

► 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!

We carry news this month of a remarkable anniversary in which we can all rejoice. The summer months also provided opportunities for two lengthy gatherings with Marist links between Spain, Italy and France. We carry news of two publications, one of interest to the whole Society and the other to the province. There is also a reminder to include in prayer Daniel Fernández during his preparation for perpetual profession on September 27th. We thank those of you who sent us material and invite you to keep sending news of life in the province.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

Relais mariste, Lozère, South Massif Central, France, August 17th–23rd

This event is a Marist holiday with a programme which includes spiritual activities, family relaxation, and friendship through the sharing the daily tasks – prayer, play, song, walks, fun activities, reflection and exchanges etc. This year, the milestone of 100 participants was reached for the first time! The smooth running of the week can be attributed to the excellent logistics of the location (*Maison Familiale Rurale de Javols*) but especially to the dynamism of the preparation team. Relais mariste is all about the joy of meeting up with adults of all ages - Marists, both religious and lay, and their friends. It is also the joy of witnessing the group renewing itself by means of welcoming new friends.

Prayer Intentions

"... the fraternal life and fervour of the community can awaken in the young a desire to consecrate themselves completely to God and to the preaching of the Gospel. This is particularly true if such a living community prays insistently for vocations and courageously proposes to its young people the path of special consecration" (Evangelii Gaudium 107). We ask the Lord to send workers into his great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor and suffering are served with love, and his people are strengthened by the sacraments. We remember in prayer particularly those in Marist religious formation, especially Daniel Fernández (Esp) who celebrates perpetual profession on September 27th in Fourvière, Lyon.



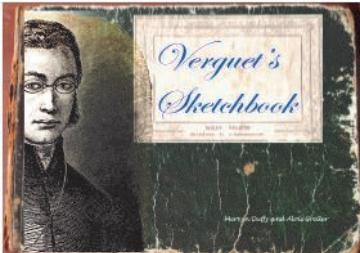
François Vuillemin (Fr) celebrated the centenary of his birth, 07.08.2014, Canto Mai, Toulon, France

Some members of Fr Vuillemin's family, friends and Marists joined him in celebrating this great event with a Mass and meal. On the August 10th the local Mayor neighbours, church representatives along with 40 family members, held a formal event to congratulate him. The province is proud to join in wishing him well and to express its gratitude for his faithfulness. He is an inspiration.



Verguet's Sketchbook

A Marist Missionary Artist in 1840s Oceania: Father Léopold Verguet (1817-1914), was a Marist missionary and part of the first Christian mission to the Solomon Islands in 1845. He was a terrific artist who used pencil and watercolours to record the places and faces he encountered. He painted birds, flowers, artworks, artefacts and people. His sketchbook is preserved in the archives of the Society of Mary General House in Rome. To commemorate the centenary of the death of Fr Verguet, a beautifully illustrated volume has been published by Frs Mervyn Duffy (NZ) and Alois Greiler, the German regional superior. They hope to open up this treasure of the Pacific mission to a broad readership. The volume is dominated by these extraordinary images of first contact, plus extracts from primary sources, the letters of Verguet and his confrères. Orders can be directed to Mervyn Duffy at mervduffy@gmail.com or Alois Greiler at regsupde@googlemail.com



Summer camp from the Spanish Region at Monteverde Rome, August 2nd to 14th

A group of 19 young people from Spain aged from 17- 19, set up camp in the gardens of the General House. They were accompanied by Dani Argibay, a lay Marist, and Fr Toño Fernández (Esp). They spent the mornings visiting the typical sites of Rome and the general houses of the Marist and SMSM Sisters, although they considered themselves pilgrims rather than tourists. They also had two opportunities to listen to Pope Francis. In the evenings they held sessions of Christian and Marist formation with a clear vocational orientation:



Finding your place in the Church and in the Marist family. The experience was very positive and they received an excellent welcome from the communities of Monteverde and the sisters. Plans already exist to repeat the experience as soon as possible!

Directory for Marist confreres now available in 6 languages

In May the province published a Directory to guide relations between Marists, religious and lay. The Provincial Chapter 2013 asked that such a directory be compiled. It is addressed to the professed religious of the province. The French and English versions were available at Easter and now other language versions can be obtained from regional superiors, and also from the provincial website on the following links:

- Dutch : <http://bit.ly/DirectoryNL>
- English : <http://bit.ly/DirectoryEng>
- French : <http://bit.ly/DirectoryFR>
- German: <http://bit.ly/DirectoryGer>
- Italian : <http://bit.ly/DirectoryIT>
- Spanish : <http://bit.ly/DirctoryEsp>