



EURO info



EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER, LA NEYLIÈRE (9 - 19 JANUARY)

21 capitulants were assisted by 2 consultants, 3 interpreters, 2 secretaries and the local community and staff. The chapter used a series of workshops and interactive processes to explore selected themes (listed below) in the European context. An innovation for the event was to avail of the skill of a "graphic facilitator" who created visual records of the evolving thoughts and statements of capitulants. These were much appreciated and in addition, they were beautiful to look at. The chapter formally also confirmed the new Provincial Statutes it has been using since 1 July.

One capitulant writes: The overall theme was "With our present resources, what is God calling us Marists to be in the changing context of Europe, today and into the future?" The following steps for the chapter were aimed at raising awareness: Our Marist identity and how to live it out in religious community, as an expression of the Work of Mary. – Our Vocation as Marists to promote the Work of Mary. – Exploring the contribution all of us can make to the Work of Mary as Mission. In this and in all the following steps we had marvellous helpers in



Virginie Allard and Marie Caron, two animators leading us through the process so that each one of us had a say in it with his ideas and his experience. It was an amazing and life-giving event; this process engaged each of us and we had the privilege of enjoying the richness in the brethren. There was a lot of exchange which gave rise to respect and fraternity (brotherhood). The concluding round of exchange, brief (one

word each!) said it all: Brotherhood, encouragement, hope, life, peace, strength, fraternité, ...amour. As somebody mentioned: "I have never been at a chapter that was so joyful and life-giving".

Another capitulant writes: I guard the days of chapter in my memory as a beautiful experience: an experience of quality due, I think, to the skill and style of Virginie. I have to say I was not totally satisfied with the space given to discussion and to the vote for orientations. On the other hand, I remember a reflection heard often on the eve of the chapters of previous years: texts are probably not what we need the most today! I can only hope that we will be able to communicate to the whole province something of the quality of "being together" during these days and that, furthermore, the provincial team will be able to build on the chapter and its conclusions to animate and lead the province for the next 4 years.

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

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We thank you all for your prayerful support for the provincial chapter which took place this month and naturally it occupies much space in this edition. Our thoughts are with the community of Pratola, Italy which is suffering because of a series of earth tremors and heavy snowfalls. We bring you information of a forthcoming fraternal gathering in England and the annual provincial retreat. Many thanks to all who sent material and shared photographs with us.

*Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney*

MARIST DAYS, WALSINGHAM, NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY, ENGLAND, (29 JUNE – 1 JULY)



One of the chapter orientations relates to promoting connections across the province and grow in communion amongst communities and confreres. A practical

proposal comes from the Marists in England to enable this to happen. They invite confreres from other parts of the province to join them as they gather on the evening of Thursday 29 June in the new Retreat House on High Street Walsingham. On Friday, there will be a day of reflection with input by Fr. Peter Rollings on the history and spirituality of Walsingham (founded 1061) followed by a walking tour of the Priory Grounds, the site of the original shrine. The Annual Marist Family Pilgrimage takes place on Saturday. Accommodation can be arranged. More information is available by contacting Noel Wynn at noelwynnsm@googlemail.com



ANNUAL PROVINCIAL RETREAT

*“Finding God in the
Singing Heart of the World:
an adventure in c
reation spirituality”*,
La Neylière, 9-15 July 2017:

This event is an opportunity to pray and reflect on the encyclical “Laudato si”. The presenter is Mr John Feehan, well known in Ireland and beyond for his award-winning television



work on nature and cultural heritage, and creation spirituality. Make sure to book the dates in your diary. More details will be available soon.

OBITUARY

Eugène van Acker (NL) 08.01.2017.
Jim Johnston (IRE) 09.01.2017.

PRAYER INTENTION

Confreres in the community of Pratola, Italy are in the area which has been hit repeatedly by a series of earthquakes and tremors and freezing weather. We pray for them and their neighbours who experience the fear of the next tremor. Comfort them, O God, in their distress. Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still and shelter them under your wings when their communities are under threat or no longer exist. Help us know that your love shall never leave us and your promise of peace will never be shaken.



EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2017

