



EURO info



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

TOM KOUIJZER'S ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND FIRST MASS (16 – 17 JUNE), HULST, THE NETHERLANDS

“To witness Tom taking this step in his life, is something very special”. These words are those of a parishioner from St Teresa’s parish, Donore Avenue, Dublin where Tom has been on pastoral placement for the last two years. Of course, many of his Dutch Marist confreres were there to support Tom, his family and friends but confreres came from every part of the province also. There were 30 altogether. Henk Kronenberg (NL), Bishop Emeritus of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, presided at the ordination in the Dutch language. It was a first for him because he is more accustomed to the liturgy in the language, Pidgin English of Papua New Guinea. To the sound of bells, the concelebrants walked the short distance from the presbytery to the basilica through the streets of Hulst, one of many signs that this was truly a celebration for the local community. The elegant basilica was decorated in the local colours and festive flower arrangements. A neighbour of the local Marist community mentioned particularly one moment as very moving. “When the bishop and the priests came to Tom to lay their hands on him, it was as if each individual wished to convey a special message to him”. After the ceremony, many of the guests assembled at the Marist community residence to continue the celebrations with a buffet meal. Photo gallery: bit.ly/TKordin



PRAYER INTENTION

Almighty and merciful God, empower your one human family to join hands on our journey of faith. Send us your spirit of hope, so that we may work to alleviate human suffering and foster charity and justice in our world. Amen



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The Dutch town of Hulst was the chosen destination for confreres from all parts of the province for the priestly ordination of Tom Kouijzer (NL). A community in Spain finds a creative way to undertake a Marist “pilgrimage”. The provincial solidarity committee explores ways to support efforts of Marists in the south of Italy. There was a nostalgic visit to a former Marist house in the Netherlands, and an end-of-year celebration for Marist laity in Norway. We thank all those who shared material with us. This month we bid farewell to Joaquin Fernandez who has edited EuroInfo since the beginning (October 2008). We will miss him. We thank him for his dedication and wish him every blessing in his new ministry in the Marist novitiate, Davao, the Philippines.

*Joaquín Fernández and
Martin McAnaney*

SOLIDARITY VISIT, MARCONIA, ITALY, 26-28 MAY

“This is Kevin’s mother”, was the simple introduction to one of the women in a group the Provincial Solidarity Committee met in Marconia. Kevin is a young man who is now able to play football in a motorised wheel chair, thanks to the energy of his mother and other women who have founded an association called Albatros. This is but one of the solidarity projects which the Marists in Marconia support. The purpose of the Solidarity Committee visits is to support those people engaged in diverse works of solidarity, and in addition, where possible, to build networks with other Marists engaged in similar works. In the case of Marconia, there is also a community of SMSM sisters which is an added bonus. For a more complete account of this and other projects visited by Sr Catherine SMSM and Ivan Vodopivec (Eng), follow the link: www.bit.ly/marc-sol



A WALK-THROUGH MARIST HISTORY, RETREAT IN LA VECILLA, LEÓN, SPAIN, 24 MAY

The 8 members of the Marist community of León gathered at the house of La Vecilla. Rafael Rámila (Esp) lead the retreat with activities connected to 5 places in the origins of the Marist project, represented by images hung from the trees. On a processional walk, with readings, reflections and songs, they toured the 5 stations. At the end of the tour each one was invited to return to the station with which he had most identified to continue prayer and meditation. During the Mass each had the possibility to share his experiences of the day. The most visited stations were Cerdon and La Neylière: to taste God and "God alone is enough".

MARIST LAITY CELEBRATE THE END OF YEAR, OSLO, 3 JUNE

The Norwegian lay Marists held their annual pilgrimage on the first Saturday of June. As a location, they chose Villa St Hallvard, the former noviciate house of a diocesan congregation. Although the house is in private hands today, the owners preserved the chapel in its original state. After celebrating mass, all shared a picnic in the garden. The monthly meetings of the Oslo Marist laity group will start again in the autumn.



VISIT TO LORETO, LIEVELDE, THE NETHERLANDS, 30 MAY

Confreres from the Marist communities of Enschede, Deventer and Hulst, visited the Coptic monastery of St. Theodore and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lievelde. The monastery occupies the former Marist house sold to the Coptic Orthodox Church in 2016. They were accompanied by Brs Jacques and Gerard of the Marist Brothers, and a photographer from the town of Groenlo, Peter Müller. The group was welcomed by Bishop Arseny and the Prior, Fr Maximos and their associates. After long conversations they prayed midday prayers together in the chapel.

This was followed by a richly prepared meal in the community dining room. For those who were former residents of the house, it was a somewhat nostalgic visit but an especially interesting invitation to ecumenical prayer and solidarity. Photos: bit.ly/liv-sm



OBITUARY

Mario Santirocchi (It) 01.06.2018 • Matteo Imbrici (It) 04.06.2018 • Norman Arkwright (Eng) 26.06.2018