

▶ ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

“To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...”



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

2014 has passed and the end of the year brings news of the next generation of Marists, the superior general's visitation of the province, and the arrival of an international group of Marist confreres at La Neylière. The Solidarity committee continues its work with plans for next year. We hope that you have enjoyed reading EuroInfo during 2014 and we thank you for the many kind words of encouragement we received. We wish you all every blessing in 2015!
Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

Formation

Thilo Saft (De) called to ordination to the priesthood: Currently Thilo is serving as a deacon in 2 parishes in Passau, South Germany. On Saturday May 23rd 2015 at 09h30 in St. Peter's Cathedral of Osnabrück, he will be ordained priest by Bishop Dr Franz-Josef Bode, Bishop of Osnabrück. The night before there will be a prayer vigil in the seminary chapel at 21h00 including a blessing of chalices. Thilo will celebrate his first Mass with family and friends in his home parish, St. Nikolaus, Ankum, on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th 2015 at 10h30. He then returns to Passau to celebrate mass with parishioners, family, confreres and friends on June 27th and 28th.

Herman Nikolai Reimers Massen (NI) from Norway: This month Nikolai was called to profession by the provincial. He received this news at the end of the final retreat of the novitiate, December 21st. Along with his fellow novices he will take his vows in Davao, the Philippines on January 25th 2015.

Tom Kouijzer (NI): In the community of Casa di Maria, Rome, Tom renewed his vows in the company of Larry Duffy (GA) and community there. He is currently in his second year of theological studies at the Gregorian University.

Please remember all of these young men in prayer.



Solidarity committee meeting, December 11th Casa di Maria, Rome

The committee members are Antonio Airo (It), Angel Anton (Esp), Jean Marie Bloqueau (Fr) Jean Bernard Jolly (Fr) and Martin McAnaney (PA). They were joined by Faustino Ferrari (It) to consider organising a Colloquium in 2015 or 2016. The writings and actions of Pope Francis have given a boost to the ministry of solidarity. The committee and others recognise this time as an opportunity for Marists to contemplate our own tradition. The purpose of the Colloquium is to create an opportunity to reflect on the theme of "mercy" in contemporary society through the topics of "solidarity, dialogue and welcome". The committee also considered encouraging feedback on the Advent Reflection sheet and began work on the sheet for Lent.

La Neylière



The works on the main building advance well. The community will welcome on January 15th, the Marist Renewal group of 11 confreres from the 5 continents, including two Europeans, Frs Andreas Rupprecht (De) and Emanuele Di Mare (It). The programme runs until June 15th and is led by a team from our province, Frs Bernd Kordes (De), Bernard Boisseau (Fr) and Ad Blommerde (NI).

The Superior General's visit of the European province

Fr John Hannan returned to his home country Ireland, to begin the major task of visiting the 7 regions. Appropriately he began on December 8th, visiting the Chanel community before going on to the other 6 Irish



communities. He spoke with almost all the confreres, attended community meetings, a regional council, and a regional assembly in the course of 10 days. He spoke to the assembly about the challenges faced by the Society of Mary, especially vocation promotion, formation and of acting more collegially. He also met people who are partners in mission in the region and was happy to accept an invitation to meet the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin.

Prayer Intentions

It is particularly appropriate at this time of year to pray for refugees and migrant peoples. Over the last 8 years St Mary's College, Dundalk, Ireland, has developed close links with the Marist mission in Ranong, Thailand (bit.ly/StMaryDundalkTrip). The Marist Mission (www.maristthailand.org) assists Burmese migrant workers in various ways: through education programmes for children and adults, the provision of healthcare and by running a community centre. This year 8 students, 4 teachers and their chaplain Fr Jimmy McElroy (Ire) made the trip to contribute to the 'English Language Camp' for around a hundred Thai and Burmese students. Facebook (bit.ly/MaristRanong). Please pray for the people served by the Marist mission in Ranong, the Marist community and their friends of Thailand, and the pupils and staff of St Mary's college.

