



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

## Fourvière, Lyons, France - the place

Since 1170 there has been a shrine at Fourvière, dedicated to Our Lady. It continues to be a place of pilgrimage where believers come to place their future in Mary's hands. In 1816 it was to the little chapel of this ancient sanctuary that twelve young men came to commit themselves to form the religious congregation of the Society of Mary as soon as possible. There is a plaque on the chapel wall to commemorate this event. In the years that followed, the Marist Family would be made up of several branches and so this shrine is of foundational significance to all Marists. Before leaving Lyon on October 15th 1836, Peter Chanel hung around the neck of the statue of the Infant Jesus at Notre Dame de Fourvière, a gilded heart which contained the prayer of consecration of the departing missionaries and their names. Since then, Marists departing for Oceania continued this tradition until the 1980s.



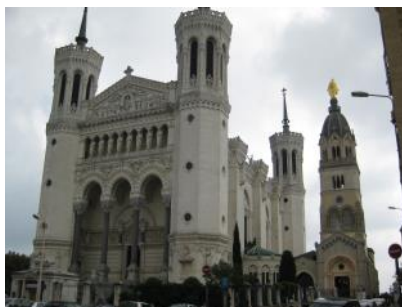
## EDITORIAL

For seven years now, faithfully at the end of each month, EuroInfo is circulated in the European province and beyond, in six languages. Exceptionally, here is an edition of it which appears before the end of the month! It is a SPECIAL EDITION focused on a unique event which we will celebrate in a year from now and which we will prepare for throughout 2015-2016: the 200th anniversary of the Pledge of Fourvière— a promise which is at the origins of the founding of the Society of Mary! This is an opportunity to give thanks for the Marist Family, and it is an opportunity for each of us, to renew the promises made in the course of our lives.

Gatherings are being planned, among them of course, is the formal celebration of the Pledge, July 23rd 2016, at 10.30 in the Basilica of Fourvière. There are some other ones too, in particular for young people in Lyon, and at La Neylière, for adults, who may wish to participate as individuals or with their families including their younger children.

In fact we are all invited to enter into the process of preparation and celebration, regardless of where we may live, for example one way would be to undertake a pilgrimage to a local Marian shrine. Another way would be to carry throughout the year, a special concern for the promotion of vocations. Regardless of the way we choose, the essential thing is that we renew our commitment to take our place in the Work of Mary today.

Hubert Bonnet-Eymard



## Promises of Yesterday and for Today

On July 20 – 23 2016, families and friends of the Marists will gather at La Neylière to experience the Promise made 200 years ago and to renew the promises made in their own lives. It is an event devised by an international group comprised of the Relais Mariste team from France and of lay people from Germany, Ireland and Italy. The programme is arranged to examine the fruits of the Promise of 1816 and to scatter the seeds of our future promises. At the end of these days, the group will join in the formal programme of festivities at the Basilica of Fourvière on July 23rd. (Catherine and Florent Nouschi)

## DARE TO DREAM, 18-23 July 2016

The week before the formal bicentenary celebration on 23 July, young people from all over the world will gather on the hill of Fourvière as a Marist family with friendship and solidarity. The programme is aimed at young people aged between 18-30 years old associated with Marist schools, parishes etc.

A leaflet with more information is available and can be requested from

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Website: [www.maristinter.org](http://www.maristinter.org)



## Prayer for the Bicentenary Year of the Pledge of Fourvière

O God, who in your providence continually send workers into your harvest, you inspired Marcellin Champagnat, Jean-Claude Colin, Étienne Déclas, Étienne Terrailon and their companions to pledge themselves to founding a new congregation with the spirit and name of Mary. May we, their heirs, men and women of the Marist family, be moved by their example. Give to us the grace to understand more clearly our call to carry on their intentions in our present world; to embrace anew the work of Mary given to us today for the building up of your Church for tomorrow in simplicity, humility and compassionate solidarity; and to step out into mission, open to the promptings of the Spirit, responsive to the needs of God's people, ready to spend ourselves and all we have, trusting in the help of Mary our good mother and our first and perpetual superior. Confident that we can do all things in him who gives us strength, we make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## Obituary

Etienne Baubion (Fr) 03.07.2015

Anthony Malone (Ire) 15.07.2015