

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



Celebrations for the 200th Anniversary of the Fourvière Pledge

These celebrations were all occasions of thanksgiving for the whole Marist family - Marist laity, Marist sisters, Marist Missionary sisters, Marist Brothers, and Marist Fathers and Brothers of the Society of Mary. Here are some echoes from participants:

Personal impression of the solemn Eucharist at the Basilica of Fourvière:

Marists one and all, lay and religious, we came from everywhere today urged on by that same desire to climb the holy hill again in memory and hope spanning two hundred years, their promise, our promise, divine desire born again, as young and old we too dared to dare their dream of our world being healed by the gentle touch of Mary's spirit fired up anew in our hearts and lives as we stood there together pledging our word to seek new ways of living the Fourvière promise, bearing hope and life in a world so troubled and wounded and still unknowingly wrapped in God's infinite mercy.

GREETINGS FROM LA NEYLIÈRE!

As might be expected, this month all Marist eyes have been on the shrine and the basilica of Fourvière. Events throughout the province, and indeed the Society of Mary, have taken place to mark the bicentenary of the solemn pledge to found the congregation of Marists. We offer a taste of some of the ones which took place around Lyons. Many other celebrations took place in the province. We will bring you further information in future editions of EuroInfo on this topic as well as on other important events of this month. We are very grateful to those who sent material.

Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney

www.bit.ly/200anniv www.maristinter.org

Link to the homily of the superior general:

www.bit.ly/promfourv French & English



Dare to Dream, youth festival, Lyon, 17-23 July www.bit.ly/DaretoDream2016

430 young people associated with the Marist Family from the 5 continents, gathered to open up new horizons for the Marist charism and mission. They not only shared their experiences but also their joy and their dreams for their neighbour and the world we live in. To quote a prayer of intercession used at the Mass in the basilica and written by the young people, "we give thanks to the Good Mother, who inspired in Champagnat, Colin, Perroton and Chavoïn, those attitudes of service and availability, which today after 200 years, still inspire young people to follow the teachings of Jesus... We pray that we remain steadfast to a Marian Church constantly on mission and ask you to steer us towards a new world where many worlds fit together".



Marist Pilgrimage from England, Lyons, 21 – 25 July

Michael Coleman (UK) and the team of Marist Way, led a pilgrimage focused on Fourvière for 25 people from 3 branches of the Marist family. As well as some Marist places, their coach tour enabled them to enjoy the beauty of the countryside around Lyons.

Prayer intention

The scars of strife and division are so visible in our world. We pray that under the name of Mary we may do great things for our merciful God, not seeking our own interests but those of Christ alone. May we lead our fellow pilgrims on the path of life to the light of the Gospel of peace and love.

Relais Mariste, la Neylière, France



Over two days a group of 60 adults and children gathered for a programme of reflection on the meaning of a past promise for our future promises. They came from France, Germany and Ireland. While there was a serious side to the event of course, the whole atmosphere was one of fun and celebration – a pilgrimage walk in the countryside, talks, the arts and even some dancing! An action which touched the hearts of many was the opportunity to write an individual promise for the future on paper and attach it to the branches of a young apple tree, and this was then planted in the garden of la Neylière by the whole group including the youngest member. May these promises of today bear fruit to be enjoyed by future generations!

Annual European Retreat, La Neyliere, 24 – 30 July

Gerry Hall (Aus) reminded his 34 confreres that by climbing the 800 steps to the little shrine of Our Lady of Fourvière in 1816, and promising to found the congregation of the Marists, the 12 seminarians launched a pilgrimage to build the Body of Christ.

Although it was not a formal beginning, it was a promise to build a new Church and to do the Work of Mary in their time. The bicentenary is an opportunity to discover what the original Marist dream can mean for our contemporary age. Could it be only by chance that we celebrate this bicentenary during the Jubilee Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis?

Obituary

Sean Fagan (Ire) 15.07.2016
Henri Drevon (Fr) 25.07.2016