



EURO info



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

THE INAUGURATION OF THE *VIRGEN PEREGRINA* COMMUNITY, SAHAGÚN, SPAIN



Now that the 4 months of major renovation works are complete in their place of residence and the hostel

[Hospederia Monastica Santa Cruz, www.monasteriosantacruz.es], the Marist confreres Andrea Volonnino, Daniel Fernández and Toño Fernández were able to finalise their own plans for forming the *Virgen Peregrina* community in Sahagún (7 March). They then put the last things in order in the hostel before making



their own pilgrimage to the sanctuary of St James the Apostle, at Santiago de Compostela to offer their project to the saint (17 March). The following day they welcomed a group of Marist laity from Valladolid to talk about the shared mission of the project and to launch the initiative with prayer and a celebration. On 19 March, the Feast of St Joseph, they opened the doors of the hostel. The first official pilgrim to come through those doors on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela was Cristian from Germany. And the first group welcomed comprised of pilgrims (7) from Spain, Germany, USA, Chile and Hungary. The community gave their guests the special pilgrims blessing, shared supper with them and listened to their many experiences. There was even some deep theological chat with some of them! The first Marist confreres to enjoy the hospitality were Bernard Boisseau (Fr) and Donato Kivi (Oceania) both of whom are individually walking the Camino at this time. This good start is indeed a blessing from God, may it long continue! If anyone wishes to join the *Virgen peregrina* community in the mission for a shorter or longer period, please contact Daniel Fernández, the superior of the community to offer dfernandezsm@gmail.com. Remember to pray for the success of this project.

PRAYER INTENTION

Pilgrims Blessing: We are reminded in the letter to the Hebrews that here below we have no lasting city and must always seek the heavenly city. As we continue our pilgrim journey of life, we pray that the Holy Spirit may breathe his grace into our hearts, enliven our faith, strengthen our hope and feed the flame of our love. May we reach the objective of our journey safely and come one day, to the heavenly Jerusalem.



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

A new community and project begins in Spain to offer a spiritual welcome to pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. One of our recently deceased Dutch confreres (d.21.03.2017), Piet van der Aart is honoured in Brazil. Spirituality is shaped by the culture of its time and one of our confreres speaks about following a programme in Rome exploring this. We are grateful to all those who contributed and encourage everyone to share your news items with us. We wish all our readers a blessed and happy celebration of the Risen Lord!

*Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney*



TO THE MEMORY OF THE MARIST CONFRERE, PIET VAN DER AART (NETHERLANDS)

A nature reserve has been created in Brazil on 31 January 2018. This was done as a tribute to a Dutch Marist confrere, Piet van der Aart (1942 - 2017). Piet who was a qualified and enthusiastic biologist, served in New Zealand, and Brazil as well as in the Netherlands. In the 1980s he led many exploratory tours for groups of mainly US students to a nature reserve (Reserva Volta Velha) on the Atlantic Coastal rainforest of Brazil, which he had helped to establish. It now bears the name of Reserva Volta Velha – Pe. Piet van der Aart (bit.ly/ReservaPiet).

It comprises 2.850.000 m² of the Atlantic Coastal Rainforest, in the North of the state of Santa Catarina, in the municipality of Itapoá. The main goal of the reserve is to conserve biological diversity. In an article published in the main papers of Brazil, Piet's friend Lucio Amado Machado says: "I remember one day when we were walking in this very area and we lost our way. It took us more than four hours to find the trail. Piet was surprisingly calm as he was having fun watching 5 grown-ups worried about their situation, in near panic. We all laughed a lot after we arrived in the open area again." You can see photographs and learn more about the initiative by following the link (bit.ly/pietres).



CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, A PROGRAMME OF THE ST ANSELMO INSTITUTE, ROME

Ton Bun (NL) writes: "In July 2018, I will participate in my second year of this international programme (bit.ly/SantAnselmoSpirituality). The course is run over two years with a two-week session each year. Of course, there is home work to be done! I have to prepare for the eight modules by reading literature and writing papers for each of them. The themes span spirituality topics from the Early Church Fathers, the beginning of Christianity, right up to our modern period. Every age puts its own shape on the spirituality of its time because of cultural and



ecclesiastical circumstances. Course participants come from many different countries and bring with them their own cultural and spiritual background. By listening to their varied perspectives, one gets the impression of a global village, and yet the differences between national traditions and customs are huge.



The environment in which we live impacts our spiritual life... Of course, I am interested in our Marist spirituality which was shaped in the European context of the 19th Century, as a challenge to our contemporary society. It is a wonderful experience for me to be immersed in the cultural dimensions of spirituality."

OBITUARY François Vuillemin (Fr) 05.03.2018