



# EURO info



## PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS - GENERAL CHAPTER 2017 (GC2017), NEMI, ITALY, (20 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER)

Ivan Vodopivec (Eng) wrote: “This was my first General Chapter and to be honest, I was not looking forward to it. However, I can say that it has been one of the best Marist experiences I have been privileged to attend. From the welcome at the airport by Alejandro Muñoz (Mex. and General Assistant) to the departure on 12 October, it was a time of Marist fraternity. It was great to meet Marists from all over the world, not only because they are such great people but it helped me to feel that I really belong to a worldwide Society. It was so interesting listening to their realities, the challenges and joys of each unit. The process set out by the steering committee and the



facilitator, enabled us to identify the issues that face us today. It is true that our situation is fragile and we need to re-vision our way of bringing the Gospel to the world of our time. Having met these Marists confreres and after the experience of the Chapter, I know we still have a lot to offer our world. On a more personal note, I was so moved and affirmed by the Chapter's recognition of the value of the vocation of Brothers in the Society of Mary. One particular sign of hope was when the Marists in formation from the Theologate came to have lunch with us. What a fine bunch of men they are.”

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

## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Many of you will have followed news of the Society of Mary General Chapter 2017 on the website ([www.maristinter.org](http://www.maristinter.org)). We read here some personal impressions of the same event. This month gave opportunities to celebrate a Bicentenary in Coutouvre and other anniversaries in the Sainte-Foy community. We are very grateful to all those who made contributions and we remind you to send your contributions to us.

*Joaquín Fernández and  
Martin McAnaney*

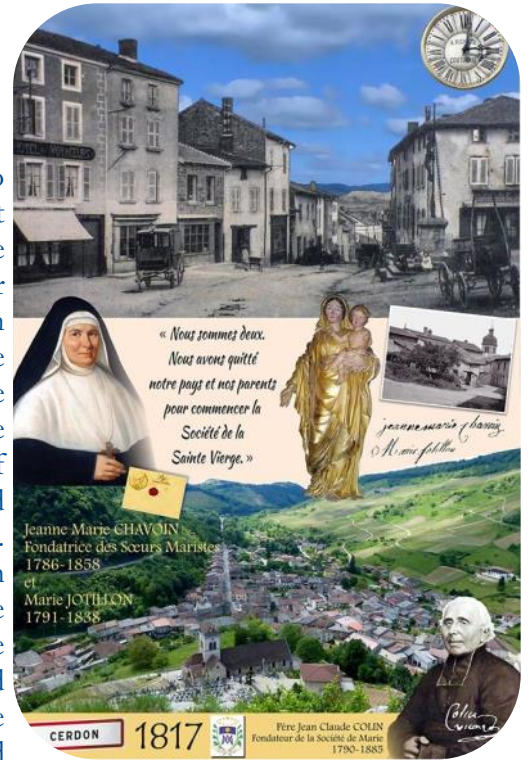
## PRAYER INTENTION



Lord, you chose Coutouvre as a beautiful and rich birthplace for Jeanne-Marie Chavoin and the place for to grow up as your servant. This marked her personality and prepared her for the work you entrusted to her. Bless that work, and all those who continue in her footsteps to serve your plan of salvation in the manner of Mary.

## COUTOUVRE, 3 OCTOBER, BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE MARIST SISTERS

The Marist Sisters invited an impressive gathering of people to celebrate with them, the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Marist Sisters. 200 years ago, Jeanne-Marie Chavoin and her friend Marie Jotillon left Coutouvre, a nice little country village of Roanne, for Cerdon, at the invitation of Fr Pierre Colin, the brother and the parish priest of Fr Jean-Claude. These women were full of confidence in the Virgin Mary who they considered was counting on them to launch the work of the religious sisters. Sr Teri O'Brien S.M. had prepared the celebration with care and enthusiasm, to welcome a good number of her sisters - the superior general and two councillors from Rome, and sisters from Canada, Ireland, Australia, Fiji, the Philippines, Senegal...). In addition, there was also a good number of Marist Fathers - from Toulon, Lyon and La Neylière. Fr Paul Walsh representing the European provincial who was in Rome for the General Chapter, the Marist Brothers, SMSM Sisters, lay Marists were also there ... and above all, many residents of Coutouvre itself: Madam the Mayor, the current owner of the House of Jeanne-Marie, the local choir... and many more. The mass, the central moment of the day, was followed by a meal, all in an atmosphere of friendship and celebration. It must be said, sunshine illuminated the beautiful landscape to make the day all the more enjoyable. And here we are on the way to the 3rd centenary!



## CELEBRATION IN SAINTE-FOY, LYON

Yves Gouget wrote: "To give a bit of rhythm to our lives as retired residents in Ste. Foy community, we had the opportunity to celebrate several important anniversaries. Our house is huge and yet under occupied! These important dates could not go by unnoticed. On 24 September, with Fr. Rodet (all here call him "Alex"), celebrated 75 years of life as a Marist religious. An excellent opportunity to discuss the many steps that have marked his brilliant journey: Riom, La Neylière, Toulon, Alsace and especially, his trips to Vanuatu to share a few days with his brother Jean and to indulge in his passion of creating "museums for memories" including preserving the memories of the Marist missionaries. On 14 October, we joined with Fr Paul Fontanier for his celebration of 70 years of priestly life. For this occasion, Paul welcomed his family who has admired his stature, his kindness and his seriousness, and above all, his vitality on the threshold of his 98th birthday! It will be a while before we mark future anniversaries but, of course, we will not fail to give you a report of them."

