

# SMBulletin

Friday, 8 September 2023

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Since the second half of August, all members of the General Council have been in Rome, which gave them the opportunity to meet weekly. The Formators Workshop at the General House was an important occasion to meet with the formators and to follow up on several matters linked to Marist Formation.

Frs John Larsen and Ben McKenna have been giving input this week at the SMSM Sisters preparatory days for their General Chapter, which starts today at their General House in Rome.

Fr John Larsen departed on Tuesday for Thailand where he will participate in some sessions of the Marist Mission Studies program which started this week in Ranong.

Fr Juan Carlos Piña has arrived in Canada for a visitation of the province.

## WORKSHOP FOR FORMATORS

From 14 August to 1 September a Workshop for Formators took place at the General House. Eleven formators from around the Marist world, along with Frs Ben McKenna (Ongoing Formation) and Juan Carlos Piña (Initial Formation) gathered in a fraternal and supportive spirit to review and discuss formation throughout the Society. The workshop started with a recollection day led by Fr John Larsen before hearing reports from each of the formation houses and then reflecting on the different dimensions of formation.



*Frs Juan Carlos Piña, Denis Revi, Sione Hamala, David Sánchez, Sipiliano Faka'osi, Thilo Saft, John Larsen, Chris Assogoma, Martin Simna, Chris Skinner, Xavier Sariman, Ben McKenna, Tony Kennedy and John Votaia.*

Presentations on several topics were given by some of the formators and members of the General Administration: the General Directory of Initial Formation, the *Ratio Fundamentalis* on the formation of priests, pastoral reflection, human and spiritual formation, interculturality, teamwork, safeguarding, finance. Other sessions were led by members of the Marist family: Sr Kate McPhee sm spoke about "Expectations of a Marist" and Brs Pat McNamara fms and Michael Sexton fms helped the group to reflect on self-care for the formator. During the workshop each of the formators met individually with the Superior General to discuss his life and ministry in his formation house in his own unit.

## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday 02 September 2023, the Parish Church of Sainte Anne d'Obili in Yaoundé, Cameroon was packed with people for the ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Christian Ngoura by Marist bishop Mgr Yvan Mathieu, Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, Canada. The celebration was full of color, song and dance.

Fr Christian underwent his novitiate in Eden, Davao and then joined the seminary at Casa di Maria in Rome. He is appointed to the community in Burundi and will be the principal of the new Marist nursery, primary and secondary school, which opened its doors recently with 286 pupils enrolled.

