

EURO info



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

GENERAL CHAPTER 2017 (GC2017), NEMI, ITALY, 20 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER



Martin McAnaney writes, “Perched at the edge of a lake of an extinct volcano, Nemi is a beautiful location for the General Chapter (www.maristinter.org). We are based in the hospitality centre run by the Divine Word Missionaries (www.adgentes.net). It is a privilege to be able to breathe in the fresh air looking out over such a picturesque scene. This helps us clear our heads, get a new burst of energy and to return to the chapter hall for another session. The first week has been varied. The reality of the Society of

Mary was communicated to us through the reports of the Superior General and the General Bursar. This was further enhanced by the presentations from the 10 different units. At this point (25 September), we are now ready to explore the vocation of the SM in our contemporary world. A recurring theme is the conviction that as Marists, we have a contribution to make to the mission of the Church. Please continue to pray for us that we may complete our task over the coming weeks”.



PRAYER INTENTION

We continue to keep in our prayers the General Chapter “gathered to evaluate the Society’s fidelity to its spirit and mission, to resolve important questions concerning the Society as a whole, to decide on directions to be followed for the future, to elect the superior general and his council... to safeguard the common heritage and to foster growth and development” (C.163). Pour out, Lord, the light of your Spirit upon the delegates to accomplish these tasks according to your will and the wellbeing of the Society.

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The summer gave opportunities for some Marists to experience ministry in fascinating and different parts of the world. We bring you two examples. Day-to-day concerns are balanced with the concerns of the whole Society of Mary this month in the same country, Italy! We are very grateful to all those who made contributions and we remind you to send to us material which reflects the life of the province.

*Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney*

ALOIS GREILER SM (GER) - VISIT TO GREENLAND, AUGUST 2017



"Beautiful Greenland! And at the same time exotic, unique, rich in history, challenging in climate, and a radical diaspora experience of the Catholic Church. The St Joseph Sisters in Copenhagen mentioned to me that the only parish in Greenland, in the capital city of Nuuk, had no resident priest. I offered my services and was accepted to help out for 3 Sundays. To get to Nuuk is already something – geologically, it is in America, and yet, is a neighbour to the country of Canada. Travelling there takes time and depends on the weather. The Catholics gave me a fine welcome. About 24 parishioners arrived for Sunday mass - the only service in the whole week.



Of these, about 20 are from the Philippines! I admire this small Catholic community for its fidelity to their faith, Church, and liturgy. I learned a lot about the long and rich history of Greenland and about its present challenges - its political status, climate change, and social issues. Was I the first Marist to serve there? Who knows? In any case, it was a very enriching experience for myself."

ITALIAN BURSARS' MEETING, VILLA SANTA MARIA, MONCALIERI, TORINO, 14 SEPTEMBER

Frs Mario Castellucci (national administrator), and Marcello Pregno (national bursar) organised a meeting of Italian bursars. All local bursars were present, including Fr Andrea Volonnino who is responsible for the section of the Roman community, based in Via Livorno. They reflected on the next steps to be taken in the process of centralising financial administration. In addition, they analysed the 2016 consolidated accounts for Italy, and shared best-practice in relation to recording expenses and income. It was also an opportunity to share meals and prayer, and informal chats. All stayed in Moncalieri the night before the meeting and left on the morning of the 15th.



MAURICE AUDIBERT SM - A VISIT TO BUCHAREST, 15-31 AUGUST

Maurice Audibert (Fr) writes:

"I collaborate with an organisation called "Classes" in Lyon. It is an association which takes care of the needs of children from "Romani" immigrant families in relation to their school attendance. It accompanies the parents in their responsibilities too. In this context, and having seen the difficulties between Romanians and the Romani people (rejection, lack of understanding, hostility, rampant racism), I received an invitation from the Marist Brothers in Romania, to spend two weeks in their communities in Bucharest. In partnership with the country's social services, they provide fulltime and part-time residential care, welcoming children and adolescents in their hostels. One can only rejoice when one witnesses the conditions in which these children are housed by the Brothers and how they live and develop: material security, food, schooling, leisure. In the eyes of the Brothers, they are "children before being Romani"... The coexistence of two groups of people as different as Romani and Romanians on the same territory is difficult. Rejected, excluded in Romania, the Romani flee, looking for more favourable circumstances they are far from finding, in France or elsewhere..."
(Link to the full text: www.bit.ly/maudibert)



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