

▶ 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!

The major gathering this month was the meeting in Paris of regional bursars, their colleagues and the provincial administration. There is news of the Marist school in Malgrat, Spain which has entered short films into a national competition and we have an opportunity to support their efforts. More material written by confreres is drawn from the Solidarity Narrative project, and is circulated as a source for reflection during Lent. Your contributions this month were very welcome, as always. Please keep sending them to us for inclusion.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

Bursars Meeting, Paris, February 25-26

A concern for the European provincial chapter 2013 was to know if there are sufficient funds available in the different regions for the care of the elderly and sick confrères. The chapter recommended that a review be undertaken in the province to discover the real situation. The study was conducted during 2014 and it also integrated the financial review requested by the Council of Society 2013. The second draft report was received from the auditors very recently for consideration by the Financial Review committee. A member of that committee, Margaret Stevenson, the assistant bursar from England, presented the draft report to the meeting of bursars and their colleagues this month. Since the harmonisation of the accounting system in the province has been completed, the meeting was also in a position to examine the overall financial position of the province and regions in more detail than was possible in previous years. Both the auditor's report and the consolidated accounting system are steps necessary for us to draw up a 10 year financial plan, a task which was addressed at the meeting and is now advancing. The provincial thanked those who carry financial responsibility in the province for their efforts and generosity in this vital ministry.



Prayer Intentions

“Almost without being aware of it, we end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own. The culture of prosperity deadens us...” (Evangeliu Gaudium 54). We pray for the efforts of the pupils and staff of Colegio San Pedro Chanel, Malgrat, and all Marist schools, that they may become centres of evangelization to form new generations of people conscious of the Gospel call to stand in solidarity with others.



Reflections for Lent

In May 2014 the committee invited all confreres to reflect on their experience of solidarity ministry and to tell the story of this ministry in their life. For the second time the Solidarity committee has compiled a reflection sheet drawn from material contributed by confreres as part of the Narrative Project. During Lent the Church encourages us to make extra efforts in terms of prayer, fasting and alms giving. These texts are material offered to nourish prayer in this season. The texts can be found at the following links:

Deutsch: www.bit.ly/smfastenzeit

English: www.bit.ly/smlent

Espanol: www.bit.ly/smcuaresma

Nederlands: www.bit.ly/veertigdagentijd

Francais: www.bit.ly/smcareme

Italiano: www.bit.ly/cuaresima



Colloquium Proposal

With the assistance of Fausto Ferrarri (It), the Solidarity committee met in Rome (February 12 – 13) to develop



plans for a Colloquium to be held next year, April 2016. The idea for the Colloquium is the fruit of the seminar, A new face for La Neylière (May 30 – 31, 2014) which generated 17 other suggestions as part of the new programme of activities for La Neylière.

The aim of the Colloquium is to create an opportunity for those people with an interest in the work of social justice to reflect on the theme of Mercy in the contemporary context. The theme has a special significance for us as Marists since we are called to become “instruments of divine mercy” (Constitutions 11). Details of the proposal will be circulated in the near future.

Manos Unidas and Colegio San Pedro Chanel, Malgrat, Spain

Special attention is given to issues relating to social justice at the Marist school in Malgrat (www.santpereichanel.com) by way of programmes delivered to pupils directly in the classroom and through extra curriculum activities. At the secondary level Fr Toño Fernández (Esp) offers a Solidarity workshop and around 50 teenagers participate in it once a week. The workshop is designed to give both personal training in these matters and to contribute to the Spanish church’s campaign against hunger and poverty in the world, Manos Unidas (www.manosunidas.org). Some of the materials produced during these workshops in the school are then used by the organisation at the national level.



Recently the young people submitted some of their work for a national competition and film festival. You can view the videos and see the quality of their work on the following links, and in addition you can even vote for them if you wish:

<http://bit.ly/SPCMalgrat1>

<http://bit.ly/SPCMalgrat2>

<http://bit.ly/SPCMalgrat3>



Obituary

Br Willibald Ehrl (De) 10.02.2015

Fr Thomas Butler (Ir) 13.02.2015

Fr Bernard Ryan (NZ) 21.02.2015

Former SM Superior General