



EURO info



NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

El Escorial, Madrid, Spain, 4 March 2017

The Marists in Spain gathered in a house of the Marist Brothers to reflect on the question: “What will the presence of Marists be like in Spain in 4 years’ time?” They were joined by Martin McAnaney (Ire), and Joaquin Fernandez (Esp). An important element for the assembly was the fact that Marist community will leave Malgrat, Eastern Spain, this summer. The school of Saint Peter Chanel was transferred into the care of the Marist Brothers last November. Reflections and discussions focused on the parameters of decisions for the future and on the concrete elements which will shape a possible scenario for the next four years. Two main elements emerged: the remaining capacity of the Marists in Spain for involvement in active ministry and the needs of the elderly. It is now to the provincial to continue the dialogue and propose a concrete scenario.

PRAYER INTENTION



take root in the human heart. Lord, may your Spirit of peace transform all our relationships into sources of life and light.

Chanel community, Coolock, Dublin, 22 March

The Marists in Ireland live in two centres, Dublin and Dundalk which are separated by 75 km. This means that coming together is not complicated. 19 confreres came together for an assembly this month which was divided into 3 parts. They watched a PowerPoint on Provincial Chapter 2017 and took a first look at its orientations and decision. Finances and property issues then were considered. The major part of the time was spent in advancing discernment on the topic of parish ministry into the future. Having



“Reflecting on the disarray in our world today, which results in large measure from well-established economic, political, social and religious extremisms, without a credible moral compass to regulate them, we become ever more aware that ideologies can literally kill millions of people.” Fr John Hannan, (24. Leadership for Mission Mark 3: 2016-2017). It seems that each month we receive another reminder of the destructive forces at work in our world, and yet these equally remind us of our need for the message of Christ in all its fullness to

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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

One community found a novel way to collaborate with its neighbour (and religious cousins) to mark the season of Lent. This month some parts of the province made progress in reflecting on the future presence of Marists in their countries. Our mission to share the Good News continues in Spain during a special Week of Evangelisation. A group explored ways to promote Marist vocation and identity today.

*Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney*

SAINTE-FOY COMMUNITY A JOINT DAY OF LENTEN RETREAT, 8 MARCH 2017



Jacques Arfeuillère (Fr) writes: “We have good contacts with our neighbouring community of the Fathers and Brothers of the Blessed Sacrament near the airport, Lyon-Saint-Exupéry. This is a congregation founded in the 19th Century by a Marist Father, St Peter-Julien Eymard (our cousins!). We are family. Their community lives on a small property which provides them with vegetables and some income from the sale of chickens and eggs. The small country house they acquired a few years ago, also allows them to welcome various groups. The joint day of retreat (8 March) was very varied: two interventions by the superior on Lent, Mass with their community composed of a dozen priests and brothers, an aperitif and lunch with them (very little of Lent!), and varied exchanges on our common history. It was a very beautiful and fraternal day.”

THE PARISH OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE OF THE PEOPLES, COSLADA, SPAIN: A WEEK OF EVANGELISATION, 20 - 26 MARCH

It has become a tradition for the parish to hold an annual Week of Evangelisation. This year activities started on the Feast of Saint Joseph with a special evening prayer of intercession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church. As well as the usual liturgical celebrations and special ones for the week, the days that followed provided opportunities for evangelisation on the streets, Theology on Tap (in the local bar), cinema for the family, a Way of the Cross, a reconciliation service, visits to the elderly and sick in hospital and their homes, and not least, a fraternal meal. The Sunday Eucharist brought the week to a close, a busy one full of activities and celebrations.



WORKING GROUP ON PUBLICISING (BRANDING) MARIST VOCATION PARIS, 13-14 MARCH

The members of the group are: Ludger Werner (Ger), Pascal Boidin (Fr), Daniel Fernandez (Esp), and 2 others; one a deacon from Germany, Christoph Kochmann and the other, a lay Marist, Alexandra Yannicopoulos-Boulet from France. In order to promote Marist identity in Europe today or indeed anywhere, we need to be able to present a “catch phrase” which attracts the curious and then draws them into the treasury which is our Marist heritage. Is there a phrase that can contain the seed of our charism for today? This idea guided the working group’s reflection. Such a phrase might then suggest symbols, images and texts to enable people to unpack the Marist vocation and promote our spirituality. The group played around with some creative ideas. Soon they will consult the province on their ideas.



OBITUARY

Piet van der Aart (NL) 21.03.2017