



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This issue of EuroInfo is dedicated to the Marist Vocation Year. The Feast of All Saints reminds us that we are all called to holiness and not just some of us. God has a plan of love and life for everyone in the world and we believe that we find our deepest happiness when our plans for life coincide with God's plans.

Although there are exceptions, contemporary culture gives little support to the idea that selfless love is the path to true human fulfilment. This makes it difficult in all walks of life to contemplate a calling to an unconditional lifelong commitment in love. Today, a major challenge is to build a culture of vocations in society, one which sustains this path as a real and valued option. Over the coming year, EuroInfo will include a link to Marist vocational material. May the coming Marist Vocation Year be a source of inspiration for us and confirm us in our personal calling to the Work of Mary.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Kevin Cooney (Ire)
02.11.2021



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD

EUROINFO

THE CHALLENGE OF BUILDING A NEW CHURCH – BUILDING THE MARIST FAMILY



The European Provincial, Martin McAnaney writes: "The European Provincial Chapter 2013, proposed an approach to the ministry of fostering vocations which turned the spotlight first on the Marist religious and then on the youth of today. The insight was that there is little point in inviting others to join the Marist project if canonical Marists are not witnessing to the power of vocation as a source of life in their own manner of living.

Our spirituality and manner of life need to be attractive to others so those people can respond to God's call to live the life of discipleship in the manner of Mary. So, the starting point of the ministry is to reclaim the power of God's call in our life to be part of the family of Mary, then we are in a good position to make the Marist vocation known to others seeking a purpose in life in a culture that is largely indifferent to the religious dimension. The Marist vocation reaches far beyond religious life and offers everyone ("the whole world Marist", Fr Jean-Claude Colin) an opportunity to find a meaning in their lives and to serve others modelled on the presence of Mary in the Gospels. Truly, the task of building a culture in society in which the idea of a vocation is possible, is a challenge, but one that belongs to us all.

The superior general, Fr John Larsen and the General Administration have designated the coming year as Marist Vocation Year. An international team has generated a rich treasury of resources for Marists, lay and religious. It is an opportunity for all of us associated with the Marist project and who share a common mission, to rediscover the richness of the Marist heritage and to create occasions when this gift can be shared with a younger generation. All of us have a contribution to make during this year no matter what our circumstances or wherever we find ourselves. The Year will be launched on a very significant date in the Marist calendar, the 15 November, the anniversary of the death of Fr Colin. Let us not miss the opportunity to open this treasury of material and nourish the Marist vocation today and for tomorrow."





"THE LORD CONTINUES TO CALL PEOPLE, THAT'S FOR SURE!"

PRAYER FOR THE MARIST VOCATION YEAR

Jesus, Good Shepherd, we ask you to look at this family of Mary, with eyes of mercy. Throughout this year of vocations, we ask you, Lord, to help us to enrich the Marist world with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

May Mary's subtle and delicate presence make us breathe her spirit. So that, committed to our own vocation, we will become credible witnesses of your gospel.

And, renewed and strengthened with the fire of the Holy Spirit, we will help to bring to life the seed of a vocation implanted in the hearts of the young.

Enable us to accompany them in the fulfilment of their personal vocation.

Lord Jesus, give us vocations according to your heart.
Amen



In his message of encouragement to the religious of the Society of Mary on the occasion of the launch the Marist Vocation Year (15 November), Fr John Larsen, the superior general, says. '...There are many examples in the Gospel, for example, in Mark 10: He meets a young man and the young man says, "How can I have life?" And the Lord said: "keep the rules and follow the normal way of life". And he said: "I've been doing that". And the Lord says "no, if you really want to follow me, give up everything and come and be with me totally". Because the Lord loved him, and because of that love, he called him specially to be a disciple of his. And he is still doing that, in today's world...

Sometimes we live in a culture within our societies, which discourages vocations, for many reasons, in which it's very difficult to follow the Lord as a priest or a brother in the society of Mary. But we remember that the Society of Mary is very international, and together, as brothers from different parts of the world, and as partners in mission from all over the world, there is a culture of Marist vocation, which can be nourished and appreciated and develop. And if that young man in Mark 10, had difficulty following the Lord, Mary herself, at first, at the time of the visit, at the time of the Annunciation, had trouble following the Lord. But at the end of the encounter with the Lord, from the depth of her faith, she was able to empty herself and say "whatever you want, Lord". And if, during this year, we are able to do the same as Mary, this year will have been a beautiful year indeed, for each one of us, and for people who are attracted to our way of life and want to join us. Because this is life to the full! Living water is springing up to eternal life as Marists in the church of today.'



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MARIST VOCATION YEAR

The international working group set out the objectives as: (1) To **ENRICH** the Marist Project with the fire of the Holy Spirit given as a gift to Marists in their vocational call; (2) To **ENCOURAGE** Marists to reflect deeply on the mystery of their own vocation and the call to personal holiness; (3) To **ASSIST** each unit to find creative forms of vocational ministry, appropriate to the unit's resources, that will inspire young people in the discernment of their vocation. Activities are addressed to Marist communities and Marist laity groups, and also towards young people. The opportunities range from formation and training, reflection, to retreats. We pray that the Lord will call and that we will respond.

