

► ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

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



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This month in the province time was dedicated to considering direct evangelisation activities in the city centre and to finalising the legal Statutes which help us organise ourselves so as to animate all aspects of our life and mission in Europe. The long awaited end of the renovation works at La Neylière means it is fully open for business and the community invites us to celebrate with them. The Francophone chaplaincy in Moscow too, moves into newly renovated space. We are grateful to all those who have contributed material.

Joaquín Fernández & Martin McAnaney

La Neylière gets a Makeover!

So for almost two years now, daily life in La Neylière has been run according to the rhythm of the restoration works. This long period is complete and now you are invited to the solemn inauguration of the house the weekend of September 12th and 13th 2015, with both the Superior General, Fr John Hannan and Cardinal Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon, being present.

On Saturday there will be a series of overlapping meetings focused on Marist life, a celebration at which Fr John Hannan will preside, a choral concert directed by Annick Vivarès, and a festive meal. Cardinal Barbarin will preside at the mass on Sunday for all the friends and neighbours of La Neylière after which they will be welcome to share a picnic lunch, and then those who wish, can visit the house. The Oceania Museum and the Espace Colin will open their doors.

For the sake of the better organisation of the event, it is preferable to reserve your stay in advance at 00 33 4 78 48 40 33 or accueil@neyliere.fr, giving details of your arrival date and the number of nights you wish to stay.

Prayer intention

Again this month we hear of the shocking and tragic loss in the Mediterranean Sea, of people seeking safety and a better life as they journey across the stretch of water between the African Continent and Europe. In Europe many Marist projects, parishes and schools stand in solidarity with migrant peoples. We pray for all those people who have lost their lives on the journey away from their homeland, those who experience the distress of separation from it, and all those especially in the province, who reach out to these people.



A new premises for Our Lady of Hope, Moscow

Fr Michael Ryan (Eng) tells us that the Latin Rite Catholic francophone Chaplaincy has just moved into a new premises in the Chancery building in the compound of the Immaculate Conception Church. Before this the chaplaincy used a renovated cellar of the former Polish church after it was returned to Catholic use. Along with the Korean Catholic parish, it had shared a cellar used previously to store huge quantities of potatoes! Last year the Korean chaplaincy succeeded in building their own "cultural centre" just outside the city boundaries where they now celebrate Mass. The Francophone chaplaincy has also found a new space to hold its celebrations on Sundays at 12h15. Michael also celebrates a Eucharist at 09:30 inside the US Embassy compound, and there is another Mass at 18h00 in the domestic chapel of his apartment which is provided by the US Embassy in another diplomatic compound. A complicated and busy Sunday schedule!



“Direct evangelisation is the opportunity to put Christ at the disposal of the person one meets on the street”. “Its purpose is to make Christ available to that person, not to give them something - it is Christ who offers himself in these short ‘heart to heart’ conversations”. “The attitude of a ‘witness to God’ today is one of being an instrument made available to God himself, rather than to generate opposition to him!” Raphael Cornu Thénard (www.anuncio.fr/113), director of the movement Anuncio (www.anuncio.fr), shared these and many other thoughts and experiences in the course of the first morning of the seminar. The 10 participants from Passau (Germany), Toulon (France), Deventer (The Netherlands), London (UK), Dublin (Ireland), and the general and provincial administrations, went on to explore the ministry in the province and ways to support it. The group also had an opportunity to visit some churches in Paris, which as faith communities reach out to people outside their walls.

Council of the Province, Moncalieri, Turin, April 14th – 16th



A major task for the council was to finalise a text of new Statutes for the province. The sunny weather helped brighten up what can be otherwise, a rather dull activity! Now this job is completed, the next stage of the process is to submit the text to the superior general. Other items considered were the timeline of events over the next two years, and a proposal for the province to focus on its priority of vocation promotion over the coming year. Along with this, the council considered additional plans for the animation of its apostolic mission. Importantly, there was time also for the council to enjoy the lively hospitality of Corso Francia community.



Obituary

Gérard Dupont de Dinechin (Fr) 20.04.2015

Roger Dumortier (Fr) 26.04.2015

Former SM Superior General