of Mary?" Jacques Arguin was able to give his report by Zoom.

Monday to Friday involves discussing topics including "vocations, international and on-going formation", "omnes gentes mission communities and priorities in mission", "evolving needs for governance structures" and "preparing for the 2025 General Chapter".

Every day the group started with a reflection on items emerging from the *Circular Letter from the Superior General* which was released and distributed throughout the Society this week.

On Wednesday evening the group went to the Basilica of San Bartolomeo, on the Island in the Tiber, where they visited the Memorial of Modern Martyrs and celebrated the Eucharist, followed by a meal together in Trastevere. The week will conclude tomorrow, Saturday, with reports from different aspects of Marist life, including finance and also an evaluation and final Eucharist and pranzo.

