



EURO info



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

THE YEAR OF CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LIFE



Pope Francis reminds us that joy is the hallmark of fraternal love and communion. The European province has decided to focus on the theme of community life over the coming year. During the year the province wishes to celebrate the gift of joy as experienced through the fraternal life, a characteristic of a Christian life. By doing this we seek to rediscover that loving others, showing concern for others, being in solidarity with the suffering of others, and the prayers of others are a gift, a gift of the Spirit. A number of activities shape the Year: (1) a special Year Book (Livre d'Or) will be circulated from community to community, and into its blank pages confreres share the joy of living together the fraternal life - reflections, quotes, prayers, poems, photographs etc., (2) A striking image painted by an Italian confrere, Gianni Colosio, serves as the cover of the

Livre d'Or, (3) four reflection leaflets have been written for individual and communal use by two French confreres, Francois Drouilly and Bernard Thomasset, (4) journeys to pilgrimage destinations, (5) gatherings of confreres with shared interests, and finally (6) fraternal visits from one community to another. It is an ambitious programme of activities, all of which we hope will help us rejoice in the presence of our confreres so that we can be more faithful to our vocation to be a "**communion for mission**" (Marist Constitutions Chapter 3). One confrere writes about the project in this way: "For us as Marists, the words of Mary guide us on our journey towards the Kingdom of God, 'My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour' (Lk 1:47). We are moved to rejoice in the many gifts Christ showers upon us. We especially rejoice in the gift of our brothers and sisters, men and women who also answered the call - the call to serve, and to love! An often-overlooked gift is that of Community Life. Sad to say, we are often more aware of our failings in its regard. Now is the opportunity to let my spirit rejoice in the fraternal bond as I look into the eyes of my confrere to be in solidarity with him in his joys and sorrows. Then community becomes communion."



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

As we arrive at the end of 2018, we hear about the project in the province to focus attention on Celebrating Community Life. In the last few months the Solidarity committee has continued its practice of visiting projects and confreres share their reflections on two of these. The purpose of these visits is to support people engaged in diverse works of solidarity and social justice, and in addition to build networks with other Marists engaged in similar works. We thank you for your encouragement and support in 2018 and we wish all our readers a blessed and happy 2019!

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE VISIT TO THE COMMUNITY OF DONORE AVENUE, DUBLIN, IRELAND, 31 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER, 2018

David Corrigan (Ire) writes: "Ivan Vodopivec (Eng) from the Solidarity committee paid us a visit in October. Our parish of St Teresa is located in a disadvantaged and marginalised area of Dublin city. This can be a harsh place to live and work: drug addiction, poverty, unemployment, violence and aggression take their toll on everyone. As a Marist presence, we offer support, encouragement and witness to each other and to the local community. We seek to be in solidarity with people and communities we are living with and who daily are challenged to find a way to "live life to the full", here in Ireland or elsewhere. Life in the Donore Avenue area, of being marginalised and disadvantaged, feels like it is mirroring the state of the Catholic Church and of priests in Irish society today. It feels like the Church in Ireland is moving to the margins. The Church is just one group among many now in what is called the "New Ireland". It no longer holds a dominant position. What



new opportunities does this shift offer us in the field of solidarity and justice ministry? Could it call us to more cooperation with existing structures?" For the full text of reflections on the visit follow this link: (bit.ly/2Tk0fWQ)

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE VISIT TO THE COMMUNITY OF COSLADA, SPAIN, 21- 22 NOVEMBER 2018

The Marists are responsible for the parish of San Pablo Apóstol, in Coslada. It is on the outskirts of Madrid, located close to Madrid's main airport. Development in the area goes back 40 years or so and parishioners include a high proportion of migrant families, mostly from Latin America but also Romania. A major hospital for Madrid was built in 2007 within the parish boundaries. Jean-Bernard Jolly (Fr) and Giovanni Danesin (It), two members of the Solidarity Committee, write: "we visited the Henares Hospital with Ángel Antón (Esp) who is a chaplain there. The hospital has a staff of 1,000 and capacity for 200 patients. We visited its many buildings and met several cancer patients, as well as staff members and many volunteers. Ángel attends the hospital 4 days a week, and celebrates daily Mass in its chapel. He makes himself available to all patients and their relatives, and he is accompanied in this ministry by Luis, a deacon. The chaplaincy at the Hospital of Henares, at a time when Spain has become such a secularised country, is a truly missionary endeavour that reflects God's mercy through the presence of the Church. A very active Caritas group looks after migrants and their families. It provides other services from the parish centre directed towards people in situations of need, such as a Food Bank and clothing distribution. Once a month the Sunday collection is given to Caritas. This is a faith community which takes its missionary vocation very seriously." For the full reflection in IT and FR on the visit follow this link: (bit.ly/2SqTwub)



OBITUARY

Jan Snijders (NL) 13.12.2018.
Yves Piton (FR) 24.12.2018.
Frans Kuypers (NL) 26.12.2018



PRAYER INTENTION

Mary, Mother of Jesus, be our support as we call on the Spirit, who is the one who creates a community which radiates the joy of the Gospel: Come Holy Spirit, make us capable of attracting new disciples, following the example of the community of the early Church, "and they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).