



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

On the 1st and 2nd of November each year, our hearts and prayers turn to Heaven as the Church's liturgy invites us to thank God for all His Saints, and to pray for our departed brothers and sisters.

November is also the onset of winter, a time for quiet and introspection. As Marists, we are called to work for God's Kingdom as Mary did. Like Mary, we seek to be open to the presence of Christ in ourselves and in every other person.

In these difficult times, our task of building the Kingdom of God needs to be deeply rooted in our Marist origins.

This issue of EuroInfo presents examples of our Marist works in Europe and our efforts to connect with our heritage.

May we all find comfort in the conviction that God will make fruitful the work of our hands!

*Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Maurice Linossier (Fr)
14.10.2020

EUROINFO

SERVING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN MARIST FRENCH SCHOOLS

Vincent Langlois, Provincial Delegate for the Education Trusteeship in France, writes: "In the pastoral orientations of our French educational network, we emphasise the importance of "welcoming each person as he or she is, believer or not, with respect and humility. Allowing every student, child or adolescent, to feel they are valued as important and unique".

A number of our schools are able to run an education programme called *U.L.I.S., 'Unité Localisée pour l'Inclusion Scolaire'* (Local Unit for School Inclusion). This curriculum allows children to be both in a regular classroom and to benefit also from specialised support, and thus we offer what we call an inclusive school. The student experiences all available activities in the school: academic classes, trips and religious education etc. In addition, the student also receives the support of trained therapists and psychologists in different fields such as speech, psychomotor, occupational, neuropsychology, psychiatry etc. The main purpose is to build up the young person's self-confidence, enable them to become autonomous, facilitate communication and to support them in building towards a future professional career.

For the families, to have this inclusive programme in a one school is very significant. It allows their children to be more integrated in the school community in general which is beneficial for everyone. These students are witnesses to hope and joy. They shine and radiate energy throughout the whole school communities. This in turn challenges our Marist schools to be consistent in our actions and words."





MARIST RETREAT IN THE NETHERLANDS

Peter Westerman writes: "The Dutch Marist Fathers planned to hold their annual retreat in the Abbey of Berne in Heeswijk, with Fr Joost Jansen, O.Praem, (Premonstratensian Fathers) as the retreat master.

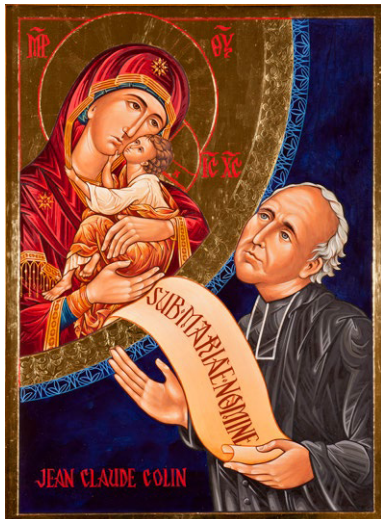
However, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the retreat could not take place in the Abbey. A new place had to be found. Finally, we were welcomed at the Emmaus Retreat Centre in Helvoirt which is the formation centre for the Charismatic Renewal Movement in the Netherlands. One of our confreres, Father André Beijersbergen sm (+ 2005) is honoured as one of their pioneers.

Fr Jansen kept his promise to lead the retreat. His conferences were relevant to our present circumstances, rooted in the Bible and inspiring. The Eucharistic celebrations took place in the large chapel of the centre."



PRAYER INTENTION (FROM THE NOVENA TO FR. COLIN)

Venerable Father Founder, at your intercession may God give us the holy joy and holy freedom that characterized your life so that we can proclaim the Good News in gladness and joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE COLIN CAUSE NETWORK (CCN)

Fr Alois Greiler (Ger) writes, "The canonisation process for the cause of our Founder, Venerable Jean-Claude Colin, was re-opened in 2010. The Marist General Administration has appointed the people necessary to promote the cause: a postulator, a vice-postulator, a person in charge of promoting the "fama" (the renown or reputation of holiness), and a network of Marists in each unit of the Society of Mary to act as contact persons. I am the link person for the Province of Europe.

Our work has focused on community prayer (Marist Litany, Beatification prayer) and liturgy as an outreach to people with whom we are in contact. We have prepared a novena leading up to 15 November, the date of Fr Colin's death in La Neylière (1875). This text presents Fr Colin both the man and the saint, with appropriate prayers and excerpts from the Marist Constitutions. Fr Colin is a bit like certain landscapes. At first, you think there is not much to see but the closer you look, the more you discover. Ron Nissen SM, an Australian Marist, has created a website with a huge amount of useful resources in different languages: www.jeanclaudocolin.org."

