

PROVINCIAL SOLIDARITY COMMISSION IN ROME, 25-26 JUNE

“At the invitation of Ben McKenna, assistant general in charge of the portfolio for Justice, Peace and Integrity of creation, the Solidarity Commission met in Rome over two days. While we met primarily to evaluate our previous activities and to plan for future initiatives, it was also a way to connect our work with this ministry at the level of the Society of Mary. We reviewed our previous visits to various communities and solidarity projects in the province. Looking to the future, we identified other possible collaborations, such as connecting with people in Brussels for European institutions involved with social action. In addition, the forthcoming European and International Gathering of Marist Laity (28 July – 2 August, Ireland: europeanlaymarists.zohosites.com) may be an occasion for further collaboration. Working with Ben McKenna enabled us to focus on the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si* which is of particular interest to him. Ben made connections between the Marist tradition, as articulated in General Chapter 2017 decisions, and Pope Francis’ thinking developed in his Encyclical. The superior general, John Larsen, addressed the commission on the ongoing projects at the level of the whole Society of Mary. Our gratitude goes to the Monteverde community for the warmth of their welcome and assistance.”