



# Euro Info

## ► 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!

We hope your celebration of the feast of Pentecost was a joyful one. It has been a busy month for events.

A very important gathering in the life of the province took place in Passau this month – a meeting of representatives from “Welcoming Communities”. This has been a topic of conversation over the last three years and there is a summary of the fruit of the meeting included in this expanded issue of EuroInfo.

We hear also from some other gatherings and important pieces of news and information. A reminder to celebrate June 6th, the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat and June 1<sup>st</sup> is the anniversary of the establishment of the European province. Happy Anniversary!

Joaquín Fernández  
Martin McAnaney

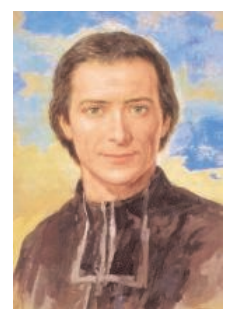
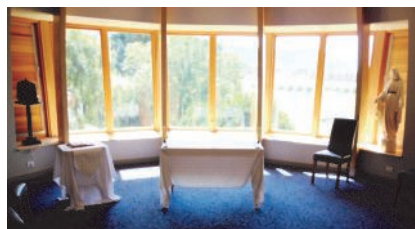
### NEWS FROM MARYKNOLL

Tom Kouijzer (NL) writes: After the dramatic start of the International Novitiate in Fiji I've now settled down in the Hawke's Bay in New Zealand to do my novitiate year. Our community consists of four novices; Matthew, Brendan, Adrian (all NZ) and myself. The professed Marists living with us are Fr Pat Breeze (novice master, NZ) and Fr Chris Skinner (socius, NZ). Our novitiate house looks out over the beautiful vineyards of the Mission Estate in Napier, the grounds of the former seminary of the New Zealand Marist Province. We just finished our first retreat and I can really say that I am enjoying this novitiate experience! The atmosphere in our community is great and I find the novitiate program very enriching! Please pray for us here!

*The novices*



*The novitiate, Maryknoll*



## “WELCOMING COMMUNITIES” MEETING IN PASSAU

29 April - 1 May, 2012: Alois Greiler sm, Passau

The first provincial chapter gave the mandate that each of the seven regions would endeavour to provide a ‘welcoming community’, primarily in view of vocation ministry. The provincial asked the community in Passau (Germany) to help promote welcoming communities within the province. The community invited representatives of the respective communities to a meeting which took place in Passau. They, along with Georg Galke from the Dessau community, were the hosts and represented the German region. The other participants were: Erik Ruud (Maristua, Norway, the Netherlands), Anton Verbraeken (Deventer, The Netherlands), Joe Jennings (Ireland), Rafael Rámila (Notre Dame de France, London, England), Bernard Bourtot (Toulon, France), Ramón Fernández (León, Spain), Lorenzo Marcucci (Marconia, Italy), and Ivan Vodopivec from Sidcup (England), currently the formation community of the province.



The meeting began with prayer and a buffet meal to get to know each other. The task was threefold: (a) to exchange experiences from each community, (b) discuss guidelines from existing documents, and (c) draft a summary document on the topic for the provincial leadership and in preparation for the provincial chapter.



To name a few of the key issues which emerged: There is a lack of clarity – ‘welcome for whom’? Is it for everybody, for people seeking accompaniment in their spiritual life or for potential vocations only? On the structural level, the province needs to name a new formation community after Sidcup, so that these welcoming houses can connect with it. Some regions have a group for vocational work apart from the welcome community – other regions entrust all stages of contact with young people to this particular house. At present, some communities are well set up, while others lack essential elements: space for guests, a chapel for the community, confreres free for this particular ministry. Many reported that they have little contact with young people. Most communities struggle to be available and open for young people due to the heavy apostolic work load already existing. The actual situation of each existing community is unique and therefore we found it difficult to establish general guidelines. It became clear that each house still needs to make decisions to further engage in this ministry so essential to the future of the province and the whole Society of Mary.



