

FAREWELL TO SAINTE-FOY-LES-LYON, FRANCE



The Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, on 12 September, was celebrated with the Marists from the various branches in the Lyon region at the house in Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon. *It was an opportunity to mark 170 years of Marist life at this site, to welcome the new residents and to formally hand over responsibility for the premises to the new owner: Rhône Saône Habitat.* The sadness of leaving this place, so important to Marist life, was mixed with the joy of the new residents: people with disabilities, students and those in precarious circumstances. The house was shown off to great effect, particularly the grand staircase.

During the Mass presided over by Provincial Kevin Duffy, Roger Lordong, in his homily, invited us to hope: *"As the angel said to Mary:*

'Do not be afraid; the Lord is with you.' The Lord continues to be with us. We are discovering a new way of living and inhabiting this house." We were also able to thank Bruno Chanel and his team for overseeing the transfer of ownership. When the key to the chapel was handed over to the new owner, Bernard Thomasset recalled the house's rich history: the 1872 chapter at which the Constitutions written by Jean-Claude Colin were adopted, the presence of theologians and the figures of Augustin George, Joseph de Baciocchi, Pierre Rémy and Pierre Vivier....

This wonderful celebration could not have taken place without the tireless efforts of the RFSM team in moving the chapel, which was full of furniture and various objects, and their dedication to organising the event. I am thinking of Emmanuelle Gardy and her husband Bruno, Cristina Piffer, and Armelle Carrayroux, not forgetting Mohamed Soussi.

Pascal Boidin, sm and National Administrator of France



DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

I write these words in the General House at the annual meeting of the major superiors of the Society with the General Administration in Rome. More of that in the next edition of EuroInfo. Like many people, I'm still asking myself what to make of the astonishing phenomenon of Pope Leo's recent visit to France. To be one of the thousands of people greeting him in the streets of Paris was to be caught up in something unexpected and immensely encouraging. What to make of that meeting with thousands of young French people in the Stade de France where the pope called them to be the contemporary saints of France? Or the 800.000 people estimated to have been there for the Mass in the centre of the city? A God of surprises indeed. Whatever particular take we have on this historical visit, it certainly invites us to banish any traces of resignation or pessimism as we look to the future.

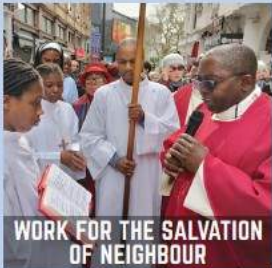
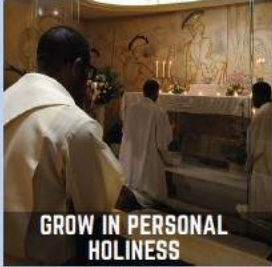
Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

that many young people will answer God's call to be saints of Europe.

OBITUARY

Rory Mulligan
3.10



DISCERNMENT WEEKENDS “COME AND SEE” IN LONDON (UK) AND SAHAGUN (SPAIN)

During 2026, I was involved in organising and hosting two discernment weekends, with the aim of inviting young people to take time to reflect on their vocation and to consider whether religious life, and particularly the Marist vocation, might be a path worth exploring.

The first weekend was held at the Albergue/Monastery Santa Cruz in Sahagún. It was promoted as an opportunity for young people in Spain to step away from their normal routines and spend some time reflecting on their vocation. The weekend was jointly hosted by the Benedictine Sisters and the Marists and was open to both men and women. Participants were given the opportunity to explore both the contemplative and active dimensions of religious life. We were particularly fortunate to have Sor Marta involved in promoting the weekend. With more than 225,000 followers across her social media platforms, she was able to give the initiative a much wider reach. Four people attended—two women and two men—and overall the weekend went very well. *The participants engaged positively with the sessions and appeared to appreciate the experience.*

The second weekend was held at Notre Dame de France Church in London, with Christian, Damien, Martin and myself involved in organising and running the event. This weekend was promoted through social media and through contacts connected with the Marists in the UK, particularly Notre Dame. Two young men participated. The weekend was more explicitly Marist, with different members of the team offering input on discernment, religious life, Marist history and current Marist missions. *While discerning, a vocation takes time and rarely happens overnight, these weekends serve as vital stepping stones.* Their value goes far beyond immediate results.

Both events provided important first steps, offering deep insights into how we organise and host such gatherings. Moving forward, we hope to develop this ministry further and offer similar opportunities again in 2027.

Please continue to keep this vocation promotion ministry in your prayers.

Matthew Crawford, sm

“OPEN YOUR EYES, THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU” 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF LYCÉE SAINT-VINCENT, SENLIS, FRANCE

Florence Poirier, director of the school, led the celebration together with representatives of the Tutelle Mariste, the body that oversees the Marist schools in France. *It was an occasion marked by remembrance, sharing and hope.*

Founded in 1836 and part of the Marist tradition since 1869, the school looked back with gratitude on the road it has travelled and forward with confidence. The celebration honoured the heritage, values and commitment that have sustained Saint-Vincent for 190 years, and that continue to open generations of young people to the world.

“Open your eyes, the world is waiting for you” is the theme chosen by “Maristes en Education” for the academic year 2026-2027.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PROVINCE

Council of the Province (CoP) on *Safeguarding* 20/10 followed by the Provincial Council 21-22/10 in La Neylière ♦ *Finance committee* 10/11 followed by the Provincial Council in Paris 11-12/11 ♦ *Education commission* 17/12 in Paris.