

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

EASTER CAMP IN NORWAY

Holy Week offers a wonderful opportunity, to get better knowledge of the faith and the Church's community. While most Norwegians spent their Easter holidays in the mountains, 32 young people preparing for confirmation gathered with a team of young adults from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday to prepare and celebrate the liturgy, to have fun, and to make friends. Apart from celebrating the liturgy and answering many questions, I took time to prepare and present German Easter eggs to them!



Andreas Rupprecht, sm

NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, LONDON AND ST TERESA'S, DONORE AVENUE, DUBLIN



DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

Once a month, the Provincial and his counsellors have a Provincial Council meeting in Paris. Usually, it lasts 1 ½ days and we find ourselves under pressure to get through a packed agenda. When you are dealing with many details it's very easy to lose sight of broader issues. Sometimes you cannot see the wood for the trees.

With all this in mind, a few months ago we decided to have a couple of days in a different location and without a packed agenda. This would be a time for blue-sky thinking, for standing back and trying to see things from a different perspective.

So, this month we spent a couple of days with no agenda in a delightful retreat house fittingly called Kairos (a Greek word used in the New Testament to mean a time of grace and decision) in London, with good facilities, a warm welcome. We were helped by Sister Liz Murphy, a Mercy Sister from Ireland with a long experience of religious chapters and meetings.

It was a refreshing experience, enjoyable and useful. What do we get from it? We became aware that there are some topics that keep coming up at our meetings in Paris but receive little attention because they are important but rarely urgent – vocations, for example, lay Marists, and the ministry of intercession. And the whole question of the spiritual life of confreres and communities which is supposed to be our prime concern is hardly ever on the agenda at all!

Things must change ...

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

Vocations to the Society of Mary in Europe

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND BURSARS MEETING PARIS, 27-28 FEBRUARY



Having been in the role for less than 6 months, I was slightly hesitant about attending my first National Administrators and Bursars meeting in Paris. I've only been to Paris once before so am not familiar with the city or language, but luckily, I was able to travel with Declan Marmion and he seemed to know where he was going! We met Jimmy, Odile and Ivan the first evening and I received such a lovely welcome. In the two days that followed I met many more of you and it was such a lovely and engaging two days of meetings. I was particularly struck by the **honesty of everyone** in relation to finances, property and associated challenges. To be so open and honest allows for a much better conversation, but also allows for a **deeper understanding** and a sense that many of us are facing similar challenges or have similar experiences, which is helpful.



After my presentation on the first morning and when I could finally take a deep breath, Jimmy fired a nice question at me, which thankfully I managed to coherently respond to! And so, I left Paris feeling like I was so glad I attended and was now part of this wider and lovely group. I also left thinking that overall, it was a very worthwhile meeting, with numerous actions identified for improvement. I will look forward to the next meeting and will hopefully see some of you before then. My next stop will be a social visit to Passau, so Ludger and Alois you'll need to put the kettle on... or maybe the barbeque! À bientôt!

Dee Kinahan, Operations Manager (Ireland)

SAHAGUN REOPENING

On the 15th March, we reopened the Marist pilgrims' hostel in Sahagún, marking the start of our seventh season. During the period of closure, we took the opportunity to



promote the Camino de Santiago and to look for long-term volunteers in different places and Marist communities in Europe. Daniel has been in Norway and Ireland and Toño has been promoting among the laity and Marist schools in Toulon.

The most important event at the beginning of the season was the incorporation into the Community and the team of Father **Paul Molbwet**, from



Vanuatu, after completing his degree in Rome.

And then John McAllister was welcomed back in the community after several months absence with illness. You know where we are. If any of you would like to visit us or spend a short time helping out, we would welcome you with open arms.

Toño Fernández sm

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 17TH MARCH

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with friends, family and parishioners in **Donore Avenue, Dublin, Ireland**. In **Paris** Jimmy McElroy (Provincial Bursar) celebrated the day in style with the community!

