



EUROINFO

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

As we embark on this season of Lent, we are called to “walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). Indeed, our journey is a demanding one, yet we are witnesses to Hope! Even as darkness surrounds us, even as poverty weakens us, even as loss and despair slow us down, our vocation is to continue to witness to hope, and to accompany those amongst us who are more vulnerable or in need.

In this edition of EuroInfo, we read of the Sun as the symbol of Hope and of witnesses to the Work of Mary, although we experience our weakness and poverty. May the spirit of the Lenten Season encourage us to set aside everything that weighs us down so that we may walk confidently towards the Joy of Easter!

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*



IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORLDWIDE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AND THE SOCIETY OF MARY – THE MINISTRY OF MARIST MISSION APPEAL IN ENGLAND



John McAllister (Eng) writes: “I make appeals for the Marist Missions in different dioceses each year as part of the Catholic Missionary Union, under the auspices of the Bishops of England and Wales. We spread the word about the Marist place in the universal Church, in parts of the world where our missions are in need of external support. I am grateful for material communicated to me from Ranong, Oceania, Africa and the International Noviciate which keeps me up to date! I travel by car or train, carrying the banner pictured, and I speak during

all Sunday masses in a parish. As Pope Francis says, ‘We are all missionary disciples’. The people I meet are interested and generous, and the parish priests and sisters are welcoming. In 2021 between June and November, these opportunities were restricted by Covid, yet over €20,000 was donated. In the coming months, I will be in Newcastle and the Northampton Dioceses. I have 26 visits arranged so far, and in addition, two scripts have been sent instead of a physical visit (this option was offered since the beginning of Covid restrictions). Sometimes I have permission to speak in parishes in which other missionary orders were not able to cover. Kevin Duffy (Eng) shared this ministry with me during the past year. I always ask people to be ‘ridiculously generous’ and, after hearing the stories from Ranong, Senegal and Cameroon, and of the street children in the Philippines and students from our mission districts - they are!”



PRAYER INTENTION

You invite us, Lord, to conversion, a task that is never finished since we are sinners. Still, you do not abandon us as we enter this time of conversion. You give us your Son, Jesus. It is with him that we walk and go into the desert. With Him, we climb the mountain, week by week, following in his footsteps until we share in his total gift of self on the Cross, out of love for us. Amen.





POPE FRANCIS WELCOMES "VOIR ENSEMBLE" (CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE IN FRANCE), 19 FEBRUARY

Roger Lordong (Fr) is the former national chaplain to the visually impaired in France. He writes: "Along with Fr Hervé Rollin, the current National Chaplain, I accompanied a delegation of 24 people from Voir Ensemble to meet Pope Francis. Before that, we visited the Roman Dicastery for The Promotion of Integral Human Development. We were invited to speak about our experience of solidarity in our groups through pastoral activities and as part of the International Solidarity Committee. Following this, we went to St Peter's Basilica, before being led to Sala Clementina where we were welcomed by Pope Francis. He shook hands with each of us as a sign of friendship and fraternity. He read his speech in Italian which will be transcribed into Braille.



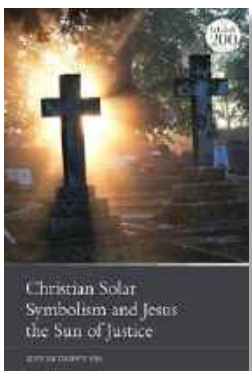
Pope Francis said, 'Your association brings together many visually impaired people who seek to be united in fraternity so that they can live the joy of the Gospel together. Your pilgrimage is a sign of the full participation in the communion of the Church of the faithful who are disabled. Jesus' gaze precedes us, it is a gaze that calls for encounter, that calls for action, for tenderness, for fraternity. He invites us to act immediately, to comfort, soothe and heal the wounds of our brothers and sisters. The Church is like a field hospital. Let Jesus go to meet you, heal your wounds and teach you to love. Only he truly knows the heart of man, only he can free it from being closed and rigidity, and open it to life and hope.' With these words, we left full of joy to announce the good news to our blind brothers and sisters, and all our friends'.
Link to the article on the Vatican News website: English: bit.ly/VoirEnsembleEng
French: bit.ly/VoirEnsembleFre Italian: bit.ly/VoirEnsembleIta
Spanish: bit.ly/VoirEnsembleSpa German: bit.ly/VoirEnsembleDE



MARIST AUTHORS: "CHRISTIAN SOLAR SYMBOLISM AND JESUS THE SUN OF JUSTICE" BY KEVIN DUFFY

A recent publication by Kevin Duffy (Eng) takes an in-depth look at the rich solar symbolism that has always been present in Christian spirituality.

Kevin writes: "The Christian sun symbolism has deep roots in the Bible and in tradition... It is, however, neglected in contemporary theology and spirituality. We (need to) rebalance a spiritual symbolism that has over-emphasised darkness and cloud at the expense of light and sun. ... The traditional title of Christ as the Sun of Justice speaks powerfully to a secularising era. Liturgy, architecture, poetry and the writings of saints and theologians such as Augustine, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and Thomas Traherne offer abundant resources for a much-needed resourcement." The book is available at: bit.ly/ChristianSSKD



MARIST VOCATION YEAR (MVY)

REFLECTION SHEETS:

During this special year focused on the Marist vocation, a series of reflections sheets has been prepared. The one for this month is on the theme of Hidden and Unknown as the heart attitude to be present in our life, by Justin Taylor (NZ).

Links to the different languages:

Deutsch: bit.ly/mvy4DE

English: bit.ly/mvy4EN

Español: bit.ly/mvy4ESP

Français: bit.ly/mvy4FR

Nederlands: bit.ly/mvy4NL

Italiano: bit.ly/mvy4IT



THE ANNUAL PROVINCIAL RETREAT:

The working group for Marist Vocation Year proposed that each unit organise its annual retreat focused on the theme of the ministry of Marist vocation fostering. This year the European provincial retreat will take place in La Neylière from 17 to 23 July. Sr Georgeanne Donovan, Superior General of the SMSM Sisters, will speak on **MARIST SPIRITUALITY: THE ANCHOR THAT HOLDS US TOGETHER**. Enrolment forms for the retreat will be distributed in the near future and will contain more details. Please reserve these dates in your diary.

