



EURO info



EUROPEAN GATHERING OF LAY MARISTS, AN GRIANÁN, IRELAND, 28 JULY – 2 AUGUST

Alexandra Yannicopoulos-Boulet writes: “Can you believe it? Almost no rain and plenty of sunshine for five days in a row in Ireland! The 90-odd participants can bear witness to this little miracle! We met in the small village of Termonfeckin, 60 km north of Dublin towards Dundalk. And the Irish organisers – all of them women, and to whom goes our gratitude for their limitless generosity and their contagious enthusiasm - saw their prayers to Mary answered a thousand-fold. The overall atmosphere of the Gathering was one of blessing and joy at the awareness of belonging to one family. It was a colourful worldwide gathering which relied on the indispensable translation services provided by some of the participants. Both lay and religious, sometimes worn-out by years of pastoral work and concerns about the future, were renewed by the contagious hope of the new shoots coming from the Pacific region, the Philippines and Latin America. So many things consistently nourished both our hearts and minds: the daily prayers and Eucharists; the exchanges during the meals and bus trips; the festive evenings; and especially the thought-provoking talks. Have you ever contemplated the contributions that the "new cosmology" brings to our faith and our lifestyle? (Niamh Brennan); the connexions between “Laudato Si” and Mary’s Magnificat? (Mary O’Connor and Ian Neylon); the contribution that lay Marists make in the service of the common good in today’s difficult world, nationally and internationally, to both the Church and civil institutions? (Maureen Meatcher); and finally, the importance for Lay Marists, of organisation, commitment and mission? (Fr John Larsen). This is a demanding work, to lay the foundations for the future, and our great challenge.” (Full text in Fr and Eng: <http://bit.ly/EUmaristlay>)



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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This month was the occasion of two gatherings of Marist Laity with significance for the life of the province. Of course, it is also the time of year for some relaxation, a good example of which comes from the Netherlands. We thank all those who sent us material this month.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

MEETING OF THE WORLD MARIST LAITY COORDINATION GROUP, DUBLIN, 2-4 AUGUST

Michel Macquet writes: “At the end of the Gathering organised by the European Marist Laity in Dublin, the representatives of the World Marist Laity Coordination group also met for our assembly. Our objective was to learn from each other and to share about our experiences, and in addition, to lay the foundations for the work which will bear fruit over the coming years. Our exchanges were particularly influenced by the conference which Fr John Larsen, the superior general of the Marist Fathers, gave earlier to the European Marist Laity Gathering. He addressed the following points: mission, community, formation and commitment. Our different delegations move at different paces on these topics and this is only to be expected but their commitment is the same. Our differences are many: culture, language, the distances between communities, the availability of Marist religious to accompany groups etc. As we move forward we need to bear in mind: (1) the necessity to advance quickly in the field of formation in each province, (2) linked to formation is the need for a formal commitment, made in the context of some kind of stable structure, (3) effective communication has many challenges i.e. the use of new technologies, translation, variety of platforms etc. and (4) the use of a *Directory*, i.e. a set of guidelines to assist collaboration between Marists, lay and religious. Fr Larsen also encouraged us to build a partnership for mission overseas, especially with the poor, and to foster religious vocations amongst students, newly-retired people, and from other sources. We agreed to have another meeting within the next three years.” (Full text in Fr and Eng: <http://bit.ly/WMLCdublin>)



WALKING TOUR, GERLEVE, GERMANY, 15-25 JUNE



Jan Hulshof writes, “In June, the 'Loreto' hiking group went on a walking tour for the 15th time! The group is named after 'Loreto' House, the former scholasticate and hospitality house of the Marist Fathers in the Netherlands. Every year this group plans its walks from a venue with a spiritual significance. We have already enjoyed the hospitality of the Marists at La Neylière, Stabekk, Dundalk, Walsingham, León, Habay la Vieille (a house of the Marist Brothers in Wallonia), Passau, Dessau and Meppen. In addition, we have stayed with the Passionists (Minsteracres, Northumberland), and the Benedictines of Niederalteich (Bavaria), Huysburg (Saxony-Anhalt) and Gerleve (Westphalia). This year our group was welcomed for the 2nd time at the Abbey at

Gerleve. We journeyed in the footsteps of St. Ludger, a missionary in Frisia, Saxonia, and first bishop of Münster, who died in 809 at Billerbeck, near Gerleve.



PRAYER INTENTION

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for calling us to be the disciples of your Son in the manner of Mary. May we be always grateful for this gift and the call to holiness. We know that with your gifts of joy and wonder comes the call to mission. Send your Spirit upon us that we may be one and thus become a visible sign of your kingdom on earth.