

## ► 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 Pope Francis called for prayer and fasting for peace.

“*Humanity needs to see these gestures of peace and to hear words of hope and peace!*” he said. You are invited to pray for all those areas of our world experiencing war and violence, and for those people who are displaced as a result, especially from Syria.

### GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We hear about Marist celebrations of particular significance which went well in Germany and Ireland. The series of joint provincial-regional council meetings is almost complete with a visit to the Netherlands. The website seems to have enabled the province to become more “present” on the internet. Your contributions to EuroInfo are always very welcome and we are grateful to those of you who have already sent material.

Joaquín Fernández &  
Martin McAnaney

### The celebration of the perpetual profession of Thilo Saft, September 12<sup>th</sup>, Meppen

Thilo writes: “September 12<sup>th</sup> is a special day for all Marists. However, it was a very special day for me personally, because I was allowed to make my perpetual profession in the Society of Mary. I feel blessed that many confreres from all over Europe came to Meppen to celebrate together with me. A lot of confreres also sent best wishes and prayers from various parts of our province and beyond. All this made this day very special, along with the great joy of having my family and friends with us, and a good number of other people with Marist connections. I would particularly like to thank the confreres from Meppen and Ahmsen and all those involved behind the scenes who so wonderfully helped to make this day really memorable. The experience of this celebration, like many other Marist celebrations, fills me with joy and confidence because as long as we are able to celebrate in thanksgiving for the good things we have received from God, we will be able to stay together in challenging times as well.” Hubert Bonnet Eymard’s homily for the occasion is available via the website link:

English: [bit.ly/1thiloen](http://bit.ly/1thiloen)

French: [bit.ly/2thilofr](http://bit.ly/2thilofr)

German: [bit.ly/3thilode](http://bit.ly/3thilode)





## Marist Family Gathering, St Brendan's Parish, Coolock, Dublin, September 8<sup>th</sup>

The gathering to celebrate the *Birthday of Mary our Mother* was planned and hosted by the Lay Marists. Approximately 100 attended the liturgy. A "birthday cake" of candles represented each of the branches of the Marist Family. Those who could not be present were represented by symbols which were then placed in front of the altar, along with a birthday bouquet of flowers. The congregation was invited to contribute to a special collection for the Marist Brothers' project in Aleppo, Syria and €700.00 was generously contributed. After this 60 people sat down to dinner and this was followed by an evening of song, stories, and dancing!



## Implementation of Chapter 2013: Provincial Council (PC) and joint meeting with the Dutch regional council

September 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>



This month the PC met with the Dutch regional council at the community in the centre of the historic city of Deventer. Together they discussed provincial and regional

priorities. Among the regional priorities there are plans to develop a city-centre-church project in Deventer itself; currently the church building is undergoing major renovations. This gave rise to a helpful exchange on the interrelationship between these priorities. There was also an update on property and financial issues. On its own agenda, the PC considered plans for the forthcoming workshop and meeting of the Council of the Province (CoP, November 2013), the Solidarity commission, the financial review group and the formation committee. Other significant topics were formation, the staffing of projects, and on-going work in the regions.

## Website of the European Province

[www.maristeurope.eu](http://www.maristeurope.eu)

The official launch of the website took place on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. The concept of the website is to give the European province a more collective "presence" on the internet. Corrections can be sent to Martin McAnaney at [mcananey.martin@gmail.com](mailto:mcananey.martin@gmail.com). Remember to ask regional superiors for the password for access to the members' area.

## Council of the Province, November 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

The preparatory group met in Paris, September 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> to devise a process for the first day.

The group is Mario Castellucci, Martin Daly, Paul Walsh



and Hubert Bonnet Eymard, with Matthieu Daum as facilitator and Carla Bertana as translator. The event will launch an exploration of the question, *how can we as Marists in Europe be organised so that we can offer the best of ourselves and in the most sustainable way possible?*

This work is connected to the request of the Chapter for changes in legislation.

## Quote for the Month from Fr. Colin

*"In order to draw real fruit from our retreat, we must learn to probe our attitudes and get to know our own habits. Let us not make a lot of resolutions, but just one, and let us arm ourselves to defend our weakest point."*  
(FS 104:1) [www.jeanclaudecolin.org](http://www.jeanclaudecolin.org)

## Obituary

Robert Lang (Fr) 22/09/2013

