

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



## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The celebration at the end of April of the ordination to the priesthood of Daniel Fernández occupies much space in the edition this month. We hear from a member of the school staff of Riom who witnessed the preparations for the bicentenary celebrations of the Fourvière pledge, a stage play! A ground-breaking building is opened at St Mary's College, Dundalk. We thank all those who have contributed this month and ask you to continue sending us material.

Joaquín Fernández and Martin McAnaney

## Daniel Fernández (Esp) priestly ordination, Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain 30 April

The evening before his ordination, Daniel's family and friends from Spain and beyond, came together with him and parishioners from the Marist parish of Coslada, for a time of contemplation and intercession. The assembly had the opportunity to light a candle and pray for the graces Daniel would need for his future ministry – prayer, the Word, the Sacraments, and to do this in the manner of Mary. The following day Bishop Juan Antonio Reig Pla, of Alcalá de Henares, ordained Daniel along with 4 other young men in the presence of a packed cathedral in a solemn and beautiful ceremony. One particularly touching moment was when Thilo Saft (De), a fellow novice and also recently ordained, assisted Daniel to vest in a chasuble for the first time. The following day he returned to the Coslada parish, his parish of origin, to celebrate his first Mass. It was a distinctly family occasion, his nephew even took part in the homily! He was joined for both events by members of the Marist Family in Europe, both lay and religious, and a number of his Marist confreres concelebrated, including the provincial, Hubert Bonnet-Eymard.

## Ainhoa from León

“In the days prior to Dani's ordination to the priesthood and his first Mass, I found myself recalling his time in León where he began the path which led him to where he is today - Father Dani takes his first steps on a new path, one much longer and with more work to do. A special moment for me during the prayer vigil in Coslada was when Concha, Dani's mother, his own mother “rising up in haste” to make an offering - one mother offering her own son to another Mother, with all the pain and joy that entails! In union with the Marist family, I experienced all the emotion of the ordination ceremony at the Cathedral of Alcala de Henares. I felt that Mary surrounded us all with the big hug of a mother who embraces her children after a long absence. That same sense of unity continued the next day when Dani presided at his first Sunday Eucharist. It was very beautiful, very familiar, with very simple words but with substance in the homily, with great emotion at the moment of consecration, and at the time to remember people no longer with us, we felt as if they were there”.



## Marist origins in the theatre of Riom, France

Preparations for the bicentenary celebrations of the Fourvière Promise continue. Amongst other activities is a play about the origins of the Society of Mary which has been touring schools in France. Here is an echo from the event in Sainte Marie Riom: "120 students from Year 4, experienced a Marist highpoint, a great show by Pierre Grandry and his colleague Raphaël Maillat. The young people were "glued" to it and remained silent for an hour and a quarter! A Marist teacher gave an historical introduction linking it to the present time. This play presents the essence of the story, the Marist charism.



Despite the absence of a Marist religious or a lay, a Marian breath opened the eyes and ears of the spectators." (The witness of Teresa Bouttes)

## Prayer intention

With his visit of the Region of France this month, the Superior General John Hannan, finished his formal visitation of the Province of Europe. We pray that by his presence and encouragement, we may be renewed in the spirit of Mary, and that our vocation and ministry may better serve the people of Europe, the Society and the whole world.



## Official opening of new school building, St Mary's College, Dundalk, Ireland, 6 May 2016



The celebrations began with a procession from the old building to the new one carrying torches and symbols representing transporting the Marist Spirit to its new home. The Marist flag was raised by the regional superior, Edwin McCallion, thus cementing the place of Mary in the heart of the New College. Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin, celebrated



Mass in the new gymnasium. John Hannan, Superior General, also a past pupil of the St Mary's College, delivered the homily and spoke of the inclusiveness of a Marist education. Visitors were treated to a tour of the College by the students, followed by lunch in the canteen.



## Obituary

Attilio Borghesi (It) 16.05.2016