



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This month our province is taking stock of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities and the confreres, several of whom have tested positive for the virus and some of whom we have laid to rest.

Because of social isolation, it is difficult and, in some situations, impossible to pray together in the same space and to share at table in the ordinary way.

Yet there are numerous examples of generosity and of our confreres taking care of one another witnessing to the reality of fraternal life. In fact, it takes on a new importance for us in this time of isolation, as we can only express it in a more limited way through prayer and simple gestures of concern for one another.

Rather than closing in on ourselves and our own little circle, we are called to strengthen connections with each other using all the means available to us, phone calls, cards and letters, emails, video conferencing, WhatsApp etc. Solidarity expressed through prayer and in other ways, remains central to our humanity, not to mention our faith and Marist vocation.

We are not alone in isolation. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are suffering the most, those who have lost someone they love and those who are struggling to overcome the virus.

*Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney*

EUROINFO

**PAUL FONTANIER (FR)
CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY,
SAINTE FOY, LYON, 20 APRIL**



The Province rejoices in Paul's special celebration, as does the whole Society of Mary since he is its most senior member! A big celebration was planned for 26 April but it was cancelled due to the current pandemic. However, a Mass was celebrated on his birthday in the chapel of the community of Ste Foy.

Paul was ordained a priest for the diocese of Bourges on 13 October 1947 and later joined the Society of Mary (13 October 1961). In his homily Roger Lordong (Fr) said: "Let us allow the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, to welcome God's Word, to be signs of hope and witnesses of his love to those around us. This is what Paul (Fontanier) has done throughout his long life. I pray that he will continue to do so with his humble attitude towards life, for a long time to come. This is the way of the 'little children', to which Christ calls us in today's readings."

Fr Paul himself writes: "Throughout all these years, I have attempted to find life's deepest meaning. When I was young, I was enthusiastic about events that were going to happen, I was impatient for the joy of the film sessions at the minor seminary. As the years advanced, I have come to understand that one cannot live absorbed by the future, we have to live in the present while preparing ourselves for the life beyond, with the Lord and his friends, a life that will fulfil all our aspirations".

Congratulations to you Paul, from all of us!

Links to a short biography in English <https://bit.ly/2KVeHSN>
and French <https://bit.ly/2z125H9> and
to the Mass on Youtube: <youtu.be/-aA97L4icdw>.



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD

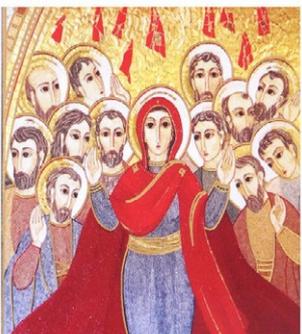


OBITUARY

Giuseppe Maccarini (It)
07.04.2020
Liam Forde (Ire)
09.04.2020
Paul Loubaresse (Fr)
20.04.2020
Paddy J. Byrne (Ire)
21.04.2020
Paul Noblet (Fr)
24.04.2020
Bernard Bourtot (Fr)
26.04.2020

PRAYER INTENTION FOR PENTECOST

Come Holy Spirit, and make us Pentecost people. Let your Wisdom and right judgment guide our decisions and temper our impulses. Grant us knowledge and understanding to increase our empathy and compassion. Give us the courage to witness boldly, in word and deed, to our faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



BISHOP HENK KRONENBERG SM, THE FORMER BISHOP OF BOUGAINVILLE (1999 TO 2009), PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG), OCEANIA, AN APPRECIATION

Bishop Henk died on 25 March and since then, tributes have been pouring in to his community in Enschede (the Netherlands) and to the province. On his return from Oceania he joined this community where he served as superior.

Peter Westerman (NL) writes: "As a Marist, Henk was ordained in 1961. He served as a missionary in Oceania beginning in 1965, and after many years of ministry there he was ordained Bishop of the Diocese of Bougainville in 1999. He took as his motto: "Your kingdom come". Henk was well-known for his efforts to bring the Gospel to all the people, without exception, in his vast diocese (10,660 km²). The PNG government awarded him the high-honour of Chief of the Order of Logohu.

After his return to the Netherlands in 2009, he remained active in parish ministry. We have received many messages from people expressing their gratitude for all he did in Oceania and also acknowledging his dedication to the Society of Mary in Europe. Bishop Henk was laid to rest in the parish of Lievelde, where he had done his theological studies as a Marist."

The video of his funeral is available on YouTube: youtu.be/LXbfkWS-iBI; and the homily in Dutch by Jan ter Braak sm, a member of his community can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2Stj5gi>



A MARIST AUTHOR: FAUSTINO FERRARI SM, BRESCIA, ITALY

Brother Faustino made his profession in the Society of Mary in 1979. His passion for writing began early, when he was only 13. Although he has burned all these early writings, he still managed to accumulate, as he puts it modestly, "a few texts" over the years.

"I write when I find the time. I usually jot down short texts that don't take too much time. Each book has its own story and style and the time it takes to write a book varies enormously. "Liberare il silenzio" was written in just over one month! "Del morire et del vivere" took me eleven years to write! Currently, I have ten books on my computer ready to be published. My books are written primarily for laypeople rather than priests and religious.

I encourage people to ask questions about the meaning of life, about the spiritual dimension of human existence in the broadest sense. I wish to promote a spirituality that is accessible to non-believers, to people on the margins of the Church, while my texts are inspired by the Christian tradition and spirituality. I try to make my books accessible, to make them instruments to reach out to people. I ask myself the question, how can I speak in a meaningful way also to people who are outside our religious experience?"

Some of Faustino's inspiring books (in Italian) can be purchased on Effata Editrice (editrice.effata.it/autore/faustino-ferrari/);

Amazon (bit.ly/FaustinoFBooks);

Google Books (bit.ly/googleFaustinoFBooks) and

LBS Editrice (bit.ly/LBSFaustinoFBooks).

