



## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The amount of human experience that can be packed into 100 years of life is impressive. We get a taste of this in the piece about our centenarian confrere, Br Paulus (NL). He has witnessed extraordinary events in his lifetime.

The course of events leading up to the inauguration of the new American president this month generated some commentators to ask whether it is really possible to reconcile faith and politics. Can Christian belief and morality really become a foundation on which to build a peaceful, loving and inclusive society? This month we read the opinion of one English politician that Christians should be involved in politics for the sake of the common good.

Educators in the Marist tradition also believe that the Marist heritage has the potential to make a valuable contribution to civic life. All that is needed is that we remain faithful to that tradition and seek authenticity to the Marist spirit!  
Congratulations, Br Paulus!

*Francisco Chauvet  
and Martin McAnaney*

## OBITUARY

Yves Gouget (Fr) 30.01.2021

# EUROINFO

## BR PAULUS TANGHE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY, HULST, THE NETHERLANDS



The day after Br Paulus celebrated his 100th birthday, the local newspaper published a short article with the headline: "Br Paulus, already a century on earth". Because of pandemic restrictions, only the community and house personnel were able to celebrate this centenary on 29th December with a Mass, followed by a festive meal. Br Paulus enjoys good health and is still able to do what he enjoys.

He was born as Petrus Tanghe on 29th December 1920, the 7th child in a family of 14 in Hoofdplaat, a small village in the western part of Zeeuws-Vlaanderen. Like his brothers and sisters, Petrus helped on his parents' farm. After finishing agricultural school, he started to think about his future. Finally, he decided to join religious life and to become a brother in the Society of Mary. He arrived in the Marist house of Hulst in 1941.

Accompanied by one of his brothers, he travelled to Glanerbrug en Losser, the Marist house of formation to enter the formation programme. Travel was not easy during the war but they arrived in May 1943. He began his noviciate on 21st November 1943. However, the Germans occupied the house of Glanerbrug in October 1944 and the students and novices were welcomed into several families in Glanerbrug. Br Paulus made his first profession on 12th September 1945. For the next 35 years, he worked on the farm attached to the Marist formation house of Lievelede. He did a second noviciate in Verdelaix, France, in 1968.

He returned to Hulst in 1982 where he still lives and enjoys life today. Weather permitting, he likes to visit the river de Schelde on his motorbike! Congratulations and thank you, Br Paulus. We wish you every blessing in the years to come!





## REFLECTION ON THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, LONDON

Alexanne Dieu is a member of *Gaudete*, a group of students and young professionals which meets at Notre Dame de France. She writes, "Despite the current COVID challenges, we managed to organise an opportunity to reflect on and deepen our understanding of Catholic social teaching.



As part of this reflexion, I had the great joy of inviting Mr Dominic Grieve (British barrister and former Attorney General for England and Wales) to speak to us on 'Faith and Politics'. His talk struck me as both bold and balanced, encouraging all of us Christians to get involved in politics, putting aside our fears of making wrong decisions or finding that we may have to make compromises.



### PRAYER INTENTION FOR LENT

Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus, seeking you in those we often ignore. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give. Amen.



Politics, he said, involves taking a stand on some deeply ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and sexuality. While compromise may be necessary in 'the art of the possible', most of the major acts of social progress achieved in the past centuries were based on Christian principles in action. One example is William Wilberforce, whose Christian beliefs lead him to fight for the abolition of the slave trade at the beginning of the 19th century. Mr. Grieve reminded us that our

history has a long tradition of Christians being involved in politics, working not only for their community but for the common good, and from whom we may draw inspiration: "One thing that I'm absolutely convinced about, is that Christians should be involved in politics". Click on the link for the talk in English on YouTube: [bit.ly/NDFGrieveTalk](https://bit.ly/NDFGrieveTalk)

## MEETING OF THE MARIST EUROPEAN EDUCATION NETWORK, VIA ZOOM 29 JANUARY 2021

Since face-to-face meetings are almost impossible, the annual meeting of the 18 Heads of Education Centres in the European Province with members of the Provincial Education Committee was done by Zoom. Most of the principals were able to attend and they heard a presentation by Fr Alois Greiler (Ger) on 'The Challenge of Marist Heritage - Leadership in Marist Schools Today'.



He invited the participants to reflect on the power of spaces and objects to communicate the Marist tradition and the importance for leadership teams to make the most of these tools. The



presentation generated a lot of discussion which revealed that creative things are being done. Participants agreed that more needs to be done to pass on Marist values and characteristic spirit to the next generation. The meeting also included both an update on Education Network activities and plans for the next meeting to take place in Lyon in November, hopefully, face-to-face!