**Brothers Assembly: OMP**

Lomary, Fiji : 09-13 May 2016

**Recommendations**

1. This Assembly again reaffirms that the Brothers Vocation is an essential part of our Congregation. [c.1]
2. This Assembly recommends that academic criteria not be the only one; but that qualities of mind and heart, of prayer, community life, pastoral and manual skills, which a candidate may possess, need to be considered as gifts which will contribute to the Mission of the Society.
3. This Assembly recommends to the Provincial and Council that Brother Candidates for the Society of Mary receive their initial formation in the role, identity, and mission of the Brother, in the Marist Community of Tutu – prior to further formation at Marist College.

We recommend that a specific program be developed for this purpose, and that a nominated Brother be the key Formator.

We also recommend that this Program be made known to other Units in the SM, so that their Brother Candidates can be invited, and made welcome, to attend this initial formation program.

1. This Assembly recommends to the General Chapter 2017 that the Brothers’ Vocation be promoted in the Districts of Philippines, Brazil, and Africa.
2. This Assembly recommends to the Provincial and Council that when a Brother is appointed to a Community, that Community must be living according to our Maristlife asoutlined in our Constitutions and Statutes, and that the Superior appreciates and supports the role of the Brothers in the Society.
3. This Assembly recommends to the Provincialand General Chapters of 2017 that the term ‘lay brother’ be dropped from Marist vocabulary. We simply use the word “Brother”. In current Catholic Theology [cf Pope John Paul II – *Vita Consecrata*] it is a contradiction in terms. The Church recognizes three distinct states of Catholic life: 1. Laity - by Baptism; 2. Consecrated - by the vows of Celibacy, Obedience, and Poverty; 3. Ordained to the Priesthood.
4. This Assembly recommends that all Brothers in the SM, at all times, wear a sign of their Consecration. [eg: a cross, or an emblem, or a shirt], and that a soutane and cincture be worn at Sunday Mass, and formal liturgical occasions.
5. This Assembly recommends that mature Brothers [following current legislation] be invited to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the possibility of taking the vow of Stability. [c.85-88]