

► Issue Number 207 • January 2026

'ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH'

In Passau, the telephone counselling service *Telefonseelsorge* did celebrate its 50th anniversary in December 2025....



At a festive service in the parish church of St. Paul, Bishop Dr. Stefan Oster SDB thanked all full-time and volunteer staff for their faithful service. In his sermon, the bishop focused on the reading from the First Letter of John, 'God is love,' and Jesus' words from the Gospel of Matthew, 'Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened.' Both texts are 'incredibly comforting – but also

challenging.' When it says that perfect love casts out fear, this is 'quite a tall order,' according to Bishop Oster. Similarly, Jesus' assurance that his burden is light, even though he himself speaks of the cross. To interpret this tension, the bishop referred to King Solomon's request for a 'hearing heart.'

This attitude is also central to telephone counselling. 'A listening heart is like an open door that a person can enter without being judged or condemned.' Real listening can be exhausting, Bishop Oster emphasized, but the art lies not in quick answers, but in inner openness. For him, Jesus is 'the greatest listener who ever walked this earth'. In conclusion, the bishop praised the telephone counselling service as 'one of the most valuable in the Church', as it offers an open ear to everyone.

The second part of the celebration took place in the St. Valentin ballroom. The deputy head of the telephone counselling service, Sabine Müller, led the programme and spoke with guests who have rendered outstanding services to the telephone counselling service. Robert Kabuye and his family provided musical accompaniment.

The anniversary celebrations ended in a relaxed atmosphere at the banquet that followed.

Wolfgang Bayer, volunteer at the telephone counselling service

Here is the video link: <https://bit.ly/50TSP> and their website: <https://telefonseelsorge.bistum-passau.de/>



DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

I write these words from Notre Dame de France. I had planned to visit a terminally ill confrere, Hubert Bonnet-Eymard.

As many of our readers know, Hubert died on St Stephen's Day. Among many services to the Society of Mary and more widely, Hubert was one of the first superior of the newly created Province of Europe.

Reading through the remarks in the Book of Condolence at the back of the church at NDF, I was struck how often the words 'humble' and 'humility' came up. That speaks volumes.

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

that the confreres who have died since Christmas may rest in peace

OBITUARY

Hubert Bonnet-Eymard
26.12.2025

A NEW CHALLENGE FOR LA NEYLIÈRE

It has already been two months since we took over the management of La Neylière as a couple: a new adventure is beginning for us and for this establishment!

But how did this happen?

We have known the Marist Fathers for a long time thanks to our friend Father Pascal Boidin and our participation in the Relais Mariste. We have also had the opportunity to stay at La Neylière (the last time was in 2023: the second stage of our journey to Santiago de Compostela).



In addition, Thierry has experience in administration and management, while Claire has experience in hospitality and community involvement: our profiles seem to complement each other perfectly. As we are both self-employed, we can each free up half a day...

We quickly realised that we saw this proposal as a calling, and so we set about updating our CVs and attending interviews...

Since our arrival, we have been touched by the kindness of all those who have accompanied us: it is a great joy for us to work in such an atmosphere!

We wish each of you a wonderful 2026: peace and joy grow in your hearts and in our world. And may we work together to make this house, so dear to the hearts of the Marist Fathers, known and loved: come and see us, spread the word, so that this wonderful adventure may continue!

Claire and Thierry TRONEL

FATHER HUBERT BONNET-EYMARD SM (1947-2025) R.I.P



Father Hubert passed away peacefully at Notre Dame de France, in London following cancer.

Originally from the Grenoble region, he attended secondary school at the Institution Sainte Marie in Saint Chamond in the Loire, France. He did his novitiate at La Neylière, near Lyon, where he made his first religious profession on 24 September 1968.

He studied physics at the University of Lyon and then theology and philosophy at the Centre Sèvres (now Facultés Loyola) in Paris. On 30 April 1983, he was ordained a priest in Toulon. At that time, he taught physics and served as chaplain at the Externat Saint Joseph, La Cordeille in Ollioules.

He then moved to Paris and took over the management of Forum 104 in Paris, a centre for interfaith encounter and dialogue, while also serving as chaplain at Supélec. He also held several positions within the Marist congregation: Provincial of France, then of Europe, and Assistant to the Superior General in Rome from 2001 to 2009. In December 2016, he joined Notre Dame de France in London, where he has served ever since.

On 20 December he celebrated his 78th birthday with the wider community of Notre Dame de France. He passed away the day after Christmas, surrounded by the Marist communities and the affection of all who loved him. We entrust him to the Risen Lord of light.

<https://maristehurope.eu/father-hubert/>