

Presentation of the Lord

"The month we have just begun is dedicated to the sorrows of Mary because of the feast of the Purification and because of the prediction of the holy old man Simeon, who, while holding the holy child in his arms said these words: 'This child is destined to be[...] as sign that will be opposed – and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword'."

Minutes of the Fraternity of Lyons, 7th of February 1854, in: Girard, Lay Marists, 239,3

Events to come

Norway, 22nd-25th of January: 7 lay Marists are making a silent retreat with Erik Ruud and Rory Mulligan as directors. This is at the St. Joseph sisters' house in Oslo. 'God's mercy' will be the theme.

31st of January: Marists in Norway will host a Mass and reception of Herman Nikolai Reimers Massen after his first profession in Davao in the Philippines.

Netherlands, 20-22nd of February: annual retreat for the Marist Family at Slangenburgh Abbey. The theme will be: 'Become what you are!' in the light of the life of Etty Hillesum.

Spain, 6-8th of March: weekend retreat for lay Marists together with the Marist parishes of Coslada and León. In view of the 5th centenary of the birth of St. Teresa the theme will be: 'strong friends of God'.

To CRR: Frs. A. Antón, A. Airò, B. Bourtot, M. Coleman, T. Malone, R. Mulligan, W. Tangen, W. Weemaes.

To M. Macquet and delegates EMLC: I. Piat, M. Meatcher, E. Neitzel, E. McCann, P. Serafini, M. de Beer, A.S. Torp, D. Sanz de Diego

To Provincial Fr. H. Bonnet-Eymard and to Fr. Assistant A. Muñoz

Pieces of news

Los Negrales 2015. It is now possible to enrol by www.laicosmaristas.es, in French, English or Spanish, before Febr. 28. Advance to be paid: € 120, -- To contact the team in Spain: laicos.maristas@gmail.com.

A delegation of lay Marists from provinces all over the world will be present at Madrid, 17 in total. They come from New Caledonia, New-Zealand, Thailand, Australia, Philippines, Africa, Brasil, Peru, Mexico, Canada and United States. After Madrid they will travel to La Neylière for a 3 days pilgrimage to Marist sites, with Eileen McCann, David Sanz de Diego, Michel Macquet, Jan Hulshof and Alejandro Muñoz.

Pope Francis in his Letter of the 21st of November, at the beginning of the Year for Religious Life, addressed himself also to lay members of religious families, urging them to grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit today: 'In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission. ... I urge you, as laity, to live this Year as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received. Celebrate it with your entire family, so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today. On some occasions when consecrated men and women from different Institutes come together, arrange to be present yourselves so as to give expression to the one gift of God. In this way you will come to know the experiences of other charismatic families

and other lay groups, and thus have an opportunity for mutual enrichment and support.'

France. Together with the 'Centre Spirituel Mariste and other participants the Marists of Le Var are involved in inter-religious dialogue: on the 27th of October a hundred of people met in the chapel of the centre to pray for peace in the spirit of Assisi. The *Marist Network* had also planned a conference on 'The Muslims in France' for January 8, the day after the attack on Charlie Hebdo. So the conference took place in an exceptional atmosphere. Packed house, participation and comments by two imams, several Muslims, and Christians of various traditions.

Ireland. In *Family Connections*. Winter 2014, Reena McDermott offers a survey of the events of the past year. To mention only one, there was a great turn out for the Marist gathering of the 7th of September at St. Brendan's in Coolock. The theme of the Eucharist was: 'Mary, Queen of Peace and Mother of all children.' After Mass a delicious dinner was followed by an evening of singing, dancing and reciting. The Dublin group continues to meet monthly, including the troubled spots in the world in their prayer. At the February meeting Reena plans to use Pope Francis' 'Five Finger Prayer'. Those interested can have a look at: www.catholiccompany.com/.../pope-francis-pr

