

# SMbulletin

Friday, 27 June 2025

## VISITATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



Father John Larsen has been visiting our confreres in the Netherlands this last week. Much of the history of this region has been focused on preparing and sending out Marists for the mission in the Pacific, especially in Melanesia. However, there has always also been a vibrant Marist presence at home in the Netherlands. Now there is one residential community remaining and two confreres residing in nursing homes. Father John appreciated their warm welcome and vibrant interest in all things Marist.

## INTERNATIONAL NOVITIATE

Last week Fr John Harhager carried out the visitation of the International Novitiate in Davao. He found the cross-cultural community to be vibrant with the Marist spirit and a rich environment for vocational discernment and development. There are seven novices from three units: Africa, New Zealand and Oceania. The staff is from Europe, New Zealand and Oceania. The novices had just returned from some days of spiritual retreat and are now approximately one third through the novitiate year. Our prayers for their journey through this most significant step in their formation program would be greatly appreciated.



## IRISH STUDENTS DO THE CAMINO



60 students along with 5 teachers from Catholic University School (CUS) in Dublin set off to walk part of the Camino de Santiago. This journey takes place every year and is designed to broaden the participants' understanding of faith, deepen their

connection to our Marist values, and build a stronger sense of community. Along the way, they are invited to reflect, support one another, and take time away from the usual pace of daily life. As they walk together, sometimes in conversation, sometimes in silence, they develop essential life skills such as resilience, patience, and teamwork. Many students and teachers return with a renewed sense of gratitude, inner peace, and personal growth.

## COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE

This week the annual *Council of the Province* was held in Oceania. The provincial administration and sector leaders listened to and discussed reports on Marist life in the sectors, Formation and Finance. Other topics on the agenda were Vocations Promotion, local leadership, Laity, the Code of Professional Conduct as well as a training in stroke awareness and prevention. On the last day the synthesis of the survey in preparation for the General Chapter was discussed with the Chapter delegates.

