



EURO info



COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE (CoP), 12 – 14 FEBRUARY, PARIS, FRANCE



Even before the Leadership Workshop (July, La Neylière), it was clear that the province needed to plan an event to build on the gathering of local superiors and the coordinators of national groups of superiors. It was decided that the November CoP would focus on the follow-up

with the topic of the animation of Marist life and mission in the Province. The members of the CoP were the same national coordinators and the provincial administration. Juan Carlos Piña, assistant general for Europe also participated. The April CoP had suggested that more time be dedicated to reflection and prayer so each morning began with an hour of prayer and faith sharing. After sharing information about Marist life in each country, participants went on to concentrate on three themes related to the July Workshop: (1) communication in both directions, amongst communities and national groups in the province, (2) the principal task (role) of the group of local superiors in each country, and (3) how to “mind the gap” between the confreres and the provincial aspect of Marist life, and between the different communities themselves. Many creative ideas were generated and once these have been processed, they will become a protocol to guide future activity in the province. When all the work was finished, the CoP participants enjoyed a well-deserved evening of entertainment provided by Moz'Art, a quartet of gifted Polish musicians and comedians. It required no translation, check out the YouTube link: (<http://bit.ly/2S21Mjq>).



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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The Council of the Province (CoP) brought together many confreres to reflect and work on our common Marist project in Europe – to “build the WE”. The Year of Celebrating Community Life was launched on 14 November, during the concluding Eucharist of the Council of the Province. The special Yearbook began its journey around all the communities of the province at the Provincial House community as the first stop. The December EuroInfo will have detailed information on how we “build the WE” during this special Year of Celebrating Community. We hear news of an enriching renewal programme in Manresa, Spain, and a thought-provoking ministry in Hull, England. Many thanks to all our contributors.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

A RENEWAL SESSION, MANRESA, SPAIN

Joaquin Fernandez (Esp) writes, "The session was called 'When we are reaching 65, 70...'. It is a 4-week program to plan the future steps in life. The Jesuits established it 3 years ago, and it was replicated this year in Mexico. This year we were 30 people from 5 countries: lay (among them a married couple and 2 widows), religious (mainly women: 21), priests, and one retired bishop - a very varied group with interesting personal histories and experiences! The program began with plenty of time to re-read one's personal history, following the pattern of Ignace of Loyola's life. There were presentations, not lectures, on Psychology, Eschatology, Spirituality, Medical needs amongst other appropriate topics, and a week of Spiritual Exercises. Everything was very well adapted to people starting the period of retirement, experiencing the signs of old-age or needing to adjust to a different activity. Of course, many things experienced or learnt in the past will reoccur in the future! As somebody said, "I knew most of what was said, but now I am conscious of it". It was in Spanish and it was a privilege and a pleasure to be part of it. I do not need to say that I would recommend it!"



APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA (AOS) OR STELLA MARIS MINISTRY, HULL, ENGLAND

John McAlister (Eng) writes: "My work is as a ship visitor. I do this once or twice a week in the port of Hull for the organisation, Apostleship of the Sea (AoS). Anne McLaren is the AoS chaplain. We give seafarers information on the city of Hull, our drop-in Centre which provides free wi-fi, and AoS worldwide services. Their turnaround is very quick, often as short as 24 hours. They have little free time. The visit to the ship itself, is the main point of contact for us with them. Seafarers have a very restricted life, and I have always found them gracious to us. Occasionally, we might give them a lift to the city shops. We always give newspapers (from a German Website) in their own language. We mostly encounter Russians, Ukrainians, and Filipinos. We provide Bible Alive - a bible magazine, prayer cards, and maybe rosaries. Around Christmas time, we distribute the ever-popular woolly-hats made by ladies in the local school which are filled with gifts inside. Most ships visiting Hull work the Baltic, North Sea, and the Mediterranean, and there is the occasional long haul and cruise ship. Mass is celebrated at Christmas and Easter on the Zeebrugge and Rotterdam ferries, which have mostly Filipino crew. Filipinos on cargo ships work 8-month contracts - a recent warm day was enlivened for me by providing winter clothing requested by a grateful Filipino crew! 'Thank you' in their language gets a smile in Russian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and a laugh in Portuguese (the Cape Verde seafarers)! We avoid politics, though when asked for nationalities on board, a Crimean shrugged, 'Who knows!' It is touching when we hear crews say they remember a visit of a years ago.



OBITUARY

Alexandre Rodet (Fr) 19.11.2018

PRAYER INTENTION



Christ, Our Risen Lord, you have shared our journey and led us to your Father. Hidden yet present amongst us, you call us to build together your

Kingdom. Help us discover your likeness, your compassion, your love in the lives of our sisters and brothers. Help us ourselves to become that likeness, that compassion, that love for our confreres, that together we may carry out the Work of Mary our Mother. Amen.