

## ► 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...”



### Prayer Intentions

This month you are invited to pray for the ministries and wellbeing of confrères and all Marists in the Region of Ireland. Pray too that the seeds planted in the course of World Youth Day, Rio 2013, will bear fruit in the lives of all those involved and in the Church, especially in Europe.

### GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

What would the voice of Fr Colin say to us in Europe today? You can read one answer to that question in the brief indications of the reflections led by Damien Diouf. The provincial council met the Irish regional council at the moment a significant debate took place in that country's parliament. You will find also mentions of some recent celebrations. Remember to send contributions for future editions of EuroInfo. We hope many of you will be able to enjoy rest in the coming weeks.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

### Quote for the Month from Fr. Colin

*‘God willed that the Society be born at a time of pride and unbelief. That is why he willed it to be born small and humble. If we have come thus far, it is because we have been small, because of our simplicity.’ (FS 87:9)*  
[www.jeanclaudocolin.org](http://www.jeanclaudocolin.org)

### The Year of Colin and the Annual Provincial Retreat 2013, July 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

*“Marists, sons of Jean Claude Colin - following the pioneer of our vocation, a man of faith”*

As is fitting for the Year of Colin, Damien Diouf (former district superior of Africa) invited the 38 participants gathered at Colin's tomb to take a fresh look at their Marist heritage through the eyes of another culture and a different generation. Phil Gage (USA) used his remarkable skills to interpret from French to English. Along with his own observations, sensitivities and “African wisdom”, Damien brought with him questions asked by young Marist religious in Dakar of their “grand dad”, Fr Colin! Starting with Abraham, our Father in Faith as presented in the letter to the Hebrews, the retreat explored Fr Colin from a faith perspective as leader and “innovator”. Colin articulated a “therapy” for the Church of his time that of relationships within “family”, and in African culture, “family” plays a crucial role.





In order to build the Church as family, our province and religious communities need to demonstrate a message of “reconciliation” and compassion. As Society in Europe, and indeed around the world, becomes more and more multicultural, women and men are required to live with respect for one another and in harmony. The failure to do so is evident in the aggression which characterises much of human society. What better way to understand the mission of the province than to build a Church, province and our local communities as a multicultural “family”? This is the project in which the European province is engaged. To embrace this challenge we need to be people of courageous faith, taking Colin as guide. Finally echoing the vocation promotion document of Provincial Chapter 2013, Damien urged the “older” European province not to be shy about Fr Colin and his legacy. Have the courage to do everything it takes to promote this Marist vision so that another generation has the opportunity to make a Marist contribution to the Church! Be *hidden and unknown* but visible! The Year of Colin means more than hanging a beautiful icon at the door, it calls for conversion and faith.



### Provincial Council (PC) and joint meeting with the Irish regional council July 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>



To the delight of all, Dublin was bathed in sunshine for the days of meeting! Besides spending a day reviewing the past year, the PC continued the work of establishing a Solidarity Committee, considering activities associated vocation ministry and dealing with the process of Legislation - the further evolution of the province’s governance structure to be launched at the Council of the Province, November 2013. Other topics dealt with were mission priorities *ad extra*, and formation and finance. The Irish regional council spoke about the particular challenges and frustrations of the Church in the Irish context. A striking symbol of this was the historic vote taken that very day in the Irish parliament on “limited abortion”! They also shared about progress in establishing its regional priorities.



### Celebrations

The former community house of **Mar Vivo**, France, received a new vocation



as a holiday home for disadvantaged people especially because of age and disability. It is run by *les Petits frères des Pauvres*, (the Little Brothers of the Poor) and is now known as Villa des Fleurs. [www.petitsfreres.asso.fr/nos-implantations/83500-02-maison-la-villa-des-fleurs.html](http://www.petitsfreres.asso.fr/nos-implantations/83500-02-maison-la-villa-des-fleurs.html). Christian Andraud (Fr), the last superior of the community attended when the project opened its doors to the public (June 18<sup>th</sup>) in advance of welcoming its first guests.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the community in **Mount St Mary’s, Milltown**, Ireland, celebrated Sean Fagan’s (Ir) 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood and Declan Marmion’s (Ir) 25<sup>th</sup>. Erik Ruud (NL, Norway) who was there on holidays joined in.

