

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



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Although this is the June edition of EuroInfo, we carry news of events in July which have been long anticipated, the transition to a new Structure on July 1st and the celebrations of the Fourvière Pledge July 23rd. There is a possibility of watching the Mass via the internet for those who wish. We also hear about evangelisation in the West End of London, the faith festival *Spirit in the City*. Please continue to send material to us for inclusion in the future.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

Joint session of outgoing and incoming provincial councils, Paris June 22–24

Looking back over the past two years, what are the issues the European province is facing? As well as treating routine provincial matters, the 8 confreres from both councils attempted to answer this question. They spent time examining events and actions which made up the life of the province from 2014 - 2016 in the light of their personal experience of living through them. Some remarked that they felt a bit overwhelmed by the quantity of activities, and others put stress on the daily experience of confreres which is often that they have reached their limits! To strengthen our hope, it is important to acknowledge our reality, find ever more effective ways to communicate with one another and to unify our efforts to be faithful to our vocation. Life is changing for all of us and a dramatic illustration of this happened on the last day of the meeting when it was announced that the UK has chosen to leave the EU.

It is obvious that a major task is to make the new way of organising ourselves as Marists in Europe function for the benefit of all confreres and those we serve in ministry. This is a work in progress which will unfold over the coming months and a number of visits are planned to this end! An important date in the process of discerning the vocation of the province and the issues we face is the provincial chapter next year (January 9-19). Hopefully after that, we will be able to look forward with a bit more clarity at God’s invitation to us. The provincial council meeting was the final one for the outgoing council (2014 – 2016). The fact was marked by a special Mass of thanksgiving, and during the same celebration the coming years were entrusted to the Lord under the protection of Mary, “our first and perpetual superior”.

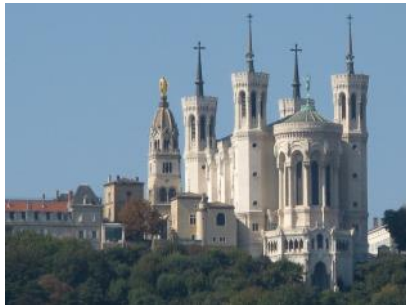


Watch the 200th Anniversary Mass at Fourvière live on the Internet, July 23rd

For more than a year the Marist world has been focused on July 23rd 2016 – the 200th anniversary of the first Marists commitment to found a religious congregation dedicated to Mary. That date arrived! Young people from the Marist family will gather in Lyon for the programme Dare to Dream [July 17th-23rd - bit.ly/DaretoDream2016], others for Relais Mariste events in La Neylière [July 20th-23rd]. Many activities will take place in different parts of the world at the same time. The main Marist Family Eucharistic celebration will take place in the Basilica of Fourvière July 23rd at 10.30 [French time]. It will be broadcast on the internet via livestream. Everyone not able to attend physically, has the opportunity to view the event by following the Marist channel on YouTube. The link for the channel is: www.youtube.com/user/maristyouthint. Another option is to connect a computer to a TV screen and then you will have a front row seat! As well as being broadcast live, the celebration will be repeated during the whole day. For other details and resource material: www.maristinter.org/index.html

Spirit in the City, Notre Dame de France (NDF), London, 1-4 June 2016

The activities of this annual faith festival in the West End of London this year had an innovative opening event, a film premier! Since the Leicester Square is famous for its theatres and cinemas, the organisers came up with the idea of hiring out one of its cinemas to present the UK premiere of a new Catholic film about Mary, called: 'Full of Grace!' (fullofgracefilm.com). The film about Mary's last days on earth was followed by a panel discussion about the role of Mary, faith and films, art and evangelisation. The event proved so popular that it sold-out in advance. Trailer: (bit.ly/fograce). The other three days consisted of a combination of activities in public spaces (Mercy in the Street evangelisation), and Eucharistic adoration and catechesis in NDF church. On the Saturday there was a rolling programme of live music on a stage in Leicester Square accompanied by workshops and opportunities for prayer and personal encounters. And in addition, it was also a fun event! www.photos2016.spiritinthecity.org



Prayer intention

At this moment of transition in the life of the province, we pray that all of us may receive the grace of faithfulness and courage. In union with the whole Marist Family, we ask to understand more clearly our call to carry on the founders intentions in our present world and to embrace anew the work of Mary given to us today for the building up of the Church of tomorrow in simplicity, humility and compassionate solidarity.

Obituary

Antonio González (Esp) 09.05.2016