



# EURO info



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

## COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE (CoP), 18-19 NOVEMBER 2019, PARIS



The Council of the Province (CoP) is an advisory body in the province which meets every six months. This month it re-examined and reflected on our personal and common vocation as Marists in Europe. Twenty-four confreres from around the province with a wide range of experience gathered to reflect on the theme: ***“Called to serve. Here I am, Lord.” (Isaiah 6:8). How do I understand this common call today in my circumstances?*** Juan Carlos Piña, general assistant in Rome with responsibility for the European province, also contributed his perspective. The sharing was only possible because of the skilled team of interpreters, Carla Bertana, Francisco Chauvet (Mex) and Marcello Pregno (It). The event was accompanied by Fr Terry McGrath MSFS (Missionary Society of St Francis de Sales) who asked participants to begin by sharing on the circumstances which led them to becoming a Marist in the first place. He guided them through a series of conversations which explored the “call to be a Marist” today. Naturally, the responses confreres offered were influenced by the length of their Marist experience, from a couple of years to well over sixty! Yet, in that diversity lay the common desire to be faithful to Mary’s gracious choice and to doing her work of uniting all in mind and heart, of being “bridgebuilders” (General Chapter 2017, No.6). Terry’s final invitation to participants was to list one thing they need to stop doing and three things they need to do, in order to live my/our call more fully today. At the end of event, participants shared a belief that Mary is still calling us to make our contribution to the mission of the Church in her manner.

## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We hear about a pilgrimage to Fatima which is a follow-up on the information shared last month by a French confrere.

Some German confreres gathered to hear Fr Justin Taylor (NZ) encourage them in their Marist life.

The Council of the Province reflected on the meaning of the Marist call in Europe today. A heartfelt thanks to all our contributors.

*Francisco Chauvet and  
Martin McAnaney*



## DAYS OF REFLECTION FOR GERMAN MARISTS WITH FR JUSTIN TAYLOR (NZ), 11-14 NOVEMBER, SCHWEIKLBERG, GERMANY

During the last four weeks, Justin Taylor (NZ) has been travelling around the province, sharing his insights into Fr Colin's vision of the Society of Mary principally with Marist schools. However, he took time to give three days of recollection to the German confreres. Georg Galke (Ger) writes: "This abbey is conveniently situated near the communities of Passau and Fürstenzell. Justin Taylor's presentations drew on his recent book, "*A Marist Reset*". His main premise is not so much about what should be reformed in the Church and the Society of Mary but rather that a "Marist restart" is possible and necessary. His six presentations triggered animated conversations every time. We had the privilege of participating in the prayer of the local community of Benedictine monks. It was a very fulfilling and stimulating event, especially for us German Marists because we rarely meet during provincial gatherings. Justin urged us not to be content with a 'bland and mediocre existence' but, despite our mistakes and even our real sins, to continue to make progress and to live for God and Mary." (Full text in German and English: [bit.ly/deutjustintaylor](http://bit.ly/deutjustintaylor))



## PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, 28 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER

Last month Roger Lordong (Fr) wrote about his ministry with the chaplaincy to the blind and visually impaired and he mentioned the two organisations - **Grillons et Cigales** ("Crickets and Cicadas" - [grillonsetcigales.org](http://grillonsetcigales.org)) and **Voir Ensemble**, ("See Together" - [voirensemble.asso.fr](http://voirensemble.asso.fr)). He writes this month about his pilgrimage to Fatima with members of Voir Ensemble.: "Along with 102 members of the organization, I went on a pilgrimage to Fatima. Amongst the group were 55 blind or visually impaired persons. For many



it was an opportunity to discover Fatima and the message that the 3 shepherds, Lucia Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Marto left us on Mary's behalf. We visited the place where the 3 children lived. We went to the place where the angel appeared twice and the 6 places where Mary appeared. During these days of pilgrimage, by means of the rosary we meditated on the Gospel and the spiritual experience of the 3 shepherds. On Thursday, we followed a Way of the Cross by reflecting on the lives of the 3 children and what this means for the world today. We carried the sufferings and joys of the world in our prayer. On 1 November, we participated in the Eucharist with the Portuguese community in the Basilica of the Holy Trinity which can hold 10,000 people. Our pilgrimage ended with joy and thanksgiving. I invite you all to discover Fatima and its message." (Full text in Fr and Eng: [bit.ly/2FatimaPel](http://bit.ly/2FatimaPel))

### OBITUARY

Benedicto Vicario (Esp)  
17.11.2019

### PRAYER INTENTION FOR ADVENT

Lord of all, you are a God of mercy, and a Lord who provides for us in our need. As we begin these days of Advent, help us to believe that you know our needs better than we do. Give us the courage to listen to your voice and the freedom to open our hearts to the graces you are offering us. Amen.

