

► ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

“To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...”



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

From Coslada and Malgrat (Spain), Passau (Germany) and London (UK), we carry news of initiatives which put flesh on the ministry of evangelisation especially in the centre city. Important work is also being done on questions of finance. The solidarity committee makes progress in organising a seminar for March 2016 which has implications for the Marist contribution to this aspect of evangelisation.

We are grateful to those who sent contributions. Keep sending them!

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

The Finance Review Committee, Paris, June 15

The request of the provincial chapter 2013 to see if sufficient funds are available for the care of elderly and sick confreres, has been the object of a review by Price Waterhouse Cooper, an international consulting services company. The final report was received recently. The Provincial Review committee [Joaquin Fernandez (provincial bursar), Margaret Stevenson, (assistant regional bursar in England), Rudi Bleischwitz (De) and Kevin Mowbray (former bursar general)] met to consider the reports on each region and on the province as a whole. They expect to complete their task next month.



Solidarity Committee meeting, Paris, June 17 – 18

The Society of Mary was born, at a time of turbulence in post-revolution France which influenced the attitudes and values of Fr Colin and the early Marists. In contemporary society, what do these attitudes and values mean? Today in the face of ‘the globalisation of indifference’, is there still a place for mercy? This question will be the subject of a seminar being organised during the Church’s Jubilee Year of Mercy, by the Solidarity committee on March 29-31 2016 in La Neylière. The aim is to offer a space for Marists, their partners in solidarity ministry and all “people of good will”, to reflect on their experiences in the field of solidarity, under the three themes of, Dialogue, Welcome and Solidarity. The committee publicises the date now, in the hope that confreres and those concerned by this ministry will contribute to this effort to define for Marists today what it means “to become, in their Founder's words, ever more effective 'instruments of divine mercy'” (C.11).

An African Mass, Votivkirche, Passau, Germany

With the expansion of the local university and the arrival of more and more refugees, the face of Passau is changing (www.bistum-passau.de). The Marist community is responsible for a church in the centre city (bit.ly/VotivKPassau) which attracts Catholics who come from different countries of the African continent among others. Wilhelm Tangen (De) arranged a mass in English accompanied by African music. Fr Tangen spoke about the burning issue of refugees who overcome many dangers in their efforts to reach safety and a better life. The city of Passau lies close to the German border, the goal of many illegal immigrants. Amongst them is a particularly high proportion of “unaccompanied minors”, children without parents or another adult companion. These migrants are abandoned by the traffickers near the highway to make their way on foot to the nearest town. Different parishes around Passau have started to reach out to them.



Spirit in the City (SitC), Notre Dame de France (NDF), London West End, June 10 – 13

The faith festival in the centre of London this year kicked off on Wednesday with a play entitled “Three Witnesses” performed by the Saltmine Theatre Company in the church of NDF. It is a modern retelling of the Gospel of Luke which pieces together the story of Jesus in the form of news and documentary footage. The programme on Thursday and Friday included prayer, conferences and, on the streets, celebrations and activities, including the 10th anniversary party for SitC. On Saturday 2 tents were assembled, one for prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the other for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Throughout the day, on the specially built stage, a rolling programme of music and entertainment took place. A large team of volunteers engaged in conversations with the public. It was truly a lively and friendly celebration of faith.

www.sitc2015.spiritinthecity.org/#!/home

Marist Missionary Weeks in Spain - Coslada (April 20 - 26), Malgrat (May 25 - 31)



These weeks aim to communicate the Marist spirit and to develop missionary awareness amongst the people of the parish of Coslada (Madrid) and of the school in Malgrat

(Barcelona). The events were guided by Angel Anton (regional superior) and Rafael Ramila (Esp). Two principle means were used, an exposition of objects collected from Oceania, Africa and Peru, and the showing of a video which explains the Marist missions. The theme of the week was “TO SEE WITH THE HEART”, a way of following the example of Jesus, Mary, St Peter Chanel and many Marists from different countries.

Prayer intention

As well as Marists in Passau, other Marist communities and projects throughout Europe act in support of those people who seek safety and refuge from war and turmoil. We pray for those people who suffer in this way and for everyone who reaches out to them. Lord, teach us that you are a “refuge and strength” (Ps 46:1) for us all, and that no one is a stranger to you, no one is ever far from your loving care.

Obituary

Santi Gallorini (It) 10.06.2015
Craig Larkin (NZ) 27.06.2015