

▶ 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 all those in initial formation in the Society of Mary, especially those from the province, and for Thilo Saft (De) who makes his perpetual profession on September 12th in Meppen, Germany.

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Traditionally the month of August is known as a quiet month as regards news items because of holidays. Despite this fact, you will find echoes of building a “culture of vocations” from Rio de Janeiro and the provincial website. The Italian region continues its efforts to implement the provincial chapter. We include also some original material which might enrich celebrations on September 12th or 24th or at any other time for that matter!

Joaquín Fernández &
Martin McAnaney

World Youth Day 2013 - Rio de Janeiro

Pascal Boidin writes: “A Francophone Group of 20 people attended the World Youth Day (WYD) in Rio de Janeiro. During the first week we met together with other Marist groups from around the world. The Marist Brothers put a school at our disposal. This session concluded with a day spent in the company of young people connected with the Marist Brothers and our four Superiors General. It was an opportunity for these young people to get to know us better. During the second week we participated in WYD and attended the language specific catechetical sessions and the major celebrations. It is an exceptional occasion to experience Church where young people from all kinds of backgrounds come together to celebrate their common faith. After WYD, we were welcomed in Palmas de Monte Alto, Bahia, by the community of the Marist Fathers. Their welcome was wonderful and thanks to our hosts, we learned just a little bit about the inhabitants of this country-continent. We returned exhausted but happy after so many meetings and friendships shared, and I believe with our faith strengthened.” For more information about Marists at WYD:

www.maristyouthinternational.org/html/en/wyd.html
bit.ly/smwydvid bit.ly/myi2013
european-marist-education.over-blog.com





Website of the European Province

Most of you know that over the last few years the province has been developing a new website. It has proved to be quite a technical challenge and finally with considerable help, the task is now complete and ready to be launched. It will go live officially on September 12th to mark the feast of the Holy Name of Mary.

Business size cards have been printed and circulated throughout the province to publicise the website. Please visit it, advertise the address and distribute the cards as widely as possible. Corrections to the text can be sent to Martin McAnaney at mcananey.martin@gmail.com. To access the area reserved for members of the province please ask for the password from regional superiors.



Italian Retreat and Assembly



In the last days of July (29th-31st), 18 Italian confreres met in a Franciscan house in the mountains near Pratola for a two-day mini-retreat and a one-day regional assembly. The mini-retreat was the concluding activity of a two years program of on-going formation. Joaquin Fernandez animated it on the theme "Fr. Colin's reaction in the face of difficult and problematic situations!" The assembly, guided by Mario Castellucci (Italian regional superior), was the second part of the process of implementing the Provincial Chapter and of discerning the prioritisation of ministries. The European provincial and 3 other members of the region arrived for the event.



Quote for the Month from Fr. Colin

Let there be no love of show among us, no seeking after reputations... Let us imitate her who is our Queen; what a model Mary is for us! She bears the title Queen of Apostles and rightly, and yet she is more hidden than any of the apostles. (FS 161:5)
www.jeanclaudocolin.org

Prayer of Marist commitment

The Annual Provincial Retreat 2013 concluded with 37 participants gathering at the foot of Fr. Colin's tomb and in the shadow of the fresco depicting scenes of Mary's life, and together they renewed their Marist commitment and vows. Olivier Laurent (Fr) wrote a special text which formed part of the event.

An adapted text is included here as a resource for use in celebrations to mark the Marist feasts of September 12th and 24th.

Obituary

Philippe d'Humières (Fr) 5/8/2013



O Mother,

Here we are before you
to renew our consecration to you.
You have chosen us and called us
to live your spirit:
to think like you
to judge like you
to feel like you
to act like you.

In yesteryear, you placed in the heart of Jean-Claude Colin
the great desire to gather companions together to answer your call,
you would be their support to start over a new Church
in the troubled times in which they lived.

He invited them to live the Gospel in your way,
unknown and hidden in the world,
and to make themselves available to respond
wherever they would be called for the grave needs of people.

Today, from the North and South of the old Europe,
in the diversity of our cultures and our histories,
Mother, you invite us to become a family,
living as brothers and sisters because we are your children.

Today, you ask us to expand our hearts to become a universal family
with the brothers whom you have called
in Oceania, Asia, Africa and in the Americas.
Together you send us to be artisans of reconciliation in the human family.

Mother, we are moving through difficult times,
and our hearts are troubled
but you, Star of the Sea,
you tell us, "Confidence! Do not be afraid. Stay on the path!"

Mother, after this pause for praise and prayer,
we have gathered our strength anew.
Accept our consecration,
We are yours,
Lead us to Jesus, your son and our Saviour.

