

## ► ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

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



### GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

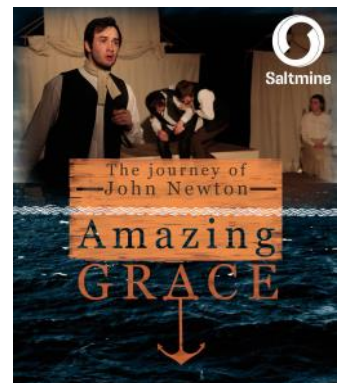
We hear about a thought-provoking evangelisation initiative and of an education challenge both in London. There is news of a way to unwind in the East of France. Regional assemblies have taken place which form part of the preparations for the Council of the Province. We are invited to update the Provincial Index. A devastating cyclone hit Vanuatu this month and we think of all those lives touched by it. We are grateful to all those who have contributed material, please keep sending it to us.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

### “Amazing Grace”, a play at Notre Dame de France (NDF), London, March 10th

Pope Francis in his message for *World Day of Peace 2015* (<http://bit.ly/WDPeace2015>) reminded us that slavery has not disappeared from our world. There are men, women and children around the globe who still live in conditions akin to slavery - migrant domestic workers, agricultural labourers and people in prostitution. Other forms of enslavement exist such as being trafficked for the sale of organs, for recruitment as soldiers, for begging, for the production and sale of narcotics and for adoption. It is a challenge for us to become more conscious of the situation of these people. How can we meet the challenge of educating ourselves about the grim reality of modern-day slavery and the extent of its existence? NDF took a creative step in this direction by hosting a play entitled ‘Amazing Grace’, performed by the *Saltmine Theatre Company* ([www.saltminetrust.org.uk](http://www.saltminetrust.org.uk)), which tells the story of John Newton (1725–1807) (<http://bit.ly/AmazingGraceNDF>).

Newton was a transatlantic slave trader who experienced a conversion and finally became a determined anti-slavery campaigner. Perhaps we know him best as the author of the well-known English hymn, ‘Amazing Grace’. The play reminded the 330 people at the performance of the impact one individual can have, despite the odds!



### Relais mariste in the heart of Winter, February 19th - 22nd

To do something once does not create a tradition! Relais mariste (Marist holiday group) which normally holds its gathering during the summer, has chosen this time the winter and the snow! 25 people assembled for 3 days at Roc de la Pêche (1,900m high), an Alpine mountain refuge in the heart of the Vanoise Massif. The programme



included cross-country skiing (skis with non-slip covering), reflection upon the violent events that took place in Paris in January, prayer and celebration ... all this done in a friendly and cheerful atmosphere.

## Education committee meets with the Aumônerie team to Lycée Charles de Gaulle, London, March 2nd - 3rd

A team of over 140 provides catechesis services to over 900 young people at the French speaking Aumônerie (chaplaincy). The Aumônerie is linked with European Education Network and so the team welcomed the Provincial Education committee on its recent visit to London (Hubert Bonnet-Eymard, Bruno Chanel, Kevin Jennings, Donald Lillistone, and Martin McAnaney). The team explained the challenges involved in delivering catechesis to so many young people in over 7 locations in London and their concerns about the future. Philippe Revello, vice principal at Cours Fenelon, Toulon, joined the Education committee for a review of the Provincial Education Forum held last November.



## Assemblies in the regions

In the weeks before the Council of the Province (CoP) to be held at Moncalieri, Italy (April 14 – 16), three regions held assemblies. The Dutch Assembly (March 23rd – 25th) had the opportunity to welcome the recently professed member of the region, Nikolai Reimers and at the other end of the scale, it considered “how to live religious life in senior years”. The reflection was led by Bernice Reintjes, a lay Marist. As at the other assemblies in Ireland (March 18th) and France (March 25th), confreres discussed the framework for the new Provincial Statutes. Observations from the assemblies highlighted advantages and concerns in the proposal and these important points will be taken into account in drafting the full set of Statutes to be finalised during the CoP.

## Prayer Intentions

On the night of Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> and into Saturday, the cyclone “Pam”, reputed to be one of the most powerful ever to hit the Pacific, devastated the island nation of Vanuatu in Oceania where the Marist family is present. It is estimated that 90% of homes have been damaged. President Baldwin Lonsdale stated that the signs of development have been destroyed. Three Marists from Vanuatu live with us in the European province, Fr Denis Revi and Br Paul Molbwet in Rome, and Sr Marie-Rose Lengsau smsm in London. We are in the communion of prayer with all the people of Vanuatu and especially with them, in their time of hardship. We ask the Lord to move our hearts to reach out in



caring ways to those in need and that we may become better stewards of the earth which we all share.

## Provincial Index

The Provincial Index was published and circulated with a date 01.01.2015. Please send any corrections to Joaquin Fernandez at [europovsm.bursar@gmail.com](mailto:europovsm.bursar@gmail.com). These will be updated on the online version of the Index which is on the provincial website.



## Obituary

Joseph Barbier (Fr) 23.03.2015