

► 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!

The summer months are progressing and the province is still at work. The fruits are reported by the Solidarity and Legislation committees. Marists gathered for a celebration in Brentwood, UK. While the Passau community opened its doors to local students, the provincial community said farewell to a colleague. We remind you we are always happy to receive news of life from around the province in words and pictures!

Joaquín Fernández &
Martin McAnaney

“Open Doors” event in Passau, Germany, June 12th

All over Germany religious communities were invited to open their houses to visitors on May 12th. It was an opportunity for congregations to present themselves and enter into conversation with young people about religious life today. The Marists in Meppen, Fürstzell and Passau welcomed guests and shared about their community and apostolic life. Further the Passau community in the heart of the town invited students from the local University on June 12th to join them for prayer, a meal and a sharing about religious life. Ludger Werner and Alois Greiler have been serving as chaplains at the University parish since last September. Alois writes, “Hopefully these different experiences were as enriching for our guests as they were for us Marists!” Contact with students will continue until September when a diocesan chaplain takes over responsibility, although the Marists will remain part of a chaplaincy team.



Prayer Intentions

“To the extent that he reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal fraternity, justice, peace and dignity” (Evangelii Gaudium 180). We pray that as Marists we be filled with “apostolic zeal for the Kingdom” (C.23) to make our contribution to peace and justice in our world. Heartbreak has touched the lives of many families and communities as a result of the plane tragedy in the Ukraine, some of these are known directly to European Marists. We remember them particularly as we pray for the coming of the Kingdom of Peace.



Dominique Villebrun, Education Promoter retires, July 10th

The 2009 Provincial Chapter decided to establish an education committee to promote networking amongst education establishments in the province. How could this be best accomplished across 6 countries? Rather than just leave the challenge to a committee, the provincial council decided someone needed to carry this concern for the province. The post of Education Promoter was created with responsibility for setting up and developing a Marist European Network. Dominique took up the post in September 2010 and for the last 3 ½ years she worked to make the Network a reality. It now generates a range of exchanges, initiatives and links. To get a sense of the creativity involved visit the education blog she set up: <http://bit.ly/18v6WHV>. The provincial administration and colleagues celebrated Dominique's retirement with her and husband, Hervé. The provincial expressed gratitude to her for the dynamic she contributed to the life of the province and wished her well in this new phase of life for her and the family.



Legislation committee, Deventer, The Netherlands July 14th – 15th

The Deventer community welcomed a subgroup of the committee working to finalise the first draft of a new legislative outline for the province. They are confident they will be able to submit a working document to the provincial council in time for their meeting in September.



New Bishop of Brentwood installed July 1st at the Cathedral, Essex, UK

Hubert Bonnet-Eymard, members of the English region and province, along with Marist Sisters from England gathered with other Marists to offer support to Alan Williams (Eng) for the occasion: photographs <http://bit.ly/ordinationphotos>; video: <http://bit.ly/videoalanwilliams>. He said "I expect the clergy have clubbed together to buy me "Learner Driver plates"! – I need them. But I am very, very confident that the priests and people of the diocese will look after me as I hope to do for you, by the grace of God."

Text in English: <http://bit.ly/Williamsord>



The Solidarity Narrative Project

"... I was present as a friendly and somewhat bemused observer, until one afternoon when a young couple approached me. They only spoke Spanish, of which I had no knowledge at the time, so I directed them to the lawyer's translator who told me they wished to speak with the priest. My feeling of helplessness and embarrassment, as well as the dismay registered on their faces ..."

So begins one of the 30 narratives received by the Solidarity Committee so far. They are still actively seeking further



contributions from confreres and are hoping for positive responses to their requests. Please send narratives to Jean-Marie Bloqueau, Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, WC2H 7BX London U.K. or by email to jmbloqueau@wanadoo.fr.

Obituary

Bernhard Zumsande (DE) 18.07.2014