



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

As the world struggles to get back to "normality" albeit a fragile one, many signs are visible of the endurance of life and hope in both Church and society. Things will most certainly never be the same again.

The Covid-19 crisis has revealed the deep and often invisible gaps between people who nevertheless share the same dignity and the same vocation: to be fully God's children, created and transformed by love and grace.

Our province too has gone through this "Kairos", this "favourable time" (2 Cor. 6:2), and it too has shared in the pain and the suffering. Yet it also shares in the hope and the task now at hand: To build a new Church, a Church with a Marian face (Jean-Claude Colin, A Founder Speaks, 120,1).

This month EuroInfo shares with us some of these signs of hope: A timeless liturgy with a poignant and hope-filled quality; a social program that will not be stopped; Marist confreres who meet again, to cast off their doubts and fears and to celebrate the Spirit that calls us forward. May we all share in this new mission at hand.

*Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Gonzalo García Monasterio
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EUROINFO

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE "MADONNA DELLA LIBERA", PRATOLA PELIGNA, MAY 3

Renato Frappi (It) writes: "Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the 2020 celebration of the *"Festa della Madonna della Libera in Pratola Pelligna"* was held behind closed doors. Only part of the religious programme could be organised. The celebration was held without the usual crowds of pilgrims filling the streets.

Yet its success was enormous among the faithful thanks to the hard work of the television crews and to the social media platforms which allowed us to broadcast the event all over the globe. Five satellite channels including the diocesan TV channel, *"Onda TV Sulmona"*, and all the parish's Facebook pages, broadcast the solemn celebration on Saturday (2 May).

It was followed by the faithful not only in Italy but also in France, Belgium, Venezuela, Canada, the United States and other countries where people originally from Pratola, now live. Viewers numbered over forty thousand. After the recitation of the Rosary, everyone was able to follow the *"Esposizione della Madonna"*, the moment when the statue of the Virgin moves forward towards the faithful by means of a mechanical device and is then greeted by the assembly.



We will have to wait until next year to witness again the impressive entry into the Basilica of the pilgrims from Gioia dei Marsi, who walk all the way from their town to Pratola and enter the church on their knees. Our Bishop, Michele Fusco, and the many concelebrants, led by myself as parish priest, invoked Mary's help to rid the world of the virus that has dramatically affected almost the whole planet."



Link to Fr. Frappi's homily in English
<https://bit.ly/3h0CpvU>
and Italian
<https://bit.ly/2BGXz1V>



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD



PRAYER INTENTION FOR HEALING

Lord, when evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. May we find serenity in your presence, and purpose in your will. Amen.

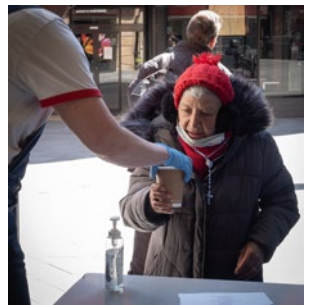


SANDWICH SERVICE AT NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE DURING LOCKDOWN, LONDON

Ivan Vodopivec (Eng) writes: "On March 14th the routine of our sandwich service for the homeless all but stopped. The lockdown was introduced and naturally, due to social distancing measures our drop-in centre was not able to welcome our guests safely. Westminster council (municipal authorities) swung into action and along with initiatives similar to our own, began to work out how we can serve the most vulnerable people in our city in a safe way. Although accommodation had been found for over 400 people almost instantly, there was still the need to get food to those on the streets.

It was decided that our sandwich service would provide some food on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Saturdays at noon. We welcome on average between 80 -100 guests at every service. I find it humbling to see our visitors queuing, respecting the social distancing rules, waiting patiently and quietly (some not so quietly perhaps!) and having received their food, leaving with a heartfelt 'thank you'.

Our guests have taught me to appreciate and value what I have and how rich my life is because of the people who are part of it. One of our volunteers, Cosme, put it well when he said, '...certainly, the sandwich service is ostensibly about food (people are hungry) but it is also about an encounter, a link, a connection, a means to relate to the vulnerable'. So, when I see the exchange of smiles, the humour and laughter between our volunteers and guests, what might be seen as ordinary becomes extraordinary and, in that encounter, I see the face of the living God."



SPANISH COMMUNITIES GATHER AT LA VECILLA, LEON, SPAIN, 26 MAY

Dani Fernandez (Spa) writes: "After almost 70 days of lockdown, the confreres from the communities of Leon, including those confreres living in the 'Casa Sacerdotal' residence, and Sahagún were able to meet at 'La Vecilla', the Marist pastoral centre located in the countryside. We were blessed with splendid weather for this joyful moment of sharing and catching up. It was also an opportunity during the liturgy, to remember with sadness, yet gratitude, all of those who have left us due to this pandemic. We rounded off the day with a fraternal barbecue. It was a beautiful occasion of again being able to meet and celebrate after being apart for so long."

