



EURO info



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP, LA NEYLIÈRE, 22 – 28 JULY



Many confreres involved in leadership in the province (37) travelled from all parts of the province to participate in the weeklong event. While it was hard work, it was also a fraternal opportunity to meet one another. They were assisted by a Marist confrere

from the Australian province, Michael Mullins (Aus) who acted as consultant to the event. Participants were supported by the team of tireless interpreters, Rachel Balsan Ghera, who has worked with the province several times since 2012, and two confreres, Francisco Chauvet (Mex) and Joaquin Fernandez (Esp). The aim of the workshop was to explore and understand the role of the leader at both local and provincial levels, in the context of the European Province today, and to devise ways of supporting those in leadership in their roles. Why this particular workshop? The Provincial Chapter 2017 (Title.5) asked the provincial and his council to provide help to equip leaders and potential leaders to carry this responsibility as implemented in the new provincial structures (2017). The Council of the Province (April 2017) suggested doing this by organising a workshop for those in leadership in the summer of 2018. The fact that so many of the confreres actively involved in leadership and ministry in the province participated, is a great sign of encouragement. The superior general sent a message of encouragement (bit.ly/JL180710) to participants to assure them of his prayerful support, and he emphasised that the gathering is also an important moment for the wider Marist family. He reminded them that the weeklong event is critical for the future life and mission of the Society, not just in Europe but in the wider world. With these words of support, participants shared about their experiences in leadership and their life stories, as well as the challenges they face. Jan Hulshof (NL) led the group in considering some reflections of Fr Colin on the task of the superior and the meaning of spiritual leadership. Modern sociology and psychology also have some valuable insights to offer about religious life, roles, task, leadership and membership. In the light of all this, participants drew up a plan for their own particular situations and national groups of local superiors. In addition, they made some proposals for more effective ways leadership can be exercised collectively in the province in order to animate Marist life and mission. There is more work to be done so, the theme will be taken up again in November at the Council of the Province.



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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Many of the confreres involved in leadership from around the province gathered in La Neylière (France) to explore their experience of being involved in this ministry. There was a special focus on the role since the introduction of the new Provincial Statutes (1 July 2016). In Walsingham, UK, the Marist Family gathered to honour Mary and some of them prepared for the celebration by joining in some days of retreat. You can also find a link to a film of the ordination of Tom Kouijzer (NL) in Hulst last month. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed material this month. Remember to send us information about the life of the province.

*Jean-Marie Bloqueau and
Martin McAnaney*



MARIST RETREAT (5-6 JULY) AND MARIST DAY (7 JULY), WALSINGHAM, UK



This year the annual Marist Day pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was a real international Marist family affair. Marist Laity, Marist Sisters, and Marist Missionary Sisters joined Marist Fathers for the event. Bishop Tom Burns (sm) celebrated the Marist Day Mass at the shrine and in his homily, he asked the question, “What is a Mother” which provoked much discussion. That day the weather was exceptionally hot (reaching 30 C) which put a strain on those who carried the statue of Our Lady along the “Holy Mile” from the shrine to the parish church. Nonetheless, there was no shortage of volunteers. In the days leading up to the pilgrimage, Declan Marmion (Ire) offered a retreat. He presented 4 reflections focused on Mary, Mother of the Church in keeping with the overall theme of “This is your Mother” (Jn 19:27). Declan made use of Pope Francis’ new apostolic exhortation, Gaudete et Exsultate on achieving holiness in the modern world (9 March), and his decree (3 March) that Catholics will mark annually the feast of “Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church” on the Monday after Pentecost. Morning and Evening prayers were organised by the team and there was a period of adoration each evening. You can find a fuller report by following this link (bit.ly/2M3WCkw) and see a photo gallery (bit.ly/2vmMwE8). Plans for next year have already begun.



FILM OF TOM KOUJZER’S ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD



Wilmar Wullems, a friend of Tom, offered to make a film of his ordination. He presented him with the fruits of his expertise recently. The film, which runs to almost an hour, is a beautiful record of a moving celebration. It is now available on YouTube by following this link: bit.ly/2v0RSEF

PRAYER INTENTION

Lord, grant us the grace to be able to realise your plans for us as a Marist European province and as individuals, and that we might live to the full our intention to respond generously to your call to proclaim the Gospel today, under Mary’s name and guidance as a communion for mission.



OBITUARY

John Jago (Aus), 17.07.2018
(Former superior general 1985-1993)