

► 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!

For one week this month all roads led to Toulon for the Provincial Education Forum in Toulon, France! After more than a year of planning, the 3 schools opened their doors to an invasion of young people and adults associated with the European Education Network. The Council of the Province took another step in establishing a new set of Statutes for the province. In Oslo, Norway, the Maristua community made another contribution to the promotion of Marist spirituality. The Solidarity committee offers some material for Advent reflection, the fruits of the Narrative project and there is a reminder of the annual provincial retreat.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

European Marist Education Network Forum, Toulon, France, November 17th – 19th

One of the participants at the Young People’s Forum summed up the sentiments of many when he said “After the awkwardness of arriving on the first evening, we felt completely at home during the Forum!” Toulon is the port from which 4 groups of Marist missionaries, 25 men in all, left for Oceania between 1842 and 1848. The wonderful weather of the South of France so late in the year, was as warm as the welcome the 3 local schools offered participants and this added to making the event a great success. The theme explored was “Marist Tradition and Education for Freedom of Thought”. Included in the event was a visit to the Institut Supérieur de l’Électronique et du Numérique, a centre dedicated to technological innovation: <http://bit.ly/ISENtoulon> . An innovation for the Forum this year was the idea of organising two Forums simultaneously, one for young people and another for adults. There were about 200 participants in all. The final day brought the two groups together. A moving moment was when the young people presented a Charter for Marist Education compiled by them to the provincial and this was then signed formally. Much of the content of the Forum is available on the website <http://bit.ly/FenelonEdNet> including the new logo for the Education Network which was unveiled during the event. Film: <http://bit.ly/ForumFilm>



Prayer Intentions

“In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christ’s closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this “art of accompaniment” which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5)”(Evangelii Gaudium 169). As the Church begins to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, we pray that we may learn from Mary her manner of building a Church which evangelises, and that many people may respond positively to the call to Marist religious life.

Council of the Province, Paris, November 25th – 26th 2014



In the second meeting of the year, the Council agreed a framework for new legislation for the province. Now it is the task of the Legislation Committee which was represented at the meeting, to formulate a complete set of new Statutes. These will be circulated in the province for consultation amongst its members. The purpose of the new structure is to promote unity within the province. The Council also received an update on life in all the regions, and of the various general and provincial reviews which are taking place. It also treated important financial questions.



The annual provincial retreat, La Neylière, July 12th – 18th 2015

The Year of Consecrated Religious Life proposed by Pope Francis, begins on November 30th. The annual retreat 2015 focuses on this theme as well as the review of the Vow of Poverty recommended by the Provincial Chapter 2013. It will be given by Fr Pedro Alarcón, Marist Provincial of Mexico in Spanish with simultaneous translation provided in French and English. It will be a wonderful opportunity to experience this newly renovated house of Marist heritage. Remember to enter the date into your diary!

Marist Spirituality in Norway November 1st

The community of Maristua, organised a session entitled, “Glimpses of Mary in the Old Testament”.

Erik Ruud (NL, Norway) gave the presentation in Oslo. The 21 participants received the material with enthusiasm. Erik’s translation into Norwegian of “15 days of prayer with Jean-Claude Colin” (Francois Drouilly, 2010) was published a day earlier under the title “Prayer for a New Church”.



Advent Reflection Sheet

The Solidarity committee has received 50 narratives to date and are thankful to those who contributed.

They made a selection of 4 Scripture texts and 4 from the Constitutions. The committee offers them arranged on a sheet as reflection material for the 4 weeks of Advent. Confreres cited these texts as those which inspired them as they put into practice the dimension of solidarity in their Marist vocation e.g. “This ministry fits well into the phrase ‘hidden and unknown’ which animated the life of Fr Colin. The presence amidst these people (disadvantaged) is always a consolation for me both humanly and spiritually”. The sheets are available in 6 languages through regional and community superiors and on the website:

Deutch: www.bit.ly/adventDE
English: www.bit.ly/adventEN
Español: www.bit.ly/advientoES
Français: www.bit.ly/aventFR
Italiano: www.bit.ly/avventoIT
Nederlands: www.bit.ly/adventNL

