

SMbulletin

Friday, 24 May 2024

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fr John Larsen has been attending the 100th Assembly of the Union of Superiors General – this week held in Assisi. The theme of the meeting is “Faithful to the Legacy of the Second Vatican Council”. On the Agenda a variety of topics, such as:

- the Role of the USG in the application of the Second Vatican Council in Consecrated life;
- The relevance of Francis of Assisi, instrument of peace;
- Commitment of the USG for peace in the world;
- Simplicity as a source of renewal in Consecrated Life;
- Towards the second session of the Synod on Synodality.



Fr John Harhager leaves for New Zealand next week, where he will take time to visit some parts of the province and attend the Provincial Chapter. After the visitation in New Zealand, he will spend a week in Fiji attending the Council of Province meeting of Oceania.

PRAYING FOR NEW CALEDONIA



For almost two weeks New Caledonia has been hit by a violent insurrection of the Kanak people,

mostly youth. They are reacting against a decree from the French National Assembly, modifying the electoral body for Provincial elections due by the end of the year. Thousands of young people have initiated a violent urban insurrection, sowing destruction, with several deaths and many wounded in the capital, Nouméa.

Fr François Grossin wrote: “On Pentecost, a joint declaration by the historical Catholic and Protestant Churches, was read in all the churches and places of worship in the territory, but it wasn't enough to stop the fights. *The island closest to paradise has become the island closest to hell*, Archbishop Michel Calvet sm commented in the local media. Our 12 Marist confreres are well and safe, but the damage is enormous, with 6 local people dead, hundreds of people wounded, many public and private buildings destroyed. Please pray for us and the people of New Caledonia we have been serving since 1843.”

3 MARIST COMMISSIONS MEET

On Thursday, 16 May a joint meeting of the 3 Marist Commissions, for Migrants and Refugees, for Interreligious Dialogue and for Ecology, took place by Zoom. 16 commission members attended the meeting along with Frs John Larsen and Ben McKenna.

Each member shared for 3 minutes on the question: “What is my experience, as a Marist, of being on our Commission?” Fr John urged the members of the Commissions to be at the cutting edge of Mission in intellectual pursuit, and in writing, as well as with hands on projects. The Commissions, he said, can be *experiences of Marists without borders, strengthened by their monthly encounters*. All Marists were invited to establish virtual groups to work together on common areas of concern or of mission endeavour .

