



EURO info



RETREAT OF THE ITALIAN CONFRESSES, 20-25 AUGUST, FLORENCE, ITALY

The retreat was held in “*Eremo di Lecceto*”, under the direction of Fr Claudio Monge op, head of the Center for Interreligious and Cultural Dialogue (Istanbul). 15 confreres participated. The theme was: “**I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Migration is our challenge...**”. Fausto Ferrari writes, “Recalling how God acts becomes a motivating force for our own actions today. We walked with Abraham, paradigm of the foreigner who welcomes others; with Ruth, an example of a welcoming presence; with Jesus, who is “the stranger” who draws close to us. As we read in the New Testament, “you are no longer foreigners or strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints”, we wonder how did Jesus welcome foreigners? What about us? The Good Samaritan and the Siro-Phoenician woman help us find the answers.”



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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The community of Fürstzell opened its doors to a creative way to live out the contemplative dimension of the Marist vocation. The Italian confreres reflected on the meaning of welcoming the stranger today, and the Dutch Marists on the best way to animate Marist life in the Netherlands. We hear some reflections from the 150th celebrations of Marist presence in Saint Patrick’s, Sydney. We thank all those who have sent material, we appreciate it very much.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*



MARISTS IN THE NETHERLANDS, 10 SEPTEMBER, ROTTERDAM

Five Dutch confreres (Ton Bun, Jan Hulshof, Henk Kronenberg, Joop Reurs, and Jan ter Braak) met with Martin McAnaney and Jean-Marie Bloqueau to reflect on the question: *What is the best way to animate Marist life in the Netherlands today and in the future?* Ton Bun writes, “We had a very open and honest conversation about our situation. Once again, I became aware of how fragile we all are in terms of age and physical condition. Humanly speaking, we cannot look that far ahead into the future. To realise that our religious profession is a commitment for life is still a question. In this vulnerable situation, how can we live our vocation and our spirituality? Where will the Spirit lead us?”



PRAYER INTENTION

God of the stranger, the one who is lost; help us to open our hearts and arms to those who are seeking safety, peace and sanctuary. We are commanded to welcome the stranger. Keep us from our prejudices that block our way of living out your call to us as people of faith. Nudge us forward to be the people who welcome the stranger in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen





SESQUICENTENARY MASS, 16 SEPTEMBER, ST PATRICK'S PARISH, CHURCH HILL SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA 1868 – 2018

Ivan Vodopivec (Eng) writes, “Jimmy O’Connell (Ire) and I were privileged to attend this wonderful celebration of Marist presence in downtown Sydney (stpatschurchhill.org). The weekend began with a film presentation of the Marist Presence here in The Rocks section of the city. You can view these films by following the link: bit.ly/StPatSydney. Archbishop Anthony Fisher presided at the Mass. He spoke of his great appreciation of the presence of the Marists and their hard work. He finished by saying that for a 150-year old, we don’t look too bad! It was so good to meet Marists from both the Australian and New Zealand provinces and more, to get a taste of a City Centre Church ministry in another part of the world. Certainly, here in St Patrick’s the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a huge part of their ministry with approximately 800 people attending each week. Also, in contrast to Notre Dame de France, London (www.ndfchurch.org), I was very struck by the difference between the congregations, a European and African community to an Australian and Asian community. Here the majority are Filipino, Vietnamese, Chinese and Indian. I was told also that Hinduism is the fastest growing religion in the country. This is an opportunity to share in something of another province’s mission and ministry and to celebrate the good that is being done. It is also a chance to learn from each other about Marist mission and ministry today.”



THE CONTEMPLATIVE DIMENSION OF MARIST LIFE, FÜRSTENZELL, GERMANY, 15 SEPTEMBER

In its definition of the Marist Mission today, General Chapter 2017 placed an emphasis on the contemplative dimension of the Marist vocation. “As Mary pondered the Word, so are we called to a life of contemplation, centred on the Eucharist, bearing fruit in service within the Church and beyond” (N.4). It linked with our Marist identity as religious (N.30). For our part, the European province has been encouraging the efforts of confreres to develop this aspect of our vocation. The community of Fürstenzell has just opened its doors to an initiative. In June, the community agreed to launch a project of establishing a “contemplative cell” within their number. The idea is that the community allows for flexibility in the rhythm of community life. Peter Westermann (NL) has joined Fritz Arnold (De) in Fürstenzell. Fritz writes, “I am very happy about Peter’s decision to move to our community. Together we wish to start a contemplative cell - living a more

contemplative lifestyle, more or less like our Founder had in mind for La Neylière. We will do it as an integral part of the Fürstenzell community. During the past year I personally tried to set aside every day, two time slots of 45-60 minutes each for prayer and adoration, one in the morning and one in the evening. But there is quite a difference between doing this all by yourself or in the company of another.” The willingness of all the confreres to take part in this creative project is deeply appreciated by the whole province because it enriches the Work of Mary in Europe for all of us.”

