

VISITATION OF GERMANY



The vicar provincial visited the three communities in Germany in September: two in the south – Passau and Fürstenzell and one in the north – Meppen.

He thanks the German confreres for their openness and welcome during his stay with them. He was able to speak to most of the confreres in community and experience their

hospitality. Their dedication and commitment to the Society, despite advancing age and ailing health, is inspiring.

Like our other European units, the German Marists are trying to respond to their context of diminishment by seeking further lay collaboration and expertise. In Meppen the plan is to appoint a new 'House Manager', or equivalent, who will take up much of the administrative burden currently carried by Fr. Wilhelm and Br. Norbert.

Meanwhile, the more 'active' apostolic community in Passau is responsible for the *Votivkirche* (a public church in the centre of town), a telephone counselling service, parish supply, school chaplaincy and spiritual accompaniment.

In addition, progress was made on appointment/reappointment of superiors in Fürstenzell and Meppen and these appointments will be communicated shortly.

100 YEARS OF KLOSTER AHMSEN: MARIST LEGACY



On Sunday 19 September, the retreat house in Ahmsen, founded by the Marists in 1922, celebrated its 100th anniversary. Marists were present there for 92 years. 12 years ago, the diocese took over the Retreat centre. It was run by a lay Jesuit association until 2019, when it was turned into a '*Jugendkloster*' (youth monastery).

A large congregation gathered in the village church for a festive service celebrated by the Vicar General of the diocese as well as the Franciscans and the Marists. The youth monastery contributed with wonderful music and there was a rich programme of events throughout the day.

We can view the development of a youth monastery on our former property as a valuable and genuine Marist legacy.

GREETINGS FROM ROME!

Although I wrote these words a week ago surrounded by cardboard boxes in Hull, in the North of England, greetings this month are from Rome. The general administration and the major superiors from around the world are gathered in the general house for the Council of the Society. This a time when the Society takes stock halfway between general chapters. The Council was postponed for a year because of covid.

In the different units in the province, covid is still around, of course, but life is returning to something resembling normality. Declan has been able to do a visitation of the German confreres, for example, and as we see in the piece on Sahagún, our missionary activities have recommenced.

Kevin Duffy, S.M.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH:

that the Holy Spirit will guide the **Council of the Society**.

OBITUARY

Erminio De Stephanis (IT) 11.09
Ramón Monasterio (ES) 16.09, Joe Rooney (IE) 19.09 2022

NEWS FROM SAHAGÚN



The Marist community in Sahagún, Spain welcomes pilgrims on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela. Recently, John McAllister from England joined the existing community of Daniel Fernández, Toño Fernández, and Cormac McNamara. The community moved to a new house in May this year.

RUBÍ'S TESTIMONY: A VOLUNTEER FROM MEXICO

My name is Rubí Mendieta Cristóbal, 25 years old, originally from Mexico. On April 7, 2022 I made one of the most important decisions of my life: to leave my country and volunteer at the Albergue Santa Cruz, in Sahagún, Spain, with the Marist Fathers. For almost 3 months, I had the opportunity to join them welcoming pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago.



I have to say, it has been the most wonderful adventure in the world, from the moment I arrived at the Albergue Santa Cruz I felt embraced by the Marist community. I experienced their kindness and charity in the service to the pilgrims and a true spirit of sacrifice.

As a volunteer, I was able to see the face of Mary in my brothers and sisters, the pilgrims who often arrive at the hostel distressed, with doubts, and for them it represents an oasis in the desert, a refuge for the heart and for tired feet.

During my time as a volunteer, I had the opportunity to make the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela myself. It was a time of reflection and healing. I visited many new places, met wonderful people and made friends of all nationalities. All my life, I will remember the joy and love that I experienced at the Albergue de la Santa Cruz, because I can assure you that for everyone who takes refuge in the hostel it is an unforgettable event for the soul.



I feel extremely grateful to Daniel Fernández, Toño Fernández, Ángel Antón, Ivan Vodopivec and Cormac McNamara, who became my family for almost 3 months, and gave me the

opportunity to volunteer. I carry them in my heart and I thank God for their lives.

I return to Mexico with a happy heart. I hope that more and more men and women will have the wonderful experience of volunteering at the Albergue.

AFRICAN – EUROPEAN COLLABORATION THREE AFRICAN CONFRERES IN EUROPE

CONSTANT E. AMOUSSOUGA

Originally from Benin, I became a Marist religious in 1995 and served in Marist missions in Senegal and Cameroon. In 2015, after the second novitiate at La Neylière, I spent three years in the Marist community of Montparnasse in Paris for studies in management and economics.



After this, I participated in the setting up of a new Marist Fathers' school in Senegal. From 2020 to 2022, I was socius in the Marist novitiate in Cameroon. Right now, I'm happy to share the life and mission of the Marist community of Toulon, while finishing my Master's degree in Philosophy.

LOUIS NIYONGABO

I am a Marist Father born in Burundi. I have been a member of the Marist community in Toulon since July 2021. I came to support the Marist Province of Europe (France) for school ministry. My service as a priest-*accompagnier* in the Marist schools of Toulon, *Cours Fénelon*, *Externat St Joseph de la Cordeille* and *Sainte Marie* is above all a work of presence and encouragement to the pastoral agents in their work of Christian and human formation.



With my confreres we try to work hand in hand for the success of the Marist mission in the Var to continue and grow with a very great collaboration with the Marist laity.

DAMIEN DIOUF

I arrived in London in November 2013 from Senegal, my home country. In Senegal and Cameroon, I worked parishes, prisons, schools and in the theological and spiritual formation of young religious.



As I approach my 60th birthday, I am starting my 10th year at Notre Dame de France. In London, I have accompanied school children and their families in their Christian spiritual life. I have also worked with religiously diverse couples in preparation for marriage. Reaching out to people far from the city centre has been enjoyable. The same goes for accompanying French-speaking African Catholics, especially in happy or difficult moments. They express their faith in a distinct culture and world view.