



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

As the work of the New Year picks us up speed, the news from around the province gives us food for thought. It might appear at first glance that there is no common theme in this month's news: a hostel for pilgrims, a school, a renewal period... And yet they all reveal something of the way we stand before God and before our fellow human beings. One cannot pretend to be humble before God and proud before other people.

The call to honour God and the call to serve our neighbour are one and the same. Pride would have us believe that being smarter, more capable, better educated than others, gives us power and privilege over others. But by his actions Jesus taught otherwise. He lived otherwise. He restored the dignity of those he met, he washed his disciples' feet, in prayer he drew strength from the Father.

His disciples are called to do the same... and a Marist is called to do it in Mary's way. You can follow this message in the items we carry in this issue of EuroInfo. Hopefully, they can inspire us to reflect on how we stand before God and fellow human being!

*Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Clement Bonhommeau
(Oceania, originally
from France)

EUROINFO

SOLIDARITY WITH A MEXICAN SCHOOL -FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE IN THE EDUCATION NETWORK



In June 2019, the European Marist Education Network agreed to undertake a fundraising project for the Colegio Pedro Chanel in Guadalajara, Mexico. It was a project all 18 educational centres in the European Network could support collectively.

The Colegio exists in San Andrés, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the Guadalajara region which was originally an indigenous settlement before the arrival of European culture. The school aims "to contribute to social mobility in the local community, supporting families, and forming individuals who can witness to God's mercy, and transform a region of the country marred by considerable violence, social prejudices and non-inclusion".



This is an aim the Education Network is delighted to support. The Colegio Pedro Chanel urgently needs new facilities so that it can extend its programmes inspired by the Marist characteristic spirit, to older students, 16 to 18-year-olds. It also intends to build a dining area for all students (<http://bit.ly/SMmx2020>).

140 boys from Catholic University Junior school (Dublin, Ireland) threw themselves enthusiastically into two events, Tag Rugby and a fun dress-up day. They raised a magnificent €1,000 for their sister school. The Maristengymnasium (Fürstentzell, Germany) invited those attending their Christmas concert to donate to the cause. This resulted in raising an amazing €4,000. This show of solidarity

between Marist students in other parts of the world is inspiring.

Other education centres intend to hold events in the coming months to help reach the €20,000 target. Congratulations to all involved!





INVITATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

FOR THE SAHAGÚN PROJECT, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN

PRAYER INTENTION FOR LENT

God of all wholeness, you heal the broken-hearted and bind their wounds (Psalm. 147:3). Heal our hearts and souls, that this Lent we may – implore for justice through our prayer, stand in solidarity through our fasting, and reach out through our giving. Amen.



In 2018, the European province, in collaboration with the sisters of the Benedictine monastery of Santa Cruz (Holy Cross), decided to open the doors of a hostel (Albergue) on the Camino, to offer a spiritual welcome and accompaniment to pilgrims.

The community wishes to bring the Gospel to people who undertake their Camino journey 'seeking' something in their lives, and to offer them a welcome as Mary would and help them to reflect on their experience of the pilgrimage. The intention is to offer pilgrims a resting place, not only physically but also psychologically and spiritually. The team listens to the pilgrims and accompanies them on their personal journey.

The 4 confreres of the community joined some members of the provincial administration, to review the project (Paris, 21 – 22 January 2020). Almost 6000 pilgrims were welcomed this past year, twice last year's total. While facing several challenges, the ministry seems to be developing very well and the presence of the project is much appreciated by pilgrims (Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/alberguesantacruz; Instagram: [albergue_santacruz](https://www.instagram.com/albergue_santacruz)). The team extends an invitation to lay Marists and those interested in this ministry, to join them for short or more extended periods of time.



So, if you feel called to welcome and listen to pilgrims from all around the world, do not hesitate to contact the team: alberguesantacruzsaahagun@gmail.com



2020 COLINIAN RENEWAL

LA NEYLIÈRE, 24 JANUARY- 26 JUNE 2020



The house of La Neylière is again welcoming a group of confreres for the Colinian Renewal which is "a long period of deep spiritual renewal, spiritual growth and conversion..." (General Chapter 2017, N.82). The programme is an opportunity for participants to stand back and take stock of their life experience in order to deepen their commitment to God and the Society of Mary. Two confreres from the European province, John McAllister (Eng) and Edwin McCallion (Ire), joined the nine other participants this year, representing a striking richness of apostolates in the Society. The programme will include a 30-day retreat, visits to the Marist places, seminars on the Society of Mary, Marist history and spirituality, spiritual theology, spiritual direction and accompaniment. John McAllister writes: "We began with an 'Emmaus walk' to get to know each other. On Sunday during the public mass, an icon of the La Neylière mural was presented to each of us. The renewal period is directed by Ray Chapman (Aus), who asks for prayers for the success of this time of renewal."

