



# EURO info



## THE ACTS OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



It is now about 6 weeks since the European provincial chapter closed at La Neylière (9 - 19 January). You may already have received information

from the delegates of your own country. Here are a few lines to refresh your memory. The main task of the chapter was to discern a response to the question, "With our present resources, what is God calling us Marists to be in the changing context of Europe, today and into the future?". The chapter's response is contained in a series of orientations for the coming years. These are known as the "Acts of Chapter 2017. A redaction committee tidied up the texts and sent them to the provincial council to be finalised. These texts have been submitted to the superior general for his approval. The province awaits the outcome of this process.

The orientations cover a variety of subjects which follow:

1. Ministry of Intercession
2. Ministries of Solidarity
3. Caring for each other in community
4. Ongoing Formation
5. Formation for leadership
6. Culture of Vocations
7. Marist Laity
8. Simplification of internal structures
9. The 2017 chapter endorses the 2013 chapter's Mission Criteria
10. Promote connections across the province
11. Community life

The chapter also invited the province to explore the feasibility of establishing an international Marist community along the Camino de Santiago (Spain), and finally, it passed two decisions relating to financial matters. When the final texts have been approved, they will be translated and circulated to the confreres in the province. With these orientations, the work begins!

“ To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...

## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

An outline of chapter 2017 gives an idea of the general orientations in the province for the coming years. National bursars met to consider, amongst other matters the financial implications of Chapter 2017. During the month, Marist confreres from around the world have been arriving in Europe in advance of the second Colinian renewal programme which is to take place in La Neylière. Please remember to send us material for future editions of EuroInfo.

*Joaquín Fernández and  
Martin McAnaney*



## ANNUAL PROVINCIAL RETREAT



*“Finding God in the Singing Heart of the World: an adventure in creation spirituality”*, Mr John Feehan, **LA NEYLIÈRE, 9-15 JULY 2017**

Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Laudato si’* marks a turning point in the Church’s engagement with the environmental problems we face with ever-greater urgency in our time. It also reflects our ever-growing human understanding of the nature of the universe on every level, and the deeper creation spirituality this makes possible. This spiritual perspective is so necessary for our engagement with an increasingly materialistic world. The retreat will be an exploration of some of these themes from this ground-breaking encyclical. The creatures of the earth were not created in the first instance for us to dispose of as we will, regardless of their place in God’s plan. They are primarily for the fulfilment of God’s own unfolding plan for Creation. Our role is to further that plan, “so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness.” (*Laudato si*, 53).



## ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL BURSARS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS, PARIS, 22-23 FEBRUARY

Financial resources and assets are integral to the ability of the province to fulfil its purpose and contribute to work of the wider Society of Mary. This year the meeting was the opportunity for the provincial administration to consult the men and women who are their partners in the mission by carrying administrative responsibility in the different countries where the province is present. They heard an update on the process to harmonise accounts in the province which continues. They remarked that the benefits and purpose of consolidated accounts are becoming clearer— greater transparency and solidarity with one another, recognising common concerns and trends, and sharing resources within the province and with the wider Society. Participants also considered the state of the provincial finances, Budget 2017, examine the role of the national bursar in the new Statutes, and offer some insights into the future international and provincial cooperation. It was also an opportunity to consider some financial implication of Chapter 2017.



## PRAYER INTENTION

On 1 March, the 5-month programme, Colnian Period of Renewal begins at La Neylière with 11 confreres from the 5 Continents. John Hand (Ire) and Jimmy McElroy (Ire) from the province will participate. The programme is designed to be a time of spiritual renewal, refreshment and even a spiritual “reboot” for the participants in their lives as Marists. We pray that it will be a fruitful time for each one of them, those who accompany them and the Marist community at La Neylière.

Heavenly Father, inspire each of us to be renewed in spirit especially in the coming season of Lent. Help us to live your commandment of love, make us strong in faith and active in good works. May we receive with open hearts and hands the graces and blessings you pour down upon us so we may be ever more faithful to your call to do Mary’s Work.



## OBITUARY

Timothy Kenny (Ire) 02.02.2017