

## ▶ 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 Marist charism is still a living reality, just in case it was ever in doubt! This is clearly visible in celebrations in Germany, the Philippines, and in France. Charism is not only about spirituality, it is a powerful source of action which can be seen in solidarity ministry activities. Time will reveal the fruits of these activities. We again express our gratitude to those who contributed material which is always welcomed.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

### Perpetual profession at Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon, France, September 27th 2014

For the first time in 198 years a Marist religious profession took place in this historic site, thus making the Marist charism a living reality. Daniel Fernández (Esp) took on this responsibility in the company of his parents, his sister and her husband, the formation community from Rome and others including Marist Brothers, Marist Sisters, Marist Missionary Sisters, local Lay Marists and confreres from the province. It proved to be a relaxed and informal gathering. The provincial, Hubert Bonnet-Eymard was the main celebrant at Mass during which he received Daniel's vows. Joaquín Fernández (Esp) gave the homily in three languages and the liturgy respected the multi-lingual nature of the celebration! Daniel's commitment was a moving moment as it echoed the promise made by 12 seminarians 198 years earlier in the same chapel to found a Society of Mary. This celebration was a tangible sign of commitment to continue the Work of Mary today.



### Prayer Intentions

*“In some places a spiritual “desertification” has evidently come about, as the result of attempts by some societies to build without God or to eliminate their Christian roots... family and the workplace can also be a parched place where faith nonetheless has to be preserved and communicated” (Evangelii Gaudium 86).* Following the Synod on the Family, we pray that we remain rooted in God and that by our manner of living, we may draw people to the well of God's love.

## Celebrating Marist Life, Meppen, September 29th

50 years ago, a group of young men made their profession as Marists and since that time they have served the Society of Mary in different communities and ministries in Germany and abroad. In Meppen Dieter Sievers, Hermann Wöste, and Benedikt Wulf celebrated together, and in Fürstzell, Manfred Stein. Fritz Arnold marked the occasion in the international novitiate, Davao. The Feast of the Archangels seemed like a very appropriate occasion as the preacher at the celebration in Meppen pointed out - the angels "represent God's accompaniment of the confreres through dramatic changes in faith and Church life in Western Europe" and beyond. The jubilarians renewed their vows to confirm that with God's help, they will continue to be faithful to the same promise they first expressed 50 years ago!



## Statutes Committee meeting, Deventer, the Netherlands, October 15th – 16th

Conversations continue about finding the best way for the province to organise itself in order to be faithful to its mission in Europe. A new set of Provincial Statutes for discussion by confreres in the regions will be finalised over the coming months. Peter Westerman (NL), Martin McAnaney (PA) and Paul Walsh (IRE) worked on a draft text. Bernard Thomasset (FR), the fourth member of the committee was absent on sabbatical.



## Solidarity Committee: Committee meeting, September 30th – 1st, Paris

The committee examined the 40 narratives it received from confreres and it is planning to share the riches contained in these with the wider province. A big thank you, to all the contributors! As a first step, the texts of reference (both biblical and Marist) will be offered as material for reflection and meditation. A collection of "pearls" from these stories will be made available as part of a second phase. It also continued working on a proposal for a colloquium, the blog (<http://maristeuropesolidarity.eu/>) and other matters.



## Members of the Solidarity Committee visit to Brussels, October 20th

The idea to identify the most appropriate partners in the solidarity ministry was proposed during the first gathering of confreres serving in this ministry, in Hammersmith, London, 2010. Whilst we have significant experience of serving disadvantaged people in the province over many years, the reality is that now our human resources are shrinking gradually. How can we make the most of our valuable experience? To follow up on this idea, a series of conversations led to a meeting between Jean-Marie Bloqueau (Fr), Martin McAnaney (PA) and a representative from the European Anti-Poverty Network (<http://www.eapn.eu/>) based in Brussels. The fruit of this meeting will be examined by the Committee during its meeting in December.

## Publications

A new edition of the book, "Texts of Reference" (the first edition dated 1998), prepared by the association "Maristes en éducation", has just been released. Here is proof, if proof were needed, that the Marist educational tradition is alive and well! Several texts from the original edition which still inspire our educational practices have been preserved. Whereas it is a French publication, it includes international contributions from Marist Fathers from Canada, USA, Spain, New Zealand, the Netherlands, an Australian Marist Brother, and Pope John Paul II himself! You can obtain a copy by writing to [Peres.maristes@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Peres.maristes@wanadoo.fr)

