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Friday, 21 June 2024

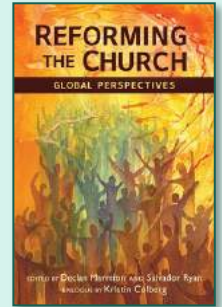
REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL FORMATION



Some time ago, a Committee for the Review of International Formation was established by the Superior General to review the Society's programs of international formation. Last week, the three members of the Committee, Fr Martin McAnaney sm, Sr Jane O'Carroll sm and Fr Samuel Agcararca svd, an expert in inter-culturality in formation, visited Casa di Maria. In advance of the visit, the committee distributed questions to the students and to the formation team. There was also an anonymous, online survey open to the students. The committee members met with the students for one-to-one conversations. With the staff, the committee met each one individually and then with the team. The committee expects that the same model will be suitable for the visit to the international novitiate, which will take place in August 2024.

BOOK AWARDED

The book "[Reforming the Church: Global Perspectives](#)", to which Fr Declan Marmion, vicar provincial of the Province of Europe, contributed as co-editor, has recently been given the first-place award in the Theology category from the Association of Catholic Publishers in the US. Declan is professor of systematic theology at St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, Ireland, and a former dean of the theology faculty.



DISTRICT OF AFRICA: RETREAT, ASSEMBLY AND CHAPTER



The confreres of the District of Africa have been together for some significant events in the last 2 weeks. Coming from Senegal and Burundi, and joining with the confreres in Cameroon, all members of the District presently missioned in Africa were led in retreat by Fr Larry Duffy. The day after the group prayed Vespers and joined the 23 student philosophers of the community for an evening meal at St Peter Chanel Formation House. On Monday 10 June, the District Assembly took place, followed by three days of intense work at the District Chapter. Delegates from the District at the General Chapter will be Frs Martin Simna (ex-officio, District superior) and Albert Kabala (elected delegate) while Frs Guy Roger Assogoma and Kenneth Akua were elected as their respective substitutes. Fr Ben McKenna, who is the GA's link person for Africa, attended the Assembly and Chapter and took the opportunity to visit the District's ministry in Bambili, Cameroon.

THE VICAR GENERAL VISITS THE PROVINCE OF NEW ZEALAND

Fr John Harhager, Vicar General and the GA's link person for the Province, has been in New Zealand since the beginning of the month. He has visited the four regions of the Province in which informative meetings were held with the Marists living and ministering there. The Province is realistically facing its diminishment with signs of hope and a firm resolve to carry on its mission there and within the international Society. The Province warmly welcomed John, who has been attending this week the Provincial Chapter.