ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE Number 153 • June 2021

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



## **GREETINGS FROM PARIS!**

The Marist project was launched over 200 years ago and the Work of Mary has taken on many forms over the years. One of these has been in education and training and since the beginning, it has been a strong tradition amongst the Marist family in Europe and beyond.

St Marcellin Champagnat was the first among the founding generation to become directly involved in the ministry. While methods have evolved over time depending on circumstances, the aim of this ministry remained constant, to develop to whole person, mind, body and spirit so that they become the best they can be. Persons who are willing to respect others, especially those different from themselves, attentive to others needs and ready to serve them.

Today Marists, lay and religious, continue to be involved in efforts to achieve this ambition in a number of very different contexts and we hear from some of them in EuroInfo this month. The tradition and the inspiration continue!

> Ivan Vodopivec and Martin McAnaney

## OBITUARY

Wilfried Brand (NL) 12.05.2021

BEING MARYS PRESENCE IN THE WORID

# EUROINFO

CHAMPAGNAT CHALLENGE REVOLUTION - A VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE PLACES OF ORIGIN OF THE MARIST FAMILY

This month we celebrate the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat (6 June), founder of the Marist Brothers (FMS). It is an occasion of rejoicing for the whole Marist family and an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable achievements of the founding generation of the Marist tradition.

In collaboration with an internet site, *Challenge International*, the Marist Brothers have developed a very creative way

of marking the event. During this time when the pandemic restricts the possibility of travelling and assembly, the FMS created a virtual pilgrimage to honour the saint's memory, explore his insights and deepen our understanding of his legacy and its significance.



In 15 stages, the website enables you to undertake the challenge of this pilgrimage and retrace the life of St. Marcellin and visit the places of origin of the Marist Brothers and the Marist project. It is in Spanish (**bit.ly/MarcChall**) and available in English. You can sign up for the virtual pilgrimage, free of charge. More info at: https://challengeinternacional.com

## **PRAYER INTENTION**

Loving God, the Holy Spirit led St Marcellin Champagnat to attend at the deathbed of a dying boy. May the same Spirit help me to become a more compassionate person. Ignite in me a flame that brings light into my heart. Open my ears that I may patiently listen to the cries of those in need. May I be ever ready to be present to others who need help. Jesus, dwell in my heart so that your love might be an instrument of peace in the lives I encounter. Amen.





## CHANEL COLLEGE, DUBLIN - STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 8TH ANNUAL CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT ART EXHIBITION:

Ms E. Reilly, who is a tutor for creative engagement in Art, had the honour of being picked from schools and art organisations from all over Ireland to have art-work from her students on the front cover of the brochure for the National Exhibition for Creative Engagement Art. The brochure will be sent to all schools in the country, art centres, art organisations, and to the Ministers of Education and of Art and Culture. In describing the experience of being part of the project one of the students writes, "In class we brainstormed different designs. The class came up with lots of logos and icons that we could integrate into the piece. The next step was to do some research. We researched artwork and in particular, neon artwork. We decided to create an abstract piece. We ended up focusing on Wassily Kandinsky, an abstract artist. Just like Kandinsky, we wanted colourful abstract lines, not too detailed. I think the research part was the most interesting and we learned about neon art and how it is made. My research skills certainly improved. Kandinsky's artwork

was also the source of inspiration the class for future projects and pieces." For the full article click here: bit.ly/3wUCg4i



### Motor mechanics training, Lycée Professionnel de l'Externat Saint Joseph, Toulon, France

From the very beginning St Joseph's has always welcomed students for training in car maintenance. In recent years, the course has been enriched with a BTS in Vehicle Maintenance through an apprenticeship scheme as well as a year of post-baccalaureate training in the field of Competition Mechanics.

The arrival of Mr. Blondeau, educator and rally driver in the school and the return of the Formula 1 Grand Prix racing to the Castellet circuit, have enabled the school to develop



relations with the local economic environment that has become favourable once again. This option, which is available for continuing education, offers a session of apprenticeship at the "La Cordeille Formations" Centre and another session in a commercial company. This is in order to discover the world of motor racing and acquire the skills necessary to manage its challenges and constraints.

Each year's class has a very a good mix of students with different skills and academic qualifications. Each of them brings his or her theoretical or practical knowledge with something in common -



their passion for motor sports. As part of their work experience, the young people join teams of professionals and the programme may require them to travel to important national or international races. This is an opportunity for them to live out their passion for a year and for the most motivated, to enter the profession at the end of their training.

#### How do you make a good priest?



Declan Marmion (Ire) is a professor of systematic theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland where he has just finished his term as dean of the theology faculty. In his role he has a long experience of the formation of the priests in Ireland. He writes: Priesthood is often perceived as out of touch with reality. This is called "clericalism". A priest, for Pope Francis, is a merciful shepherd, someone who has an authentic relationship with God, and is close to his people. Pastoral care is about rediscovering the virtue of mercy. Finally, priests "must never lose the capacity for joy", says Francis. A

true apostle transmits joy everywhere he or she goes. The Pope objects to Christians "whose lives seem like Lent without Easter", and he is afraid of rigid priests: "They bite you!" Instead, Francis encourages a "joyful, humorous, and even self-deprecating spirit".

His deep conviction is that priesthood entails at once a passion for God and a passion for his people. For the full article click here **<u>bit.ly/MarmionJoy</u>**. He coedited a book on the topic available at: **bit.ly/PriestlyFormation** 





Assessing the Post, Reflecting on the Present, and Imagining the Pature