



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

It would be impossible to hear “*echoes from the life of the European province*” without acknowledgement of the astonishing events which have unfolded over recent weeks related to our collective efforts to arrest the spread of the Corvid-19 virus. These are anxious times marked by the necessary but severe restrictions on personal liberty, assembly and mobility.

It is hard to take in the truth behind these measures that every individual who contracts the virus is a threat to every other individual.

Consequently, we could retreat into defensive individualism or we could embrace collective responsibility for others. In Europe at least, these restrictions are working not because they are enforced but because we realise that there is no substitute for a culture of personal responsibility and solidarity with our neighbour. We can protect ourselves and others, especially the more vulnerable amongst us, by consciously respecting the restrictions. Such an intuition casts new light on the message at the heart of the Gospel, the commandment to love God and our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

We are all at risk and we are all part of an effective response to the epidemic. We are learning afresh the meaning of community, solidarity and good neighbourliness. Besides reading in EuroInfo direct experiences from Marist communities in the context of these restrictions, we also receive a message about the power of collective action of a different sort in the Cameroon. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are suffering the most, those who have lost someone they love or are trying to overcome the virus.

Francisco Chauvet and Martin McAnaney

OBITUARY

RD. Henk Kronenberg (NL)
25.03.2020
Crescente Manso (Esp)
06.04.2020

EUROINFO

SOME ITALIAN CONFRERES OFFER THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON LIFE



Some confreres agreed to share their reflections on life as we face this epidemic. Here is a “mosaic” of their impressions with links to their full texts:

“The churches are open only for personal prayer. Our cities and towns are practically deserted: we must remain confined indoors to avoid the spread of contagion. One can only go out for work or health reasons, for shopping or for urgent needs... Our role as priests is to do everything we can to keep hope alive in the people”

“The desire for communion and closeness is growing”

“One feels the need for God and his protection”

“We have learned that in the global village, whatever happens in the apartment above or below, has repercussions, almost in real time, in our own dwelling... Incurable workaholics that we are, empty and slowly-moving time opens up before us like an abyss. However, this can lead us again to learn about tranquility and silence, family dialogue, the art of reading and, above all, if offers an opportunity for serious introspection. Lent, our Lent, might just become one of spiritual growth - a biblical ‘Kairos!’”

Link to the text in Italian <https://bit.ly/2UB865z> and English <https://bit.ly/2UU6x1D>





PRAYER INTENTION FOR EASTER

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son gives new life and unlocks for us the path to hope. Give us the grace to rise again with Christ and build your Kingdom, loving and serving our neighbour in the midst of the uncertainties of our world. Amen.



DRINKING WATER PROJECT IN CAMEROON



Luigi Savoldelli (It) writes: "The agricultural project is a shared one between the Marist community of Cameroon and a group of local families who are disadvantaged. Water truly is an essential, fundamental and universal element for life. Everyone here struggles constantly to gain access to water. This situation becomes even more difficult during the dry season.



This is the context for the development of a water-well for our farming project.

With the limited resources of the African District and with the help of some Italian benefactors, we dug a well for drinking water, a long and difficult task done mostly by hand. In order to access drinking water, it was necessary to dig down 15 meters and put in a layer of gravel and sand to ensure the water is clean. To bring the well into operation, we built a tower with a water tank alongside it. By means of this system, the drinking water supply is upgraded and complete.



Today the horticulture project is progressing very well, thanks in part to these interventions which provide water of good quality, both for the families participating in the project and for the cultivation of crops."



Link to the full article:

<https://jpicblog.maristsm.org/water-essential-fundamental>

ASSEMBLY OF CONFRERES, THE LINK PERSONS FOR LAY MARISTS, ROME 19-20 FEBRUARY



Marcello Pregno (It) writes: "The Marist community of Santa Francesca Cabrini welcomed the confreres involved in this assembly. Five countries were represented: Jan Hulshof (NL), Antonio Airò (It), Angel Antón (Esp), Rory Mulligan (No) and Michael Coleman (Eng). In August 2019, Antonio Airò (It) succeeded Jan Hulshof (NL) as Provincial Delegate for Lay Marists and this assembly was the opportunity to take stock of the situation of the ministry in the province. The group shared about their national and European realities, including the challenges we face. They reflected on future collaboration with laity and the interdependence between the Province and Lay Marists for the future of our mission in Europe. Special attention was given to a proposal to provide a means which would allow individual laypersons to make a personal commitment within the Marist congregation. The text of a "Memorandum of Association" (Lay Marist Associates) needs to be submitted to further consultation.

