

▶ 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 has been the occasion of many festivities and not just the ones for Christmas and to welcome in the New Year. There was a special anniversary celebrated in London. The European province prepares itself for the implementation of new Statutes in the New Year by holding local meetings and assemblies to manage the changes. It also concluded another phase of preparation by way of electing the next provincial. We take this opportunity to thank you for your support, the material you sent, and we pray that as we welcome in 2016, each of us may have the blessing of being able to rejoice in the newness of the Spirit of creativity.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

Notre Dame de France, London, 150th Anniversary Mass, December 6th 2015

After a year of events and celebrations, the 150th Anniversary of Marist presence at Notre Dame de France came to a close with a Solemn Eucharist. In his homily Fr John Hannan s.m. called that presence “a magnificent venture”. The liturgy was truly a family and community event. Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols was the principal celebrant at the Mass, and was assisted by Bishop Tom Burns s.m. and many Marists and other priests associated with NDF over the years. Pascal Boidin (Fr), the rector at NDF, reminded the Cardinal that it was his predecessor Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman, who first brought the Marists to the Soho area to serve the local people, many of them French, and the Church in London. He went on to say that today the people who make up the “community” of NDF are drawn from many nations and ethnic origins and that together they form a community based in the centre city which evangelises in word and action. A sign of this richness was evident in the liturgy, especially the music and rhythm of the offertory procession and the elegant beauty of the monumental painting of “The Flight into Egypt”, presented to NDF by the artist Timur D’Vatz for the occasion (bit.ly/TimusNDF). The Marists consider it a great blessing to have had the opportunity to serve at NDF in collaboration with so many “people of good will”, and hope to continue to do so for many years to come! For more of the event, follow the links: bit.ly/150NDFNews (English) bit.ly/150NDFPhoto1 bit.ly/150NDFPhotos2 bit.ly/150NDFPhotos3 bit.ly/150NDFVideos



Meeting of superiors of communities, Moncalieri, Italy, November 26th 2015

This gathering took place in the context of preparation for the implementation of the new Statutes for the province, particularly to consider the role of superiors in the new system. The region of Italy has 7 superiors of communities. The event was coordinated by the committee for ongoing formation. Joaquin Fernandez (PA) helped animate the meeting and led a reflection on the role of superiors and the roles of others yet to be identified, in the ordinary administration and animation of the life of Marists in Italy. The region will follow-up on this with an assembly of its members at the end of February. Other regions have had similar meetings and assemblies in November (Ireland, the Netherlands, and Spain). Other regions will hold them in the coming months (Germany and France).



Message from the provincial elect of Europe, December 11th

Many readers of EuroInfo already know the identity of the provincial elect who will take up his mandate on July 1st 2016. This news item is more of a personal message from me since I am the Marist appointed to that task! My initial reaction is apprehension at the tremendous challenge it will be, yet at the same time I have a sense of privilege to be asked to serve my confreres and the Work of Mary in Europe in this way. This new phase for me comes at the same moment of change for the province as we begin to implement new Statutes - a different way of organising ourselves in Europe to serve the Work of Mary. I would like to thank you for the many messages of encouragement. It gives me courage to know of your support. Please pray for me and that together all Marists can make our contribution to the mission of the Church today.

(Martin McAnaney, Ire.)



A provincial date: 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>



Prayer intention

In the New Year 2016, many events will be held to celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy. Mercy is a primary element of our Marist identity. We all commit ourselves to live more fully this characteristic of our spirituality in our lives, ministry, families and communities. We pray in a special way for the members of the Marist family in need of our merciful attention and care.