Like other international meetings, translation was needed and explanation of specific aspects in different countries. In the final round, everybody expressed the positive aspects of this gathering. Thanks to the hospitality of our community in Fürstenzell, we could conclude the meeting with a festive meal on the evening of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the end, a small group was entrusted with finalising a draft document about the meeting which concentrated very much on the different experiences and gave practical hints for all present to bring back to their home regions. The document is available on the provincial website. The text can be found first in English, followed by the French in the same document:

<http://www.maristeurope.eu/120524PassauFinalEnFr.pdf>



Much will depend on the actual members of the community, their availability, talents, and team work. The Maristua community shares its life with two candidates for Marist life. Hopefully other communities will soon also be blessed with candidates.



## The Strategic Directives - Solidarity with Excluded and Marginalised, More Missionary Parishes and Education



Last month's EuroInfo (44) mentioned a provincial event to take place in Dublin. The workshop "Announcing the Good News at the service of human dignity" will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 18h00 and finish the

morning of October 4<sup>th</sup> 2012. The organising group [J.M. Bloqueau and J.B. Jolly (Fr); D. Corrigan, E. McCallion and M. McAnaney (Ir), and A. Rupprecht (De and Norway)] met in CUS, Dublin, on May 21<sup>st</sup> with the facilitator Martin Kennedy to develop the idea. Marion Korenromp (NL) was unable to attend for family reasons.

The title makes reference to Constitutions 20 and Lumen Gentium. Through the challenging circumstances of our ministry, we are touched by the lives of people, young and old who are in need in various ways – in need of hope, encouragement, support including material, recognition, of being valued amongst others. As Marists we are called to "announce the Good News" that each one is precious in God's eyes. The workshop will offer participants the opportunity to explore their experience in ministry with confreres who have similar experiences and who share the same concerns. There will also be occasions of conversations with people with different ministry backgrounds. The workshop aims to develop and support ministry in the province into future. More detailed information will follow soon.

## Meeting of the region of France May 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

**First day:** pilgrimage to Saint-Bonnet-le-Troncy where Jean-Claude Colin spent his childhood: a halt at the foot of the cross erected at the site of his birthplace, mass celebrated at the parish church, meal together, visit to the museum dedicated to JC Colin. The homily and several interventions explored the historical roots and spiritual significance of the visit.



**Second day:** at La Neylière there was a reflection on: "how to be called to Marist life."; rich testimonies given by (a) a school principal asking the Marist Fathers to be physically present and visible in their communion with young people; (b) a lay Marist couple on their discovery of the Marist spirit and passing it on to their children; (c) Pascal Boidin sm - the concern about articulating a call, the necessity of silence and prayer, healing the hurts of the past, and the portrait of the young people from Generation "Y". The Assembly ended with a two hour "Question and Answers" session with the provincial of Europe and regional of France which gave rise to a free exchange of information.



*The Meeting of the French region*

## Preparation for the provincial chapter

The Pre-capitular committee (PCC) will hold its meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> in Paris. Now that the Council of the Province has viewed the proposed agenda positively, the task is to develop a process which helps the chapter address these challenging topics. They will communicate the fruit of their work as soon as possible after the meeting.

## Publication of Provincial Index June 2012

Some of you have been asking about the Index and if a new printed version will be available.

Changes to the content of the Index are frequent. An up-to-date electronic version is available on the European website with a password available from regional superiors [www.maristeurope.eu](http://www.maristeurope.eu).

Since many other people use the Index, it has been decided to print the latest version to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the province on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be available from the regional superior soon after that date.



## La Neylière: “Living one’s faith in the manner of Mary”

You are invited to La Neylière for a three-day retreat to review and deepen your understanding of the course of your life in the light of Mary: it will include prayer, teaching, sharing and silence (you can reside there or return home in the evening).

It starts on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 16h00 and ends on Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 14h00. Contact: Bernard Boisseau, La Neylière 69590 Pomeys: [b-boisseau@voila.fr](mailto:b-boisseau@voila.fr)



## REMINDERS

### European Province Annual Retreat 2012

There are still some places available for the retreat which takes place July 15<sup>th</sup> (19 h) to July 21<sup>st</sup> (morning) in La Neylière. The theme: “The Constitutions as a source of conversion and growth”; presenter Kevin Duffy sm, with simultaneous translation in French and Italian. To register now – the form is available on the website: <http://www.maristeurope.eu>



### Prayer Intentions

We invite you to pray for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of each and every member of the European Province and that the Province will continue to be faithful to its vocation 4 years on.

### Obituary

P. Ángel Saiz (Esp)  
2/05/2012

P. Vittorio Verchiani (It)  
26/05/2012