

► 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...”*



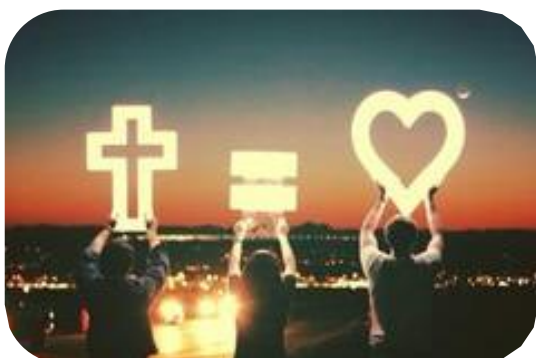
## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

In this month's EuroInfo we include some items from February to help catch up on events in the province. We hear of developments which mean that numbers in the Marist family are increasing. Relationships in Europe have been put under strain by the horrific attacks in Brussels, Belgium. It is all the more important of us to find ways of sharing the Good News and to promote solidarity amongst all people, and we offer two examples of doing just that. Arrangements for the new organisation of the province took another important step forward this month with the nomination of a provincial council. We thank those who sent material to us.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

## Marist laity in Pratola and Turin

At the initiative of Sante Inselvini (It), a group of 13 lay people of Pratola Peligna, Italy, completed the first stage of formation in Marist spirituality. The group was accompanied and guided by lay people from Castiglione Fiorentino, with the support of Antonio Airò (It). He concelebrated the Sunday Mass (February 21st) with Frs. Sante and Renato Frappi (It), during which the members of the group read and signed the promise. He emphasised that lay Marists desire to follow Christ and the Gospel as all believers do, but in a particular spirit - that of Mary. This spirit needs to permeate their daily family life and work. Further another group of 6 people from Turin will complete their formation (April 10th) and they will join the Marist family in the fraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes in Corso Francia.



## Prayer intention

Now that the new provincial team has been named, we ask you to pray for their future ministry. We pray that the Spirit may guide their discernment and encourage them to discover ways of revealing God's love. May they trust in God alone and receive the gift of wisdom to meet the challenges of playing their part in animating the Work of Mary in Europe today!

## Marist Missionary Vocation Week: Marconia – Pisticci, February 22nd-27th, 2016



As in other years, Luigi Savoldelli (It) and Sr Beatriz Matos SMSM, guided a missionary and vocational week in the three high schools of Marconia and Pisticci, Italy. This year the theme was “Fear of the ‘other’”, a theme very linked with the “globalization of indifference” of which Pope Francis speaks so forcefully. The missionaries gave their testimony based on a parable of Jesus. Staff and students expressed their surprise to discover that in the personal judgment, God the Father will look not at me, but rather around me - to the portion of tears and suffering entrusted to me, to see if I have consoled anyone, or if they have received bread and water for the journey from my hands, and encouragement for today and tomorrow. This is a whole different way of life!

## Evangelisation Week, Coslada, Spain, February 21st – 28th, 2016



The Parish of St. Paul the Apostle, Coslada, organised its 3rd Evangelization Week. After several months of preparation, it began with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and then going out to the streets and parks, to meet people and talk about God. On Friday, the Way of the Cross planned to take place on the streets of the parish was cancelled because of the rain! However the parish gathering attracted about 50 people and Angel Anton (Esp) spoke on the theme of “A Marist parish in the Jubilee Year of Mercy”. A new initiative in the programme this year came from Dani Fernández (to be ordained priest, April 30th), was "Theology in the bar" - responding to questions raised by people present in a local bar!

## Provincial Council (PC) meeting March 15th – 16th and a new provincial council

During its meeting the provincial council continued its work of making preparations for a new way of functioning in each European country starting on July 1st. Over recent weeks, regional superiors and councils presented options to the PC and it is now becoming a little clearer who will be sharing which responsibilities in the new national structures. These arrangements will be reviewed by the Council of the Province to take place in Helvoirt, the Netherlands (April 12th – 14th). Another significant element in these arrangements is a new provincial council. In December 2015 Martin McAnaney was elected as European provincial and since that time members of the province have been discerning the composition of the new council. After the March PC meeting, the names of next provincial council were announced (March 19th) and they are: Jean-Marie Bloqueau, who will also serve as vicar provincial, Marcello Pregno, Andreas Rupprecht and Paul Walsh. They begin their mandate with Martin on July 1st 2016. The PC also examined important options for animating the education and vocation promotion ministries into the future and financial matters.

