

▶ 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...”



Council of the Province, Emmaus Conference Centre, Dublin Ireland, April 7th–9th

The provincial council, regional superiors and members of the Legislation Committee returned to this question: given the options taken by the provincial chapter, on the one hand and the context in which we find ourselves today on the other, how can we as Marists in Europe be organised so that we can offer the best of ourselves and in the most sustainable way possible? The group explored a total of 20 scenarios proposed by confreres throughout the regions. The form of organisation for the province in the future will facilitate and encourage the embodiment of the Work of Mary in Europe today. It will focus on being one province, made up of communities embodying the Work of Mary rather than arranging itself in regions. There is a place for each confrère through the witness of his life according to his capacities and the province’s collective call to do the Work of Mary. The consequences of this statement will be developed over the coming months through the work of the Legislation Committee.

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We hope you had a joyful celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection wherever you were. This month we offer you a taste of some parish activities and the experiences of Marist students in Germany and Italy. After the meeting in Dublin there is now greater clarity about a future scenario for the province. Remember that we welcome material about the life of the province, so please send it to us. We wish you every blessing for the Easter Season!

Joaquín Fernández &
Martin McAnaney



Prayer Intentions

“A Church which ‘goes forth’ is a Church whose doors are open. ... Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ.” (Evangelii Gaudium 46, 49) In this Easter Season we pray that the province may receive the grace to be able to recognise the opportunities to offer this life to those who surround us and that we may have the courage and generosity to act on them.

St Teresa's Parish, Donore Avenue, Dublin

Simone Weil wrote in her book *The Need for Roots*, "To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognised need of the human soul". A sense of place, of home, of neighbourhood, is critical to our



living together. St Teresa's Gardens is a social housing estate in Dublin, now about to be demolished.

The local parish is staffed by the Marist community. A film "Come into the Garden" was shot there recently (<http://vimeo.com/84303684>). Local residents speak about their memories of making the most of their local environment, the effects of the arrival of drugs in the area and the challenges it entailed - a story those who live and work in disadvantaged communities throughout Europe will recognise. The Irish president met some of the local people who contributed to it (Speech in English - <http://bit.ly/1fiegyX>). There is also a photographic exhibition displayed on the estate walls showing scenes from the recent past including in 1993 a visit of Mother Theresa to the people of the area with Marists present.

Holy Week in Marconia and Tinchi

Tom Kouijzer (NL) writes from the International Theologate, Rome - "Daniel Fernandez (Es) and I spent Holy Week with the Marist community which ministers in parishes in Marconia and Tinchi, the south of Italy situated close to the Mediterranean. Our Italian confreres, the local SMSM community and parishioners welcomed us warmly. Besides assisting at liturgical celebrations, we visited the sick and enjoyed the fantastic hospitality of several local families. It was a week of friendship, community and joyful celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord."



A Week of Evangelisation (March 23rd to 30th), Coslada, Spain

In the parish of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, a Week of Evangelisation was organised by the Marist community, lay Marists, lay people, and parish groups. A formation programme for the event



was organised by the Diocesan School of Evangelisation. The main activities included Eucharistic Adoration, reconciliation celebration, a Way of the Cross on the streets, Lenten retreat, etc. There were different activities in the schools of the parish, in hospitals and visits to the sick, as well as constant opportunities to share faith with pedestrians on the streets. At the final Sunday celebration participants gave testimonies of their experiences of the week. No doubt it is an event to be repeated in the future.

Meeting of the Dutch region March 17th – 19th

Besides working on scenarios for the future of the European province, the 21 Dutch confreres received information about relationships with laypeople in the Netherlands and Norway. They also heard about solidarity ministry amongst refugees and "people without papers" in detention.

Thilo Saft's Diaconate Ordination

Thilo (De) was ordained to the diaconate on April 5th in a joyful celebration in a local parish church in Meppen, Germany. He writes: "From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank everyone who carried me in their prayers and sent me good wishes.

It was knowledge of your support that contributed so much to making the celebration very memorable and joyful".

Obituary

Jean Sénéclauze (Fr) 18.04.2014