



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The Advent season is the beginning of the Liturgical year. The Word of God reminds us that we are his people, called out of darkness to live in his light.

While it is God himself who takes the initiative and comes to us at Bethlehem, for our part, we need to undertake our own journey, to walk together united with those amongst us who are poor, who may have lost someone special in their lives or set out from their own country in search of a better life.

This edition of EuroInfo invites us to view the Work of Mary in Europe from these different perspectives. In the context of Marist Vocation Year, this serves also as a call to deepen our own sense of vocation which we can do by using the reflection sheet for this month on the theme "*Mary's vocation and our own Marist vocation*".

Link to the different languages
FRANÇAIS - <https://bit.ly/mvy1fr>
ESPAÑOL - <https://bit.ly/mvy1ES>
DEUTSCH - <https://bit.ly/mvy1DE>
ITALIANO - <https://bit.ly/mvy1it>
ENGLISH - <https://bit.ly/mvy1EN>

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EUROINFO

COLLOQUIUM ON THE MINISTRY OF MARIST VOCATION FOSTERING, LA NEYLIÈRE, 25 AND 26 NOVEMBER



A lay Marist, Alexandra Yannicopoulos-Boyet writes: "The session took place a few days after the launching of the Marist Vocation Year by the General Administration (15 November). Amongst the 20 participants who gathered to reflect on this ministry were members of other branches of the Marist family, laity, SMSM and SM sisters. Led by Pascal Boidin (Fr) and Etienne Séguier, we all sought to mobilise our energies and creativity.

What can we conclude from these two days of work? First of all, the need to adopt language which is positive and direct, whatever the tools used to communicate on social networks, pastoral work in schools and generally in society. Follow-up is crucial by means of a variety of proposals such as the World Youth Day, vocational camps, accompaniment and pastoral placement opportunities.

It is imperative to mobilise the power of laypeople in the ministry of vocations fostering. One exercise was to reformulate in two short sentences the famous Marist phrase 'hidden and unknown' without using those words. Some suggested 'simplicity and humility', qualities that resonate strongly in today's context.

We must dare to present and witness in the most direct way to the joy of a Marist vocation. Perhaps we need to learn to speak in the way that Fr Jean-Claude Colin noticed God speaks to souls - in few words! What is the essential Marist message after all? Is it not "With Mary, the joy of simplicity to serve the Church and the world"?





PRAYER INTENTION

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming amongst us. We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we pray, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

THE MEMORIAL CAMINO FOR BERNIE DEERY, 22-29 SEPTEMBER



A group of 14 pilgrims set out to walk 100 kms of the Camino de Santiago. It was a commemoration of Bernie Deery who sadly lost her battle against cancer in March this year. Daniel Deery writes, "Bernie was a valued member of the staff of St. Mary's College, Dundalk, Ireland for 36 years until 2013. She was also a member of The Marist Education Authority, the group that has responsibility for our three Marist schools in Ireland. She attended many Marist gatherings in France and in Ireland. In 2019 Bernie helped organise the first Marist Education Network Camino for participants from the three schools. She drove the support vehicle, as well as providing less tangible support to all. It was decided by her friends and Marist colleagues to organize another Camino in her memory. We started the

100 km walk from the Marist pilgrim hostel in Sahagún, passing through León and ending in Astorga. From there we transferred to Santiago de Compostela by bus. Memories of Bernie's good humour, empathy and positivity and her embodiment of the Marist spirit were shared along the way and helped ease the pain of her loss. The good that she did lives on, not least in those whose lives she touched."



WALKING FOR REFUGEES: THE LEGAL WALK, LONDON



Pascal Boidin (Fr) writes: "Every year, except 2020 because of the pandemic, the Legal Walk brings together thousands of people in London. It is a walk and a celebration to help organisations involved in the legal support of refugees. The Notre Dame Refugee Centre (NDRC) is part of this network. The walk is an opportunity to mobilise the friends and volunteers of the NDRC and more widely, the whole community of Notre Dame de France to raise awareness and financially support the work of the refugee centre. This year we walked 10 km in the Royal Parks of London and managed to raise around £5,000. Despite the gloomy weather, we escaped the rain! It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet, exchange and support refugees and asylum seekers in a practical way."

MINISTRY WITH MIGRANTS IN SPAIN

In one way or another, Paco Aller (Spa) has been involved in work with migrants in the León province of Spain, since 1998. Recently he shared about his work with members of the Provincial Solidarity Commission: "In 1996, the local bishop entrusted the Marists with four parishes which involved participation in an inter-parish programme run by Caritas for the homeless people. I joined the project in 1998 and gradually, we launched a programme for migrants, also with Caritas. The Marist community is part of this ministry. Migrant people were welcomed and referred to various public and church services. Celebrations were organised for them in various languages. Some of these migrants have experienced prison life, mostly due to drug-related offences. In 2013, we became interested in the care of detainees. We don't actually go to the prisons but we participate in the social reintegration programme for former prisoners designed to assist them to find balance in life and a place in society. After returning from a three-year appointment in Peru in 2019, the bishop asked me to take over responsibility for the diocesan office for migrants. We organised a catechesis programme, celebrations and social outings, opportunities to meet each other since they originate from different places. Our efforts are a collaboration with other religious congregations, diocesan priests connected to Caritas, and with public agencies. The work is intercultural and also interreligious because not everyone has a Catholic background. Since the epidemic, we work mainly by telephone. The migrants' loneliness became more difficult to bear. Life is becoming a little more normal again, we are not there yet but we are on our way."

