

## **Provincial Solidarity Commission - Rome Meeting, 25-26 June 2019**

It is at the invitation of Bernard McKenna sm, Assistant General in charge of the justice, peace and integrity of creation portfolio, that Provincial Solidarity Commission met during two days in Monteverde, the Rome General Administration residence. The General Administration invited us to share its openness to the world and to the Marist mission.

We met primarily to evaluate our previous activities, and to plan for the future. We looked at our previous visits to various communities, and made projects for other visits to people involved in works of solidarity. We also looked at possible collaboration efforts we could engage in, for example with solidarity actors working in Brussels with the European institutions.

We noted that the Marist laity will hold both a European meeting and an international forum in July and August: we must be attentive to the solidarity actions they are engaged in.

Our meeting was focused on the implementation of the Encyclical *Laudato Si*, on which Ben McKenna has been particularly focused. Ben was present during the whole meeting, and he made a presentation showing the points in common between the Marist tradition, as embodied in the 2017 General Chapter decisions, and the logic developed by Pope Francis in his Encyclical. We looked at the possibility of asking him to give a retreat in 2020 for the Province of Europe on this subject.

Fr. John Larsen sm, Superior General, also took part in our meeting and gave a presentation on the ongoing projects at the level of the whole Society of Mary. He mentioned the different expert committees on interfaith dialogue, the environment, migration and youth. Our older Province was thus able to reflect on the directions taken by the younger units and wonder about a possible contribution on its part to one or more of these projects. We were able to meet informally with Kevin Medilo sm, from the Asia district, who is in Rome to study interfaith dialogue and work on this issue in the Asia-Oceania region.

We were thus able to get quite a bit of work done, with the help and participation of Paul Walsh, Assistant General, both as translator and resource person. Our deep gratitude goes to him and to all the Monteverde community for their warm welcome.

Tr. Francisco Chauvet