



EURO info



To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND BURSARS AND ASSISTANTS, 7 - 8 FEBRUARY, PARIS

As one participant remarked the review at the end, the meeting reveals that “we have grown in trust, and that helps us work better together”. Each country had the opportunity to report on the trends, important information and facts they encountered in 2017. This showed not surprisingly, different national practices and concerns. The provincial bursar updated the group on the process to harmonise the accounts for 2015 and 2016. The meeting also explored the roles and responsibilities of the National Administrator and National Bursar in the new Provincial Statutes; the Financial Competence within the Province and the texts on finance from the General



Chapter 2017. The meeting concluded with a presentation on behalf of all present to the Provincial Bursar, Joaquin Fernandez to thank him for all the work he has accomplished over the last 10 years. It was also the opportunity to welcome Jimmy McElroy who will take up his role from July 2018.



PRAYER INTENTION

St Brigid, inspire us to act justly and to reverence all of God's creation. You were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens. May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Amen.



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Internationality was a characteristic of events this month. The feast of St Brigid of Ireland, national patroness (1 February), was the focal point in Dundalk, of the annual forum for European heads of education centres. Her feast day gave the meeting this year, a very different feel from previous ones and it was just as fruitful. Working across international boundaries for the sake of mission was experienced when national administrators and bursars gathered in Paris. Even the French assembly included confreres from other nations in its reflections. We are grateful to all those who contributed and encourage everyone to share your news items with us.

*Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney*

ASSEMBLY OF CONFRERES IN FRANCE, STE FOY, LYON, 12 FEBRUARY



In fact, this proved to be a very international affair. Confreres from Spain, Ireland, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands joined their French confreres to reflect on a spirituality for growing older, aided by Fr Bernard Colombe from the Diocese of Lyon. Nazareth offers us as Marists a traditional insight into the 30 years of Jesus' preparation for mission. We might think of our advancing years as a return to the hidden life so that, from there, we can know what to do. The afternoon session focused on texts from GC2017, the Declaration on Mission and the section on Religious life today. The texts are concise and this gave rise to questions of interpretation and some lively debate. The overall message is one of encouragement to be faithful.

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN HEADS OF EDUCATION CENTRES DUNDALK, IRELAND JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2



The Dundalk civic authorities extended a *Cead Mile Failte!* (A hundred thousand welcomes) to participants and friends of St Mary's College, Dundalk by putting on a reception in a splendid venue, the County Museum (bit.ly/DundalkMuseum). Participants were welcomed by the chairman of the District Council, John McGahon and several of his fellow councillors. He is a past pupil of St Mary's, as is Councillor and Senator Mark Dearey who was also present. Chairman McGahon spoke about the close links between the town of Dundalk and the College since it opened its doors in 1861. He presented the province with an artistic *Celtic Cross of Journeys and Meetings*. Martin McAnaney (Ire) thanked him in response and spoke of the Marist vision and values which aspire to enhancing the person as a whole. He presented the civic authorities with a glass plaque bearing the logos of both the Education Network and the province. It also displayed the name of the Education network in the six languages of the province. The venue for the education meeting was the state-of-the-art new building opened in

2016 (www.maristdundalk.ie). The newly appointed principal, Alan Craven, the staff and talented pupils put on a concert of welcome for participants and another one to say farewell and both included energetic Irish dancing. The work of the meeting was to refine project proposals to strengthen the network: these included a communication team in each centre, a survey of the attitudes of young people in our centres, individual exchanges of staff and pupils, a discernment retreat, a peace colloquium, and a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The meeting coincided with the feast of St Brigid of Ireland (1 February) and participants went on pilgrimage to her shrine at Faughart (bit.ly/ShrineBrigid). Mass was celebrated during which the St Brigid's crosses made for them by the pupils at St Mary's were blessed. Building the education network in the province is more than projects undertaken by our centres. It is built on the genuine relationships fostered through events such as this - the true foundation of the network and its activities.

