



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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The pace of activities may have slowed down a little because summer time has arrived, yet there are important events taking place which because of timing, we will hear about in next month's EuroInfo. The special edition of EuroInfo in July (83) had a single topic, that of the forthcoming Year of the Fourvière Pledge. This month we catch up on some news from past months, of Thilo Saft's return to Passau to continue the celebrations after his ordination, of gatherings in Paris and La Neylière, and of efforts to explore the call to joyfully share our faith today.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

The “tour of blessing” - Thilo Saft, June 2015

In Germany it is customary for a newly ordained priest to receive an invitation to places where he is known in order to preside at a Eucharist, but especially to give his “first blessing”. After his ordination (May 23rd), Thilo returned to Passau and celebrated with the Marist communities, the parishes in which he worked, the Marist school in Fürstzell, and the Passau University students (June 27-28). On one of these occasions the chairperson of the parish council spoke beautifully about the Marist charism which he added, he had picked up from his personal contacts with Marists and the internet (www.maristenpatres.de/)! The superior general John Hannan s.m. was visiting Passau at the time and so was able to join in the celebrations.



Education Committee Paris, 30 June 2015

The committee return to Paris to review the past year's activities in the European Education Network and to make plans for the coming year. Undoubtedly the Toulon Education Forum (November) was a highlight but there were a number of other significant events which occurred in different countries, many of which are documented on the education blog (bit.ly/18v6WHV). The year ahead will be a busy one in the province with a meeting of the Heads of the Educational centres in the Province of Europe (January 21-22), the official opening of the new school building of St Mary's College Dundalk, Ireland (May 6) and a range of events leading up to and including the celebrations of the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge (July 23).





The annual provincial retreat, La Neylière, France (July 12–18)

Fr Pedro Alarcón, Marist Provincial of Mexico presented the retreat. He brought together the themes of the Year of Consecrated Religious Life and the review of the Vow of Poverty recommended by the Provincial Chapter 2013, which is ongoing in the province. He spoke in Spanish and was simultaneously translated in French and English for the 34 members of the province who participated. He addressed questions such as “How do I evaluate and grow in my practice of the vow?” To help answer this question, over the retreat days he presented a range of interpretations of the vow and images drawn from scripture, theology, Christology, spirituality, tradition and anthropology. “There are a variety of ways of understanding the living of the vow, but what is most important is to discern - to what is the Spirit calling us? ... Especially as religious, we need to grow in honest discernment in the context of the reality of contemporary society!”

Prayer intention

We pray that as Marists, we may be united in the Spirit and become more faithful and courageous witnesses of the Good News we have received, so that together, we may build a Church which is truly missionary. We pray particularly for those Marists who participated in the gatherings at Los Negrales, Spain, (August 9-14) and San Francisco, USA, (August 17-21), that their encounters may bear fruit in their lives, and inspire us to “go out to the whole world and proclaim” (Mk.16:15) our faith with confidence and joy.

Obituary

Jean Bouche (Fr) 29.08.2015

Exploring ways to celebrate our faith and share it

Anne Marie Salgo of the Marist parish of Notre Dame de France, London, attended the National Evangelisation Conference, “Proclaim’15” (July 11), in Birmingham, UK (bit.ly/ConfProclaim15 - in English) and she also presented one of its workshops. This was the first gathering of its kind organised by the Bishops Conference in England and Wales, and it brought together 800 delegates from 23 dioceses. 35-50 people from each diocese attended the event. Another workshop presenter was the bishop of Brentwood, Alan Williams s.m. The Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Nichols said: “*This is not a managerial exercise to get people into pews. This is genuinely a deep, deep desire to share something immensely precious, immensely life-giving and what I believe is very much needed in our world today.*” Photographic Gallery: (bit.ly/PhotoProclaim15). Related to this theme of evangelisation, are two assemblies involving people from the province which have just taken place in August. The first assembly was that of Marist Laity in Los Negrales, Spain, (8-14) on the theme of “With Mary we Advance! Marist mission in a Church renewing itself”, and the second one was the Marist City Centre Church’s Network workshop (blog: bit.ly/1n4BUCC) in San Francisco, USA, (17-21). EuroInfo will carry news of these two events in the next edition.

