



# EURO info



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

## THE COMMUNITY OF LA NEYLIERE TRAVEL TO THE TOULON COMMUNITY, (26-30 DECEMBER)



visited the beaches and warmed up afterwards with hot chocolate, the Museum of the Marine, (Toulon is France's principal naval base), a fortress,

Jimmy McElroy (Ire) writes: "On St. Stephen's Day, the La Neylière community travelled to Toulon to stay for 4 days with our confreres in rue Victor Clappier. What a contrast in atmospheres! We experienced firsthand just how cold the Riviera can be in late December with even a touch of the Mistral wind which forced us to put on our warmest clothes! Inside we found a much warmer atmosphere, a real family feel. Our Toulon confreres went out of their way to make us feel at home. They served as our guides to the city of Toulon and its surroundings. We

and the former Marist house of Mont Bel, the novitiate and seminary and alongside it, our cemetery where many early Marists are buried. We spent time with two elderly confreres in a retirement home beside our school, St Joseph, La Cordeille: François Vuillemin (103) and Yves Piton. We also took the opportunity to drop in on our cousins, the Marist Sisters who live alongside the Marist school, Cours Fénelon. It was truly like calling on relatives, a warm welcome without any fuss. We weren't strangers after all. We could recognise the family likeness!"

## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The confreres of the communities of La Neyliere and Toulon tell us about their experience of "promoting connections across the province" (Provincial Chapter 11). The Marists in France have had a long association with the city of Chartres. The Diocese of Chartres will remember Fr Franz Stock on the 70th anniversary of his death and we hear about the Marist interest in that event. Work to support confreres involved in solidarity ministry continues by way of the Solidarity committee. The Italian confreres gathered to reflect on the call of the General Chapter and how it might touch the lives of Marists in Italy. We are very grateful to those of you who sent material to us this month.

*Joaquín Fernández and  
Martin McAnaney*

## PRAYER INTENTION

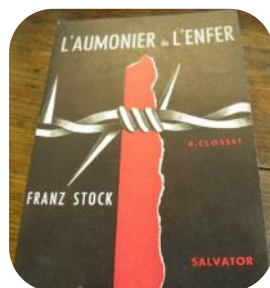
World Day for the Consecrated Life takes place on the Feast of the Presentation (2 February). We pray for those called to consecrated life in the Marist Family, may they be faithful witnesses of God's love in Mary's way. By their lives, may others be inspired to live their baptismal commitment in the context of Marist religious life.



## "WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE", 24 FEBRUARY 2018, DIOCESE OF CHARTRES, FRANCE



Fr Roger Lordong (Fr), a Marist Father and a member of the Franz Stock Friends Association, writes: "On 24 February 1948, Franz Stock, died alone in the hospital of Cochin, Paris. He was a German diocesan priest and the pioneer of reconciliation between France and Germany. During World War II, he served as chaplain to prisons in Paris. He accompanied a considerable number of French prisoners, members of the resistance, to their place of execution. At the end of the war, he directed an internment camp which welcomed 950 German seminarians who were held as prisoners near Chartres. It carried the name, Séminaire des Barbelés (the barbed wire seminary) ([bit.ly/FranzStock](http://bit.ly/FranzStock)). Fr René Closset, a Marist, publicised this extraordinary man through his biographical book, *L'Aumônier de l'Enfer* (The Chaplain to Hell). He also arranged for the remains of Fr Stock, to be brought to the Church of St Jean-Baptiste de Rechèvres (Chartres), then served by the Marist Fathers. His grave has since



become a place of reflection for many German and French people interested in fraternity. The Diocese of Chartres will celebrate the 70th anniversary of his death (24 February 2018), and for Marists, as successors of Fr René Closset, an invitation has been extended to make a pilgrimage to Rechèvres and the Séminaire des Barbelés to witness to our vision of Europe".

## SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE MEETING, 24 JANUARY 2018, PARIS

On 12 September 2017, the committee presented its proposed plan of action (Shaping the Work) to the provincial council. Ivan Vodopivec writes: "We are a group of 5 [Mr Jean-Claude Boidin, Giovanni Danesin (It), Jean-Bernard Jolly (Fr), Sr Catherine Jones SMSM, and Ivan Vodopivec (Eng)]. Our meeting took place at the Provincial House and we met to advance the work of the previous meeting. We focused on one of the four elements of the plan, (i) mutual support. Our aim for the future months is to see how best we and the province can support those who are engaged in works of solidarity with the disadvantaged and the poor. We look forward to sharing more details with you all in the not too distant future".



## ASSEMBLY OF ITALIAN CONFRERES, ORSOLINE DI SAN CARLO, VIA LIVORNO, ROME, 22-23 JANUARY

For the first afternoon of their gathering the superior general, Fr John Larsen, led the confreres in reflecting on the message contained in the miracle of the Raising of Lazarus which is addressed to us in our fragile condition, "Do you believe?". Such a belief in the face the tomb, is the fruit of contemplating the Word as modelled by Mary who pondered all these things in her heart and which led her to say Yes so that God could do great things through her. The following day was dedicated to considering some of the texts of General Chapter 2017 (i) Declaration on the Mission of the Society of Mary today, (ii) Ministries of Hope and (iii) Religious Life today. In the light of all of this, they addressed also the question of the future presence of Marists in Italy.



**OBITUARY** Roger Wilhelm (Fr) 5.01.2018