



PRAYER INTENTION

Lord, make me
an instrument
of your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love.
Where there is
injury, pardon;
Where there is
discord, union;



Where there is
doubt, faith;
Where there is
error, truth;
Where there is
despair, hope;
Where there is
darkness, light;
Where there is
sadness, joy.

*(From a prayer
attributed to
St Francis)*

EUROINFO

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Over the past six months, the restrictions imposed on gatherings because of COVID-19 have not just been an inconvenience, they have diminished the quality of human life. Yet the experience of lockdown has helped many of us rediscover the critical importance of social interaction and contact. The simple gestures of greeting neighbours across the street, celebrating with others or the act of delivering next door some much needed food are statements which honour our common humanity.

What we have in common far exceeds the painful wounds that disturb and separate us. Contemporary society feels the tensions between religions, races, nations and political opinions. These pressures threaten our solidarity and our willingness to connect with one another.

On the Vigil of the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (3 October), Pope Francis signed his new encyclical, *Fratelli tutti* (Brothers and Sisters all). In it he presents a daring vision of society as a global community post-COVID. He urges the world to rediscover the unity of humankind and to enshrine the quality of fraternal relations in society as we emerge from the pandemic.

Examples of the benefits of connecting with one another are found in EuroInfo this month. We join the youth of Norway in their experience as they celebrate their common roots as they gather again after a long interruption. In celebrating the anniversary of their religious profession, two confreres recall the support and solidarity they received from others during their years as Marists.

The date of 12 September is a traditional date for first professions in the Society of Mary. Many confreres around the world celebrated their anniversaries in thanksgiving this month. We offer to all of them our congratulations and our thanks for their faithfulness!

Francisco Chauvet and Martin McAnaney



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD



CATHOLIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS IN NORWAY, JULY 2020



Andreas Rupprecht (Nor) writes: "After being obliged to cancel all Easter camps, the Norwegian Catholic Youth organisation (NUK) was very happy when they were able to organise six summer camps for children and youths. We followed national health guidelines e.g. reduced numbers, frequent hand washing and no self-service meals. We were thus able to offer to 270 youngsters and group leaders the experience of a week of "faith, fellowship and action", as NUK has in its Statutes.

The camps combine Catholic catechesis delivered by group leaders, daily masses and prayer times combined with summer holiday activities. Some of these activities are a tradition that dates back generations because many of the leaders themselves attended camps in their own youth. A considerable number of Catholic marriages and even some priestly vocations have their origins in these camps.

This year, I took part in both the junior (12–14) and youth (15–18) camps. Apart from celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, my role was to be present in the group, supporting the leadership team both in planning and evaluation. I didn't escape odd-jobs such as driving to the local pharmacy or doing the dishes! For the juniors, after a rainy day indoors, I organised a late-evening walk in the woods with night prayer in the fields."



DIAMOND AND GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, LA NEYLIÈRE, 12 SEPTEMBER

Frs. Jan Hulshof (Diamond) and Jimmy McElroy (Golden) are members of the community of La Neylière. They share their thoughts on celebrating their jubilees:



Jimmy McElroy (Ire) writes: "Amongst the most enjoyable experiences in my ministry has been going on school tours. I enjoyed especially going with St. Mary's College Dundalk to the West End performance of the stage-musical 'Wicked'. A song from it is called 'Defying Gravity'. That title describes well the feelings I have as I celebrate my 50th anniversary of Marist profession. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since 1970! Of course, I would be crazy not to be grateful. The past 50 years have been an era of change and I want to understand this as 'a revolution of tenderness'. Another song from the same musical is entitled 'For Good'. Two of the lines are, 'I know I'm who I am today because I knew you'. And, 'Who can say I've been changed for the better, but because I know you, I have been changed for good'. For me that is a pretty good summary of what I want to say. Thank you, Lord above and thanks to all of you."

Jan Hulshof (NL) writes: "Jimmy and I celebrated together our jubilees. To be honest, Jimmy celebrated the real 'Jubilee', since the Jewish people were asked to blow the 'Yubel' only every 50



years! I celebrated mine 10 years ago, but people here didn't want me to wait for another 50 years, so I sat next to Jimmy in the chapel of La Neylière. The jubilee, a special 'day of grace', made me realise once more that, if the Word of the Lord has been a light to my path, it is only because others held the lamp: my parents, my novice-master, Fr Jo di Silva and my many confreres and friends. A jubilee is also meant to allow for a fresh start, a kind of "reset", (Marist and otherwise). Briefly that means 'setting off with Mary in faith toward the unforeseen', as was said at our 1977 General Chapter. I still love this phrase, while I admit that Fr Paddy Corcoran sm had a point, when, on that same occasion, he remarked that sometimes one needs more faith going toward the foreseen than toward the unforeseen!"