



MARIST DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA
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Dear Community Superiors & All Brothers,

Walking Towards the Creation of a Province of West Africa

Receive fraternal greetings from the District House, Accra. The purpose of this letter is to present to you some materials which will help in our reflections towards the creation of the new Province of West Africa.

During the VII District Chapter that took place in Accra from August 13 to 17, 2018, the Mediterranean Province presented us with an exciting challenge: to begin a process aimed at the creation of the new Province of West Africa.

This will be an extraordinary occasion for us to reflect together for deeper insights all the important aspects of our life: **spirituality and prayer**, **community life**, **vocation and formation** and also **mission and apostolate**. Hence, I invite you to be part of this process and to do it calmly, responsibly and with evangelical enthusiasm.

An exciting task awaits us all. We are going to follow a path of a **structured discernment** in **three well-differentiated steps**, which we could express with these three words that will give impetus to each of the stages: **DISCOVER, DREAM and DESIGN**.

Discover, dream, design ...

Discover: Open your eyes and heart to the world around you, to the realities of our District. May your gaze be serene and grateful. Every reality you meet, every event, every person, every moment and every second everyday is a gift of God's goodness.

Dream: because only those who dream are able to create and believe. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. There are no limits to our God who, transgressing his own limits, became one of us.

And Design: Draw, invent, develop projects so that, with everyone's effort, our Life, as Consecrated Religious will be closer to God's dream for us.
What does God want us to do? What does God want us to be?

I propose below a process of reflection to be done in each community of the District. This work will assist us to give **content to our District Assembly** which is scheduled for 24th July to 4th August, 2020. Hence, we have to make this dream of becoming a Province together in community using these three stages: discover, dream and design. In each of them I propose data, readings, prayers and questions that we will have to answer

together. As mentioned earlier, it is a collective responsibility. Therefore, let us join hands together and enter into this process with enthusiasm, commitment and responsibility. Margaret Wheatley once said that, "there is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about". So Let us rekindle and exercise our co-responsibility, for our common vision as District of West Africa. Unity, they say, is strength; and so left alone I can achieve only so little, but together, as a team, we can achieve so much. I invite you, therefore, to be guided by the wisdom of the African proverb, "If you want to go fast go alone, but **if you want to go far, go together**". Let us then **journey together** towards the **New Province**. We certainly will shine brighter when we work as a team. **Teamwork will make our dream work.**

I propose then that each community to have three meetings before 20th April, 2020. I also propose that each meeting should be on each of the strands: **Discover**, **Dream** and **Design**. There are questions to reflect on after each strand. I encourage you all, in the spirit of our religious consecration, to create enough time for personal reflection and communal sharing on these questions.

The Secretaries in each community will endeavour to send to the District Secretary your summarized community reflections. Please, endeavour to send me a copy as well.

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Thank you for your cooperation and participation in our journey together towards the creation of the new **Province of West Africa**.

May Mary, our Good Mother, accompany us in this all important process.

Yours in JMJ & CH


Br. Cyprian Gandeabo
District Superior

