



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Solidarity as a value no longer finds universal acceptance in society, if anything it seems to be going out of fashion! Political debate in Europe is heating up as we deal with the consequences of Brexit. Other parts of the world experience their own tensions between focusing on unity and what we have in common and being more centred on differences and separation. In recent years, these tensions are certainly more evident in the language of political discourse and can sometimes result in polarising perspectives, which is neither helpful nor honest.

The contributions in this month's issue are practical expressions of a desire for and an appreciation of the benefits of collective action in the province. Pope Francis has called the bond of solidarity "a leaven in society" that enriches the lives of those who work for it and becomes an impulse for mission for the sake of communion in society.

As Marists, we recognise our identity in the call to solidarity, the call to become "a network of interchange and solidarity to promote unity for mission while, at the same time treasuring the richness and variety that come from its international character" (SM Constitutions 158).

Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney

OBITUARY

Myles Moriarty (Eng)
20.02.2020.

EUROINFO

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HEADS OF EUROPEAN EDUCATION CENTRES PARIS, 30 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2020



This was the fifth meeting of the Heads of Education centres in the province. During these meetings participants discuss themes of common interest, share news and plan collective initiatives. The sixteen education directors who attended this year were joined by three Marist confreres more directly involved in the education ministry.

The European Marist Education Network was established in 2011 to promote collaboration amongst the education centres. The meeting this year took the opportunity to review its purpose and value: Does networking bring major benefits to the education centres or is it just another task that complicates their lives? Is it helpful to build the Network through collective projects or are there simpler ways of doing it?

Participants saw the Network as a way to grow in the understanding of the intentions of the founding generation of Marists and the experiences which gave rise to Fr Colin's insights into education. It allows the education centres to explore collectively their unique Marist character.

Together, they can develop a shared terminology which helps them discuss the common issues they face in different national contexts. Our educational centres are "companions" in a Marist enterprise and through the Network, they can act together more effectively and give flesh to the Marist ethos and characteristic spirit. Links to communicate: Eng <http://bit.ly/EdComEn> Fr <http://bit.ly/EdComFR>.





PRAYER INTENTION FOR LENT

Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your Lent, the season of grace which is your gift to your family to renew us in spirit. Help us live this Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter. Give us a heart hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give.
Amen.



MEETING OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND BURSARS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS PARIS, 12 - 13 FEBRUARY 2020

One might expect such a meeting to be all about money and legal questions but it is much more than this. Financial assets and property exist to serve the mission. The Marist confreres and their lay colleagues are key people who enable the province to fulfil its mission in Europe today and into the future.

The theme this year was "TOWARDS 2030 - *To identify a preferred scenario for collaborating together on management of both financial and administrative matters*". While some issues are unique to particular countries, participants acknowledged that the challenges they face are similar and that confronting them together puts them in a stronger position and gives them confidence. Diminishment of our internal resources is a fact which cannot be ignored and it is coming upon us rapidly.

We need to make solid plans for managing our resources in a way which respects local regulations and yet maintains our freedom to act as a religious congregation, to fulfil the mission of the Society of Mary in Europe and in other parts of the world. We still have a contribution to make to the life and mission of the Society of Mary. "There is life until there is death!". A message from lay colleagues at the meeting was that a key development to successfully accomplishing our mission is for us to deliberately integrate them into the Marist spirit, vision and values, "the Marist mind". They are not marginal to the life and mission of the province and the Society of Mary but rather, are integral to achieving it. Links to Aide-memoire: Eng <http://bit.ly/SMAB2020> Fr <http://bit.ly/SMAB2020FR>.



LAY MARIST IGNATIAN RETREAT OSLO, NORWAY, 23 -26 JANUARY 2020

Rory Mulligan (Nor) writes: "This year was the 8th annual retreat at the St Joseph Sisters' centre in Oslo. There were 9 participants. The retreat followed the standard Ignatian form: full silence, daily accompaniment and four one-hour meditations daily. Of course, the participants always find these a challenge but a very rewarding one! After three days of silence, the concluding celebration and sharing for the retreat were lively, with many ideas on how Marist spirituality can help bring more life to the local church today. At the same time, we need to find more spiritual nourishment for our personal lives. Once again, the retreat leaders were Marists, Erik Ruud and myself who have been in the Sisters' retreat team these last 30 years."

