

# SMbulletin

Friday, 16 December 2022

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



*“I wish you a Happy Christmas, a Christmas rich in the surprises of Jesus! They may appear to be uncomfortable surprises, but they are God’s taste. If we choose them, we will make a splendid surprise for ourselves. Each of us has hidden within the heart the ability to surprise oneself. Let us allow ourselves to be surprised by Jesus this Christmas.”* (Pope Francis, Gen. Audience, 19/12/2018)

*We wish all our readers a Joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

## THE SUPERIOR GENERAL’S VISITATION OF FRENCH SPEAKING OCEANIA

In the beginning of December the Superior General arrived in Nouméa, New Caledonia, to carry out the visitation of the three French speaking sectors of the province of Oceania: New Caledonia, Wallis et Futuna and Vanuatu. Because the area where our Marist communities live is much stretched, it was not possible to visit all communities, but Fr John has been able to meet individually with all confreres. It was also an occasion to meet with the local bishops, who are all Marists: bishop Calvet from Nouméa, Bishop Sionepoe from Wallis and Bishop Baremes from Port Vila. He had also the opportunity to meet with the other branches of the Marist Family, including the members of the Marist Laity. Even if the tropical heat and the travelling in different time zones are demanding, the Superior General expressed his gratitude for the enriching meetings and the warm welcoming in all places he visited.



Fr John Larsen and the confreres at the Sector House in Nouméa

## NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL FORMATION



In these last days of Advent, the novitiate community (pictured here) is preparing for first Professions with a week of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The novices will be professed on 5 January in the parish of Rivaio, in Castiglion Fiorentino. On the same day the professed will move to their new community, Casa di Maria, in Rome.

Meanwhile, in Davao, Philippines, some candidates to the next novitiate have arrived and others are on their way. They are welcomed by Frs Sione Hamala and Pat Devlin, and Fr David Sánchez, will join them in January.

Let’s keep all these young confreres in our prayers, those who are preparing for Profession, and those who are about to start their novitiate, as well as Christian Ngoura who will be ordained to the diaconate on 7 January.