

SMbulletin

Friday, 19 July 2024

NEW CALEDONIA: THE MARIST CHURCH OF ST LOUIS BURNED DOWN



It was a difficult and painful week for our confreres in New Caledonia, as the Marist Church of St Louis, built by the Marist missionaries in 1860, was fired in the midst of times of violence. Fr François Grossin reports: "Since May 13, New Caledonia has been experiencing an unprecedented insurrectionary situation which has brought the country's economy to its knees (over 700 businesses destroyed, 20,000 people unemployed) and caused immense damage, currently estimated at 2.2 billion euros. The rioters also attacked Church property. Saint-Louis, "head, brain, arm and heart of the Marist Mission", suffered particularly badly, with fires at the house of the Petites Filles de Marie, and the building serving both as parish presbytery and Marist residence called Maranatha, the ransacking of the church, the burning of the former house of the SMSM Sisters, the former school used as a meeting room and museum, and finally the burning of the church on 16 July. Please pray for us and with us that peace will return to this country which the Marists have been accompanying for over 180 years."

SOUTH AMERICA CHAPTER



The District Chapter of South America as held from 8 until 12 July in the St. Peter Chanel formation house in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. A highlight was an afternoon of reflection by Fr Arnaldo da Silva about his mission and experience in the Omnes Gentes Community in Samsun, Anatolia, Turkey. The area has an important significance for the history of the Church, as in the first centuries 6 ecumenical councils were held there. Another key moment was the meeting with representatives of the Marist Laity. Fr Juan Carlos Piña, link person for South America, attended the Chapter, and Fr Renivaldo Rodriguez was elected as delegate to the General Chapter.

VISITING THE MARISTS IN ASIA

The Superior General has completed his visitation to the International Novitiate in Davao and the Marists in Mindanao, Philippines. Fr. John spent time at *Balay Pasilungan*, the Marist work among abandoned children and at *Balay Kalambuan*, the transitional residence-programme for young men. He participated in the mission activities in the parish of Mati in Digos and met with the students in philosophy (see picture) and the community of the District house. There were also gatherings with the former Marist seminarians and with the extended Marist Family.



LET US PRAY THAT OUR DECEASED CONFRERES MAY REST IN PEACE

F. Henry Aragalia
Oceania / Solomon Isl.
01.01.1960—13.06.2024

P. Joseph H. Wilhelm
United States
30.12.1931—12.06.2024

P. Neil Soucy
Oceania / N. Caledonia
17.11.1935—08.07.2024

P. Albert R. Dilanni
United States
12.05.1933—11.07.2024