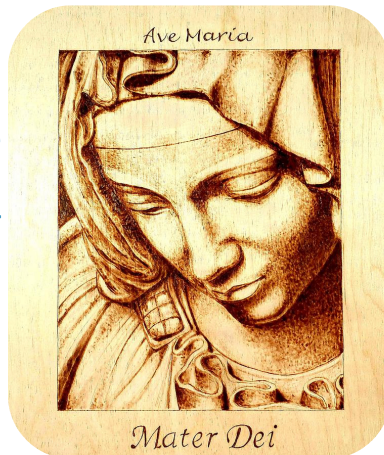


## ► ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

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



### GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This month the general administration made the journey to Paris in the persons of the superior general and the bursar general! You can read about some of the themes touched upon during their time here. What is it like to prepare for ordination to the diaconate today? Thilo Saft shares some of his experiences with us. We remember in the prayer intention that this month the International Novitiate began in Davao with a novice from the European province, Nikolai Reimers Massen (NL). Other important events happened during the month and we hope to carry news of them in the next edition.

Joaquín Fernández &  
Martin McAnaney

### Ordination to diaconate of Thilo Saft, Meppen, 5th April 2014 (DE):

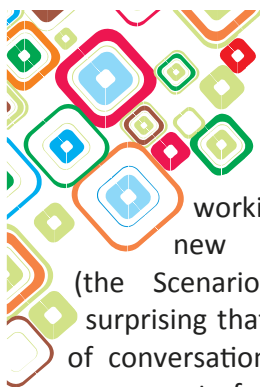
He writes: “Since October last I have participated in a programme of preparation for ordination to the diaconate in Hamburg along with five young men from four German dioceses. I have learnt much about myself and my future ministry as deacon and priest. Just to give a little insight into the programme I would like to highlight one element of it. We were asked to preach regularly in various parishes of Hamburg and we received lots of feedback both from parishioners and experts - priests, professional rhetoricians, journalists, actors and theatre directors. Among other things, the professionals shared with us the listening habits of people of today! A teacher from the Collegium Germanicum et Hungaricum in Rome also gave us theological and practical background and advice about liturgical procedures. The programme comes to an end with a two week silent retreat leading into the liturgy of ordination in St. Vitus Priory Parish. Michael Schockmann from the Diocese of Osnabrück and I will be ordained together and I ask to please pray for us, as well as the other three men who have been good companions to me and who will be ordained on the same day in their dioceses.



### Prayer Intentions

This month the International Novitiate started in Davao, the Philippines. Please remember in prayer all those involved in it especially our novice from the European province, Nikolai Reimers Massen (NL). Thilo Saft is in the final preparations for his ordination to the diaconate on April 5th in Meppen. You are invited to pray for him that the Lord will grant him the graces he needs in his future ministry.

## The superior general, John Hannan's meeting with the provincial council, Paris, February 10th – 11th



Since the whole province is currently working towards choosing a new organisation structure (the Scenario Process), it is not surprising that this was a major topic of conversation at the meeting. New arrangements for the French region are due to be implemented in July 2014 and these changes require the approval of the superior general. The provincial council saw



the need for an open discussion on this without prejudicing the outcome of the current consultations in the French region, the Council of the Province and the decision of the general administration. Remaining on the subject of “restructuring” but in the wider Society, the meeting explored ways of opening a conversation with the African district on links of mutual interest. Amongst other questions treated were the invitation to explore possibilities of forming Lay Associations and of course, finance in the context of the needs of the wider SM which requires complex planning locally and in the Society.

## Annual Meeting of the regional bursars and the provincial administration, Paris March 26th – 27th

“The financial responsibilities of the province are principally to support its apostolic activities, formation, government, solidarity among regions and the mission of the world-wide Society” (Provincial Statutes 98). Since each region has its own history and experience dating back many years, it is not easy to find a method of financial management to enable regions to act in solidarity with one another as regions within the province and the Province within the Marist Society as a whole! Yet this is the challenging

task the province has been working on over the last three years. The provincial finance coordinator, M. Florence Séguier, gave a progress report on the work of harmonising the system within the province to the gathering of the regional bursars, 4 personal who assist them in their tasks, the provincial administration and the bursar general. While much progress has been achieved, there is still much to be done due to the differences amongst the regions in terms of traditions and approach. Participants agreed the meeting offered greater clarity about the way forward, leaving certain items to be further negotiated. This is next year’s work!



## Obituary

Peter Murray (Eng), 15.02.2014