

COMMUNITY OF OLIVOS A MARIST PRESENCE IN MADRID



CAPILLA OLIVOS

Ninety-nine years ago, the major superiors in the Province of Lyon decided to found a community and school, in the north-west of the city. Young Spanish Marist Fathers, some only recently ordained, started work in what was called St Joseph's College. The hopes of parents are students and teachers were dashed when in the religious persecution of 1936. The confreres were dispersed, some imprisoned and some killed. For us, they are martyrs and the cause for their beatification has been introduced. What was a school building became the headquarters of the Red Army. Today it is a nursery.

Marist community recommenced in the area, first of all in rented accommodation. They taught classes in different locations, worked as chaplains, or pursued higher studies in Madrid. In 1958, a new province of Spain-Peru was founded and 20 years later the present house at Olivos 10 was purchased. First of all, it was the provincial House and it has continued as the administrative center of the Marists in Spain. First, the province became a delegation, then it was a region, and now it is a national unit in the European province.



At present the community is composed of Fathers Ramón Fernández, superior, Felipe Marín, bursar, and Antonio Sanz. I am not a member of the community, but I spend several days a month with the others in the fulfilment of my duties as National Administrator. Our ages are typical of those in the average European Marist community – for details please consult the Index!

When asked if they feel they have a distinctly Marist mission, these confreres do not speak of prophetic witness. They say that in the community we find ourselves with brothers whom we have not chosen but who together seek God and try to be disciples in the style of Mary. If we ask them about plans, hopes and challenges for the future, their serene smile will show that, despite their age and their reduced ministries compared to the past, fraternal life in community continues and will continue to give meaning to vocation and mission. That's where our roots are, they say. We are full of life, and we are witnesses and hopeful missionaries of the joy of the Gospel.

Ángel Antón,sm

OBITUARY

Jan Giesselink (NL) 20.12.2022
Joop Reurs (NL) 10.01.2023

GREETINGS FROM HULL!

I'm afraid it's back to greetings from East Yorkshire rather than Paris!

Health difficulties are making things rather complicated. We've recently got used to speaking about the new normal – Zoom for example having become a regular part of life for many people in the wake of covid.

However, the thumbnail sketch mentioned in the history of the Society in Madrid over the last century would indicate that vicissitudes and twists and turns are not the new normal.

It's always been like that ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Hull.

Kevin Duffy, S.M.



PRAYER INTENTION:
That the **PROVINCE
EDUCATION MEETING IN
PASSAU** this month
will bear fruit
for the future.

'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards, November 2022

Sr Anne Lata, smsm, the team leader of the Sandwich Service Volunteers at Notre Dame de France, London recounts a surprise recognition:



"We went along for a pleasant evening meeting different individuals who were doing tremendous work out there – putting love in action as individuals or as groups throughout the Archdiocese of Westminster."



In the booklet we were given we found the NDF Sandwich Service in the Parish Action Team Award Finalists List. I thought of each of you when we were finally called to get an award

for outstanding commitment and for making a difference to those in need as volunteers. This award is in honor of our volunteers, who have contributed to this project. We can all celebrate making a difference to those in need".

Provincial Communication Commission

A new team was set up to develop the means and a communication strategy in the Province. Their remit also includes seeking ways of supporting the confreres in making use of the means of communication, recommending new ways to communicate our identity and mission.



The team consists of Marcello Pregno, Andreas Rupprecht, Odile de Villenaut and Anne Marie Salgo, and has just started their work together via zoom.

"We are looking forward to addressing this important issue in the Province - both to be of service and to share more effectively what we, Marists, can contribute to the world today. Watch this space for future updates!"

Epiphany Traditions around the World

Spain

In Madrid and the rest of Spain, people eat Roscón, a variant of our king's cake. This brioche crown is decorated with a paper crown and a figurine or a dried bean is placed inside. The tradition of the bean is that the person who finds it is rich for the year and protected by the wise men, but must also pay for the cake. In Barcelona and Catalonia, this cake is called Tortell or Kings' Cake and is filled with almond paste.



France

For Epiphany, in Paris and all over France, the windows of pastry shops are filled with Galettes des Rois, a frangipane-based cake containing the inevitable porcelain figurine, covered with a golden paper crown. Whoever finds the bean wins the crown and becomes the King of the evening!



Mexico

In Mexico, Three Kings' Day is known as El Día de los Reyes. In Mexico City and throughout the country this event is celebrated with a cake called Rosca de Reyes, or the Cake of the Three Kings. The preparation contains a figurine of a newborn Jesus. Whoever finds the figurine is named "Godfather" of Christ for the year.



New Orleans

Many French traditions are practiced here, not surprisingly since France has inspired New Orleans for years. The New Orleans King Cake is a cake made with cinnamon, pecans, and colored icing sugar. Whoever finds the Jesus figure will have good luck and prosperity for the rest of his life.



Italy

In Italy, the tradition is that children in Rome, Milan and all over Italy hang socks on the mantelpiece or on the Christmas tree on the evening before Epiphany: the next day, an old lady called "la Befana", riding a broom, fills them with gifts and sweets. In many Italian cities this is celebrated with a parade, but in Venice there is a real regatta!

