

SMbulletin

Friday, 6 February 2026

A WORKING GROUP FOR LA NEYLIÈRE

The General Chapter recommended that “a comprehensive report on La Neylière be commissioned by the Superior General with the advice of his council after appropriate consultation re the terms of reference. This report needs to be completed at least 3 months before either an ARC meeting or CS2029” (#63).



Much work and reflection on La Neylière, its government structure, financial situation and possibilities for the future have already been done by various groups in the past years. In the light of the Chapter recommendation, the Superior General has asked Frs Kevin Duffy, provincial of Europe, Martin Simna, District Superior of Africa, Jean-Marie Bloqueau, Superior of La Neylière and Tony Kennedy, General Assistant to bring all this work together with new updates and suggestions .

The terms of reference include the following elements:

- ◆ A clear and concise mission statement – why the Society of Mary is present in La Neylière and why should it continue to be present?
- ◆ A clear and concise description of the (new) governance structure of La Neylière and the role of the SM in that structure.
- ◆ A summary of the ministry and other activities that take place in La Neylière and suggestions for the future .
- ◆ A summary statement of the financial situation of La Neylière and a recommendation about how La Neylière can be funded into the future.
- ◆ Recommendations about how our presence and mission in La Neylière can be better owned by the wider S.M.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Fr Renivaldo Rodrigues de Souza who became the District Superior of South America in July, was in Rome this week for the New Major Superiors Orientation Program. He had meetings with the Superior General, the Assistants and the General Bursar, as well as a meeting with the General Council to discuss the life and mission of the district. Special attention was given to the school which the District wishes to establish in Guanambi, Brazil.



BISHOP MIGUEL ANGEL CONTRERAS MEETS POPE LEO

Bishop Miguel Angel Llajaruna Contreras, s.m., auxiliary bishop of Callao in Peru, became famous last year being the first Bishop appointed by Pope Leo. Bishop Miguel was staying recently at the General House, as the Peruvian Bishops Conference held its ad limina visit in the Vatican. In this words to the bishops



the Holy Father recalled his own pastoral life in Peru, describing the country as holding “a special place in my heart”. And continued “There I shared with you joys and hardships, learned from the simple faith of your people, and experienced the strength of a Church that knows how to hope even amid trials”.