

▶ 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 may have come to an end but life continues with news of two celebrations, a gathering in Germany to reflect on future options, and echoes of handing on the torch to others. We also carry information about material for reflection on “journeying with Colin! The celebration of Daniel Fernández’s perpetual profession in Fourvière will be included next month. Again we thank those who sent us material and extend an invitation to others to do the same.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

90th anniversary of the presence of the Marist Fathers in Pratola Peligna, Italy

On September 21st the parish celebrated the 90th anniversary of the arrival of the Marist Fathers at Pratola (August 14, 1924). Celebrations began in the cemetery with a prayer at the grave of the Fathers who worked there. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Bishop Angelo Spina, and the regional superior Fr. Mario Castellucci, concelebrated along with confreres from the community, and recent parish priests. Representatives of the parish and local authorities expressed their appreciation. Fr. Renato Frappi the current parish priest gave a presentation of the 90-year long journey. The bishop thanked the Marist Fathers for their faithful and lasting commitment and expressed his wish that it last another 90 years!



Prayer Intentions

“Interreligious dialogue is a necessary condition for peace in the world, and so it is a duty for Christians as well as other religious communities. This dialogue is in first place a conversation about human existence or simply, as the bishops of India have put it, a matter of “being open to them, sharing their joys and sorrows” (Evangelii Gaudium 250). Every day in the world around us, we witness deep strains between different religious communities and as a consequence, many people suffer grievously. We pray that Mary’s humility may assist us in fulfilling our duty of dialogue for the sake of peace.



The Marist Fathers “pass on the baton” to the Assumptionists, Paris France

The French region developed the project “Forum 104” during the last 30 years. The project makes available space, which welcomes individuals and groups engaged in the search for meaning in life, and it facilitates the encounter between these people www.forum104.org. On September 14th in a celebration in the chapel, the European Marist provincial quite literally handed over the keys of the project and chapel to the provincial of the European Assumptionist. The event is the fruit of discernment over a year. While there was a hint of sadness, there was also a great sense of pride in the achievement and of confidence in the future.



Two silver jubilees in Oslo

On the occasion of Erik Ruud’s 25 years as a priest and Andreas Rupprecht’s 25 years as a Marist, the confrères in Norway concelebrated Mass with Bishop Bernt Eidsvig in St Olav’s cathedral, Oslo on September 4th. Afterwards they hosted a light reception for about 100 well-wishers, among them Andreas’ parents, sister and nephew and lay Marists. Ton Bun, regional superior of the Netherlands and Norbert Enste from the German region joined them for the celebrations.



Obituary

Robert Kelly (IRE) 15.09.2014

Philip Greystone (ENG) 15.09.2014

Regional assembly, Meppen, 15-16 September, 2014

Alois Greiler writes: 16 Marists gathered to discuss various topics for the life of the Province, region and communities: the vow of poverty today, cooperation with lay Marists, and vocations. An important focus was on current apostolic activity, priorities for the future, and the Marist school in Fürstzell. One session was dedicated to the topic of safeguarding. Fr Peter Westerman (NL), chairman of the legislation committee, presented the outline for the new Statutes for the province. The event concluded with a visit to the Bougainville-Museum in Neubörger, home of many our missionaries, and then to the KZ Esterwegen, where a Dutch Franciscan sister welcomed us. We brought our collective stories about wars before Go in sung vespers.



Colinian reflection material published



Last year the region of France produced a booklet of reflection sheets “Journeying with Colin, a doorway to the Marist Project – Nazareth”. It was the first in a series to prepare for the 200th anniversary of the Pledge to found the Society of Mary made in the chapel of Fourvière. This month the other two booklets in French were published, “From Cana to Golgotha” and “From the Cenacle to the ends of the earth”. The material is designed to nourish those who make that journey to the celebrations in 2016.

The attractively produced texts in French are available from George Richard (Fr): griehard@wanadoo.fr. “Have a good journey, beautiful encounters and happy sowing and planting!”