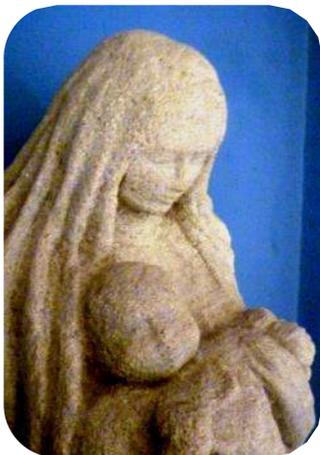


▶ ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE



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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

As promised last month, we bring you echoes of two gatherings, one in the USA, the other in Europe, which explored ways to celebrate and share our faith. In La Neylière the renovated buildings and spaces are now blessed! The prayer intention announces that the coming year is especially dedicated to prayer and reflection on fostering vocations. We are very grateful to all who provided material to us this month. We welcome your suggestions.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

Marist City Centre Church's Network workshop San Francisco, USA, August 17-21

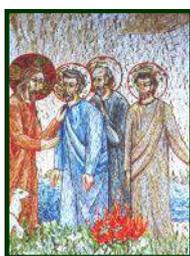
Anne Marie Salgo and Kevin Mowbray (NZ), from Notre Dame de France, London attended the workshop for the province. Kevin writes: 'To be realistic', that was the goal participants at the workshop set themselves. And so no bold mission statements were written ... nor was a report or an action plan drawn up. Rather it was agreed first that if we were 'to be realistic' then we needed to recognise the serious difficulty the Society of Mary might have to staff appropriately such ministries beyond the immediate future. Such realism, however, was tempered by also recognising that in the life of the Society, a continued presence in city centre churches might well be a very attractive ministry to younger Marists and confreres both from the 'south' and 'north'! More importantly and more fundamentally, participants agreed unanimously that our Marist charism met one of the great needs of people wishing to walk in faith in the lonely anonymity of our crowded cities – a welcoming, non-judgmental presence that offers compassionate companionship on their pilgrimage through life. Participants committed themselves to promote greater awareness of the value of these city centre churches for the life of the Society and local churches, and to work for a continuing Marist presence in them. For a fuller account consult: bit.ly/1n4BUCC



Prayer intention

Throughout the Society of Mary we are celebrating the **Year of the Fourvière Pledge** (July issue of EuroInfo bit.ly/EuroInfoJulyEn). In the European province, we are using the occasion to focus our prayer and reflection on the ministry of vocation promotion. Two special prayer cards for personal and communal use can be obtained from regional superiors.

The format intended for printing is available by clicking on the link: bit.ly/vocprEN.



We ask the Lord of the harvest, to send labourers into his harvest. May many people be given the wisdom to hear God's call to Marist consecrated life and the courage to respond generously. Lord, give all of us the graces we need to faithfully share your Good News in the manner of Mary, and to reflect in our actions, her humble service of your Kingdom of love and mercy.

The solemn and festive inauguration of newly renovated La Neyliere, September 12-13



"The building has been refurbished, the spirit of the place has been preserved, and it has received a new heart! It's a great achievement." This was the comment of one of the hundreds of participants at the events in La Neylière. The superior general, John Hannan celebrated the Mass on September 12th. It was followed by a concert of sacred music and then 150 people sat down to a festive meal. The next day Philippe Barbarin, Cardinal Archbishop of Lyon, went from place to place blessing the house while over 200 people waited in the renovated chapel for him to return and preside at the Eucharist. The sun came out just in time for everyone to enjoy the picnic lunch which followed in the garden and house, except the Cardinal who travelled on to Madagascar to attend a Catholic youth festival! The provincial, Hubert Bonnet-Eymard praised all those involved in the work done over recent years and for these days of celebration with the words "Bravo et Merci !", which summed up the sentiments of everyone there. If you can, come and experience it for yourself!

Third European Marist Laity Encounter (EMLE), Los Negrals, Spain, (August 8-14) - "With Mary we Advance! Marist mission in a Church renewing itself"

At the assembly Christine Colombar represented the Marist Laity of the US province. She writes: Representatives of Australia, Brasil, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Peru, Philippines and USA joined Marist Laity from 8 different European countries and 7 languages were spoken over the week! Marist Laity from each country were given an opportunity to share about their reality, history, strengths and challenges. We heard also a presentation from the communities of Cameroun, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal, who could not be with us physically but were in our thoughts and prayers. Lourdes Azorin (Spain) gave a presentation on "Evangelii Gaudium", Corinne Fenet (France) led us into experiencing God's unique words spoken to us and which we cannot keep for ourselves. Finally, Jan Hulshof's (NL) presentation focused on the "Social Dimension of Marist mission" (bit.ly/1n4BUCC - 14 September), and he shared three testimonies by Lay Marists from Italy, Norway and England, as a demonstration of this. We also travelled to the beautiful and historical cities of Avila and Toledo. Some representatives of the World Marist Laity Coordination, accompanied by Jan and Alejandro Munoz from the General House, Rome, spent the next three days on a pilgrimage to Le Puy, Fourvière, Belley, L'Hermitage, Le Bugey and Cerdon.

