

▶ 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 have entered the New Year and activities in the province have commenced again. For the first time the heads of education centres in the province came together and their aim was to discern a direction for the future of the Education Network. The German confreres also made choices in preparation for the implementation of the new Statutes (July 1st). You will find also a reminder about the forthcoming Solidarity seminar (March 29th – 31st) and the annual provincial retreat (July 24th – 30th). We look forward to continue receiving material from you for EuroInfo in 2016.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

The meeting of the heads of education centres in the European Education Network

The life of the European Marist Education Network consists of a range of language and cultural exchanges (some of them via the internet), sports activities, and amongst other things an enterprise competition and a Marist-Net-Day. Of course there has also been a major investment in organising an education forum every two years. The richness of the range of activities can be seen from the variety of posts on the Education blog (bit.ly/18v6WHV). Is this the best way of working? Are we making the most of the rich links and relationships we have within the Network? What is the best way to develop the Network in the future? The heads of 14 education centres came together with the education committee (Hubert Bonnet-Eymard, Martin McAnaney, Bruno Chanel, Kevin Jennings and Donald Lillistone) to address these questions. The assembly received feedback from an “audit” of Network activities, and also heard a presentation of the organisation, Mariste en Education (bit.ly/MaristEnEd in French). Participants generated a number of creative proposals to strengthen and develop the Network and ranked these in importance. The meeting took place during the year dedicated to celebrating the bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge (bit.ly/FourvierePI) and so participants joined other interested people and attended a theatre piece written especially for these celebrations. An idea which gained general approval was that we need to move from being a network of education centres, to being education centres in a network – to opt into the network of links and relationships more deliberately. The image of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56) served as an inspiration. Hopefully the fruits of the meeting will become visible over the coming year.



Regional Assembly, Meppen, Germany, January 4th 2016

20 German Marists including Bernd Kordes and Andreas Rupprecht who are on ministry outside the country, assembled to make the legal changes necessary to adapt to the new provincial Statutes. Hubert Bonnet-Eymard, the Provincial also participated. Under the guidance of a lawyer the assembly debated two documents required for civil law and approved them. Confreres also proposed ways to ensure that tasks will be fulfilled in Germany after the new structure is introduced on July 1st. In addition a conversation took place on the important topic of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The hard days' work concluded with a fine buffet prepared by a member of the Meppen community!

The annual Provincial Retreat 2016

will be held at La Neylière, France, July 24th – 30th 2016. The presenter is the Australian Marist Gerard Hallsm, a theology professor at the Australian Catholic University. Since the dates follow immediately after the celebrations of the Bicentenary of the Fourvière promise (July 23rd), it is natural that the theme is related to this, "Promises of yesterday, today and tomorrow." This year organisers at La Neylière aim to provide translation facilities in as many of the languages of the participants as is possible. It is urgent that you inform them now so they can make arrangements for this. Write to Ad Blommerde (ad.blommerde@zonnet.nl).



Solidarity Seminar: In the face of the globalisation of indifference is there a place for mercy?

The date of this event is approaching! It will take place in La Neylière, March 29th – 31st 2016. It is one of the ways the province is marking the Jubilee of Mercy. Participants are to arrive in time for the evening meal on Monday March 28th, at 19.00. Please register now with Ad Blommerde (ad.blommerde@zonnet.nl). Leaflet: bit.ly/solidcoll



Prayer intention

At this time of the year we pray for unity amongst Christians. We ask you Lord, to fill our broken hearts with your healing love so that we may love as you have loved us. Grant us the gift of unity so that as Marists, we may make our contribution to witnessing to your inclusive love for all people.