

★ PROVINCIAL VISITATION IN GERMANY: ★ A CHRONICLE

On 4 November, Brother Norbert Enste collected Kevin Duffy from Münster railway station where he miraculously arrived without any major rail problems. The next day, 5 November, anyone who wanted could talk with him, which we all did, so he was busy all day. In the evening, Kevin "served" us "dessert", as he put it, in the dining room at the end of the meal, giving us a few impressions of his conversations with us in Meppen. We ended the evening with a lively get-together in our common room.

The next day, 6 November, Wilhelm Tangen, Norbert Enste and I set off with Kevin by car on the 800-kilometre journey to Passau. At 8.00 pm. we met for a first get-together in the Passau community. Thursday, 7 November, was to be a day of meetings. The Passau confreres, the three from Meppen and the provincial then travelled to Fürstenzell, where they met with the Fürstenzell confreres for an Assembly in the parish hall. We discussed Europe and the Society in Germany.



Kevin said he was probably the penultimate provincial of the European Province. We will probably have a global Society possibly without individual provinces. We discussed what Europe has to offer the Society of the future. We have spiritual and cultural resources - for example, La Neylière - that are important for the future of the SM. Cooperation with Africa was seen as important. Another confrere compared Europe to Rome or Jerusalem where people go to visit the origins. There is a living Marist heritage in Europe. One confrere suggested we European Marists are like "grandparents" in the SM.



Many of the issues in Germany are the same as in other countries, e.g. we used to do everything ourselves. Now we have to look for and accept help from lay people, collaborating in a new way. Ludger Werner introduced a lively discussion using a story.

★ *The questions were: What can we no longer do? What can we still do? What can we only do now?*

The confreres in Fürstenzell had the opportunity to meet and talk to the Provincial on the afternoon of 7 November and on 8 November. On the morning of 8 November, he visited the Marist school in Fürstenzell and had a meeting with the headmaster Roland Feucht.

On Saturday 9 and Sunday 10, he met the Passau confreres, and had a session with the National Administrative Council, plus a Mozart concert in Passau cathedral, leaving for Paris on Monday, 11 November.

Georg Galke, sm

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

Recently Paul Fontanier died at the age of 104. A much-loved confrere, he was remarkable for his simplicity and his interest in others. This was illustrated in a handwritten letter sent a week before he died to a confrere in Paris. When the usual communication arrived announcing his death, several people thought it contained an error - his years of priesthood were more than his years of religious life. In fact, after some years as a diocesan priest, he was looking for a congregation devoted to the Virgin Mary. His sister, a Marist Sister who served for years in Senegal, pointed him towards the Society.

Kevin Duffy, sm

★ PRAYER INTENTION

Confreres who are outside community for health reasons over Christmas

★ OBITUARY

Paul Fontanier (FR)
23.11.2024
Mauro Filippucci (IT)
06.12.2024

MARIST MISSION WORKSHOP

INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE 4-27 SEPTEMBER

A Plaque on a church wall on the island of Mallorca reads *"Humanity's next great evolutionary leap will be the discovery that cooperating is better than competing"* Pietro Ubaldi. This sums up the workshop.

The participants were : Fr Charles SM from and working in Cameroon , Fr Yves SM, from Cameroon, working in Burundi, Fr Denis SM from Solomon Islands, studying in Rome, Br Rubel FMS from Bangladesh and on placement in Thailand, Sr Suporna SMSM from Bangladesh and working in Bangladesh, Sr Janet SMSM from the Solomon Islands working in Bangladesh, Sr Christina RNDM, from Myanmar and working in Myanmar, Sr Maria RNDM from Vietnam and working in Vietnam and Br Ivan Vodopivec SM from the UK and working in the UK. Supporting Larry Sabud were KPort from Thailand and Nan Dar Lin from Myanmar. Ben McKenna from the General House and Kevin Stewart from Australia, now is based in Ranong.



Our time was divided between presentations and discussions and encounters with religious leaders from the Muslim and Buddhist communities. We could meet people of other religions in a spirit of faith and openness, where our humanity united us, and I began to understand more deeply that dialogue is more about relationship than just discussing beliefs. We spent time with the students in the school and the Health programme for people with HIV and AIDS. We said something about ourselves and listened to their stories as refugees in Thailand.

Everywhere we were welcomed warmly. It was humbling and at the same time inspiring when people who have so little and who have very challenging lives made us feel like friends.

I would like to thank Larry and Arnold for their hard work and for their kind and generous hospitality. I really encourage you to read the testimony of Prasit who works for the Marist Asia Foundation.

Here is the link <https://jpicblog.maristsm.org/prasit-partner-of-john-larsen-in-ranong-prasit-partenaire-de-john-larsen-a-ranong>

Ivan Vodopivec, sm

A MARIST CHAPLAIN IN A MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON



Since late 2020, I have served as the chaplain at Sulmona prison in the Abruzzo province of L'Aquila, Italy. This maximum-security facility houses approximately 460 inmates from diverse regions, all convicted of serious mafia-related offenses. Reflecting on the time since I began my ministry, I feel content with my work and the feedback from the inmates.

Echoing the gospel's words, 'I was in prison, and you visited me...,' I can affirm that I have been visited by the Lord for my conversion.

A chaplain to prisoners is a pivotal figure, carrying significant responsibilities toward both the institutions and the inmates. These prisoners, my brothers — yes, brothers — have indeed sinned, but I, perhaps even more than they, remain a part of both society and a fallible church. Thus, we must all embrace Christ the Redeemer, who vanquished sin and restored life through His resurrection.

Together, we undertake this redemptive journey, aiding one another without judgment or bias. The Spirit of God fosters heart transformations and operates within us all, yielding, at the very least, astonishing fruits within the prison walls as evidence of genuine and profound faith.

Lorenzo Marcucci, sm