



To
Marists of the Mediterranean Province
Marists of the Marist District of West Africa

THE MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA WILL BE A NEW PROVINCE IN AUGUST 2021

Dear brothers and Friends,

We greet you in the hope that all of you, your families, your communities and your educational works doing very well. In these moments of Covid pandemic that we are living, we are aware of the health, economic and social consequences that are taking place in our countries. At the same time, we know the extra effort, the professionalism and the love that you put into your daily work, into your classes, into your animation, into the management of our works to make them safe. We sincerely thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

It is with joy that we inform you that on the 9th November last, **Brother Superior General and his Council approved that the Marist District of West Africa become a new Province as from August 2021**. Therefore, it is anticipated that we celebrate the first Provincial Chapter on this date.

At the last District Chapter, in August 2018 in Accra (Ghana), the Provincial of Mediterránea (Brother Juan Carlos Fuertes Mari) and his Vice-Provincial (Brother Aureliano García Manzanal), informed the chapter members of the decision of the Provincial Council of the Mediterránea Province to begin a process to move the District to the status of a Province. The reasons for such a move included: the number of Brothers, the number of communities and the number of works has been increasing in recent years; the average age of the Brothers speaks of a young and vibrant administrative unit (about 39 years); sustainable growth and progressive autonomy with regard to the economy; a high level of autonomy in the animation and governance of the District.

This announcement was very well received by the brothers present at that Chapter. Since then, we have taken some steps to help this dream become a reality. We have created a coordination team made up of some members of the two councils. This team has designed a process of discernment involving all the communities of the District. At the same time, it is gathering information on statistics from the Brothers and from the works, also with regard to the economy. In addition, it is drawing up an agreement to continue the collaboration between the two future Provinces.

It is worthy to note that the consultation process has now been completed. The materials collected with the contributions of all Brothers will serve to prepare the District Assembly to be held in 2021, which will be the step prior to the Provincial Chapter in August 2021.

We would like to give special thanks to the brothers who have led our administrative units over all these years and who have allowed us to travel this path. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of Brothers Manuel Jorques and Antonio Giménez (former Provincials of Mediterránea); and José Antonio Ruiz, Sylvain Yao Kouassi and Francis Yufenyuy Lukong, (former District Superiors of Marist District of West Africa). The two of us (Brothers Cyprian Gandebo and Juan Carlos Fuertes) have simply and humbly continued the heritage they left us.

Dear brothers and friends, in all these years that we have walked together, we have been weaving a mantle of varied colours, the colours of brotherhood, of support, of accompaniment, of trust, of mutual knowledge, of solidarity... It is an artisan mantle that we have been weaving patiently for a long time. It is a mantle that will allow many children and young people to dream of a new society that is more just and more fraternal. This mantle has a word at its centre: FUTURE. It is a word that evokes the Kingdom of God that is germinating without our noticing it, but that becomes a great tree that welcomes many and, under its shadow, they can meet to discuss important issues of life. And in that future we are all committed.

May the God who continually calls us to serve our children and young people, in a particular way those on the periphery of our society, fill us with His strength to continue making His kingdom a reality among us. May Mary, our Good Mother, always be our inspiration.

Faternally,



Br. Cyprian Bankakuu Gandebo
District Superior
Marist District of West Africa



Br. Juan Carlos Fuertes Mari
Provincial
Mediterranean Province

Accra - Granada, 21th November 2020
Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary