

SMbulletin

Friday, 20 February 2026

ORIENTATION PROGRAM



This week eight candidate novices arrived safe and well in Davao, Philippines. A Mass presided over by Fr Xavier Sariman, the Novice Master, marked the start of their six week orientation program. The novices come from Cameroon, Togo, Vietnam, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Their period of preparation is designed to help them settle in, to become familiar with one another, with Davao and its culture, and with the wider Marist family in the Philippines. Throughout the program, which takes

place at the RNDM Sisters' International Formation Centre in Davao, various groups will be accompanying and assisting the Marist candidates: our confreres of the District of Asia, the RNDM Sisters, the SM Sisters, the SMSM Sisters, the FMS Brothers, and several lay collaborators. The Novitiate will begin on 28 March.

In the meantime, the six novices of the current novitiate are preparing for first profession, which will take place on 25 March at St Michael the Archangel Quasi Parish in Eden, Davao. The two groups are pictured here together, along with their formators, Frs Xavier Sariman and Thilo Saft.

PROVINCIAL OF OCEANIA

The Superior General, with the advice of his council, has confirmed the election of Fr Lote Raiwalui as Provincial of Oceania. Lote, who is from Fiji, has been a General Councillor (2009-2017) and has been the Vicar of the Province of Oceania over the past 3 years. Lote's term as provincial started on 19 February, succeeding Fr Milikiade Rayalu.



VISITATION OF THE MARIST COMMUNITY IN DAKAR

Fr Tony Kennedy was in Senegal this week to meet the confreres of the community in Dakar, with Fr Martin Simna, the District Superior.

The Society is present in Senegal from 1948 and confreres have made an important contribution to the development of the city over the years. The name of the locality where the parish and first Marist school are, is called "Mariste", and there is also a nearby road called "Route de Pères Maristes".

Among other things, Tony visited the Marist school at Ndiakhirate, which was built in 2017 "to promote dialogue between cultures and religions and to offer an educational community dedicated to academic excellence and the personal development of each pupil". The school has currently 1409 pupils from kindergarten to secondary school, mostly Muslims. This is the website of the school: Complexe scolaire des Pères Maristes.

