

EURO info



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

MARIST DAY AT WALSINGHAM, ENGLAND, 6 JULY

Damien Diouf (Af. District / UK) writes, “Confreres, lay Marists and choir members from Notre Dame de France, joined others from the Marist Family from Middlesbrough, Sidcup, Birmingham, Hull, Blackburn, Ascot and Manchester for the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine where Marists have lived and worked over many years. The presence of young mothers with their babies enlivened our trip. A quiz on Marist history and spirituality was as novel way to entertain us on the journey. The day started with the Eucharist presided by Fr Noel Wynn (UK), former rector of the National shrine. Mgr John Armitage, the current rector, presented a plaque and formally thanked the Marists for their years of presence and service at the Shrine for over half a century! Michael Coleman (UK) then led us on the Holy Mile Walk to the church of the Reconciliation in the village for Vespers. Through the whole experience, Marists from various backgrounds and walks of life met and got to know each other and pray together.”

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GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This month the issue of social justice is well represented in the echoes from Rome and the Netherlands. There were also two significant Marist gatherings, a pilgrimage and a retreat. We pray for the success of another gathering about to take place in Ireland. We thank all those who sent us material this month.

Francisco Chauvet and Martin McAnaney

PRAYER INTENTION

We pray for the success of the Marist Laity Gathering 2019 in Ireland. This gathering of members of the Marist family which bears her name, seeks to play its part in the Work of Mary. May the Holy Spirit guide the participants, and help all of us to grow in our desire to reflect the Marian face of the Church in the world of today, being bearers of mercy, life and hope, and working to unite all “one in heart and mind”.



PROVINCIAL SOLIDARITY COMMISSION IN ROME, 25-26 JUNE

Jean-Bernard Jolly (Fr) writes, “At the invitation of Ben McKenna, assistant general in charge of the portfolio for Justice, Peace and Integrity of creation, the Solidarity Commission met in Rome over two days. While we met primarily to evaluate our previous activities and to plan for future initiatives, it was also a way to connect our work with this ministry at the level of the Society of Mary. We reviewed our previous visits to various communities and solidarity projects in the province. Looking to the future, we identified other possible collaborations, such as connecting with people in Brussels for European institutions involved with social action. In addition, the forthcoming European and International Gathering of Marist Laity (28 July – 2 August, Ireland: europeanlaymarists.zohosites.com) may be an occasion for further collaboration. Working with Ben McKenna enabled us to focus on the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si* which is of particular interest to him. Ben made connections between the Marist tradition, as articulated in General Chapter 2017 decisions, and Pope Francis’ thinking developed in his Encyclical. The superior general, John Larsen, addressed the commission on the ongoing projects at the level of the whole Society of Mary. Our gratitude goes to the Monteverde community for the warmth of their welcome and assistance.”



“*MARIANUM*” SCHOOL, LICHTENVOORDE, THE NETHERLANDS, SUPPORTS THE MARIST ASIA FOUNDATION, 12 JULY

This year the students and staff of this former Marist school, adopted an education initiative in the Marist mission of Ranong (Thailand), as a fund-raising project. They carried out all sorts of resourceful activities, re-cycling empty bottles, cake sales, making and selling flower vases, undertaking routine chores and a car-wash in the school yard! On 12 July, the school presented a check for €6,117.00 to Fr Ton Bun (NL), contact person for the Marist Asia Foundation. *Marianum* is proud of its students, teachers and staff for all their hard work! For more information, send an e-mail to: l.brucker@marianum.nl or communicatie@marianum.nl.

ANNUAL PROVINCIAL RETREAT, LA NEYLIÈRE, FRANCE, 21 – 28 JULY

It was preached by Fr Justin Taylor (NZ) on “*Marist themes for today*”. “The status quo is not working” (General Chapter 2017: 8). What does the Society of Mary need today to be faithful to its vocation? His answer is, nothing short of a “reboot” or a reset of our parameters! Justin took a fresh look at familiar themes including: the name and purpose of the Society itself, the meaning of the person of Mary for Fr Colin, his vision for the future of the Church and secular society, the role of Marist communities in that vision, and a contemporary understanding of the spirituality which will help us build this future as Marists. Justin guided 27 confreres using all the expertise he built up over the last 6 years as he was writing the major biography of Fr Colin, published last year. Our challenge is to embody a contemporary expression of Fr Colin’s intentions which he articulated in his 1872 Constitutions. We pray we are all up to the challenge!

