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Friday, 27 January 2023

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

After the visitation of the Region of Fiji, Fr John Larsen is spending a few days in Wellington, New Zealand. He will travel to Australia next week to visit the District. He will do this along with Fr Ben McKenna who has just concluded the visitation of our Marist community and mission in Ranong.

Fr Juan Carlos Piña has been in Lisbon this week for further preparations of the International Marist Youth Gathering in July.

DISTRICT CHAPTER ASIA

The Chapter of the District of Asia concluded with this commitment: “Animated by the Spirit and inspired by the Vision of Mary to be a prophetic presence in Asia and beyond in a multi-cultural and religious context”. Aware of the challenges in personnel and vocation, we ensure that we have a simple, fraternal, learning, prayerful, witnessing and committed communities to foster and accompany vocations. We look forward to establishing a missionary presence in Myanmar in the near future as well as strengthen our corporate ministries in the Philippines in Davao and Digos, and also Ranong, Thailand. We may have to let go a certain ministry while finding ways to work collaboratively with the novitiate community on a new ministry. We see hope that after many years, we have postulants and an Asian candidate from Vietnam joining our formation. We continue our relationship in working with the General Administration and always grateful for their support and trust.”

RANONG

This week Fr Ben McKenna has visited the [Marist Asia Foundation](#) [MAF] in Ranong. The education program of Myanmar migrants now includes teachers who are former graduates of our program, while the number of students has been increased significantly. The health program is led by a graduate of our own Foundation in Asia. In the recently established *Peace and Harmony Centre* our confreres foster inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue with the various Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian communities.



THE SUPERIOR GENERAL'S VISITATION OF FIJI



After attending the Provincial Chapter, the Superior General visited the region of Fiji, where he was warmly welcomed by the many people he met. He first visited the confreres in the sector house in Suva, and then went to the island of Ovalau, where he visited our Parish in Levuka. Marists have been serving on this island since the 1890's. The picture shows Fr John with some confreres in front of the church of Cawaci, built in 1897. He made also a pilgrimage the landing place of the first Marist missionaries who arrived on the island, and prayed at the tombs of our deceased confreres. He then continued his visitation on the island of Taveuni, the “Garden Island”, where he visited both our parish and the Training Centre in Tutu. He concluded his visitation in Nadi, where he was welcomed in the Mount St Mary's Parish.