

▶ 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,

...a city still living in the shadow of the deadly events of 13 November! We are grateful for the many messages of prayerful concern we received here. It is natural that the prayer intention this month reflects the desire to remain united in our common humanity. A sign that “life goes on” is that regional superiors travelled to the same city the week following the attacks for the Council of the Province! In the south of Italy we hear news of efforts to promote a sense of mission and vocation amongst young people there. One of the fruits of the European Marist Laity Conference is a newsletter with information about Marist events from around the world. We draw your attention to some dates that may be of interest to you.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

Council of the Province (CoP), Paris, November 17-18

Over the last few months, regional superiors have consulted confreres on the implications of the new Statutes. The CoP was a collective opportunity to explore the thoughts and concerns raised. Some concerns are specific to the needs and circumstances of particular countries and others have a more general application across the province. A key element in the new organisation is the redistribution of roles and responsibilities and this was considered in more detail –

who does what, and how is it done! This needs to be known in order to facilitate a smooth transition from one way of organising the “Work of Mary” in Europe to another on 1 July 2016. To make this happen many more conversations will take place over the coming months before regional superiors report back to the CoP in April 2016. While the province is being reorganised, the ordinary life of confreres continues and the CoP heard echoes from communities, of vocation promotion, apostolic activities, the provincial review of the vow of poverty, collaboration between the Marist units of Africa and Europe, preparations for the Bicentenary 1816-2016 celebrations, the laity gathering in Los Negrales, Spain, feedback from the Annual Review Consultation (ARC) and provincial committees and finally of course, finance.



Prayer intention

We pray for all those who lost their lives in the enormous tragedy in Paris, 13 November. We pray for the other people devastated by these actions, the victims' families and friends, and for the men and women who risked their own lives as they reached out in the service of others.



We remember the words of Psalm 34:14 inviting us “to turn from evil and to do good – search for peace and pursue it”. May the Prince of Peace inspire calm and wise leadership to prevail and strengthen our efforts to form a community united in solidarity with one another - a beacon of light which proves that fear and hate do not conquer acts of love, reconciliation and justice.

Missionary and Vocational Week in Marconia, Italy, 3 – 9 November, 2015

For several years now Luigi Savoldelli (It) and Sr Beatriz Matos (smsm) have animated a week of reflection and activities in two of the schools in Marconia, Southern Italy. The theme this year was “On the side of the poor”, a theme chosen by the Italian Bishops’ Conference for World Mission Day. Participants, both students and teachers from the high schools Istituto Alberghiero and Istituto Agrario, reported that they were particularly touched by the gospel reflection on the story of the poor man Lazarus. The week was also marked by the fact that Sr Marie Chantal (smsm), well known by them over the last two years while she was living in the Marist Missionary sister’s community of Marconia, is to depart on mission.



Newsletter from Marist Laity, Advent 2015

In last month’s EuroInfo we gave some information about the Marist laity conference in Los Negrales, Spain. Now the Marist Laity International Network has published the first issue of its newsletter which carries news from around the Marist world. The editor is Bev McDonald from New Zealand and it is available (in English) on the link: bit.ly/MLINetwork1

Some provincial dates

The annual Provincial Retreat 2016 will be held at La Neylière, France, 24 - 30 July 2016. The presenter is the Australian Marist Gerard Hall sm, a theology professor at the Australian Catholic University. Since the dates follow immediately after the celebrations of the Bicentenary of the Fourvière promise (23 July), it is natural that the theme is related to this, "Promises of yesterday, today and tomorrow." This year organisers aim to provide translation facilities in as many of the languages of the participants as is possible. For this reason it is important for them to know before 31 January 2016, those confreres who might wish to participate. Please write to Ad Blommerde (ad.blommerde@zonnet.nl).

Vocation promotion seminar, the Year of Fourvière, 6 – 7 February 2016 – some confreres involved in this ministry will gather in La Neylière, to reflect on their experience and to consider how the province can best support this ministry into the future.

Solidarity Seminar, “In the face of the globalisation of indifference, is there a place for mercy?” – this will take place in La Neylière, 29 – 31 March 2016 as one of the ways the province is marking the Jubilee of Mercy. Please register now with Ad Blommerde (ad.blommerde@zonnet.nl). Leaflet: <http://bit.ly/solidcoll>
Poster: <http://bit.ly/1MsljmF>



Obituary

Joe McKenna (Ire) 05.11.2015
Jan Kouijzer (NL) 06.11.2015