



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We are still living in uncertain and even contradictory times, an easing of restrictions, fear and anxiety and yet hope! The challenge for us is to return to our spiritual roots and find there a call to life to the fullest.

Traditionally, for many, the summer months have been the opportunity to make time for God, as in a retreat, pilgrimage or a meeting to seek new ways to build his Kingdom. This month we read about such opportunities.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Thomas Tuohy (Ire) 10.07.2021

PRAYER INTENTION

Lord of history, watch over the continent of Europe and its peoples, united by so many ties but also divided, over time, by hatred and war. Help us work for a Europe of the Spirit, a Europe capable of ethnic and ecumenical reconciliations, ready to welcome the stranger, and respectful of each person's dignity. Grant us the grace to assume our duty with a hope that ensures justice and bread, freedom and peace for all.
(Inspired by a prayer by Cardinal Martini).

EUROINFO

LA NEYLIÈRE - THE HOUSE OF WELCOME REOPENS, JUNE 2021



Jimmy McElroy (Ire) writes: "For the best part of a year the house of La Neylière has been prevented from welcoming guests due to pandemic restrictions. We re-opened our doors on 9 June to much rejoicing. With Ray Chapman (Aus) and Jan Hulshof (NL), we have had the whole house to ourselves and to have guests walking the corridors of this big house again, certainly felt different and I would say, even a bit strange.

The staff are back to their routine tasks too so we no longer have to cook for ourselves. Thankfully, we had been able to celebrate Mass with a congregation for most of the year despite Covid. School and personal development groups are back. The Society of African Missions (SMA) held their annual retreat here and another 5-day retreat was led by Bernard Boisseau (Fr) with 36 participants, mostly women religious. So, the retreat atmosphere of peace is slowly returning to the house.

As a pioneer, Ray explored the possibility of a "Marist Camino" in the Bugey mountains where the Marists first carried out their mission. He believes it is possible but it will not be an easy adventure.

Another retreat organized by the community will be led by Paul Walsh (Ire) towards the end of August. Life is slowly picking up again as in most places in Europe!"





MEETING OF THE SM FATHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MARIST LAITY

Ever since the Province of Europe began preparing its Provincial Chapter two years ago, a central issue for the Marist religious has been to best integrate the perspective of the Marist laity and our lay colleagues into our discernment. A Provincial Chapter is the moment when we look back over the last 4 years, take stock of our reality and try to hear God's call to us today and plan for the future. Marist laity live in the world we seek to serve and evangelise. They are full members of the Marist Family, sharing in the common Marist mission. Their voice is indispensable in our discernment process as we seek to do together the Work of Mary.

The confreres responsible for linking with Marist laity in each country met via Zoom on 6 July to discern the best way to involve the laity in the Chapter's process. Also, present was a representative of the Precapitular Committee. As the time is short, this question remains something which needs further reflection. Our challenge for the future is to explore new forms of collaboration with our partners in mission. We are aware that the important contribution made by those engaged with us in the different areas of SM's mission – e.g., education, parish, retreats, social justice, will become ever more significant in the future.

"LOVE AND DO WHAT YOU WILL", A RETREAT LED BY BERNARD BOISSEAU (FR), LA NEYLIÈRE, 5-10 JULY

Among the 36 participants, there were religious from the different branches of the Marist family. A Marist Brother from Larajasse followed the retreat returning from Hungary after many years on mission there. There were also religious from the local congregations of St Joseph and St Charles. Bernard writes, "We reflected on St. Augustine's life and teachings in order to make his prayer our own. 'Lord my God ... give me the strength to seek you, for you help me to find you, and you have given me more and more the hope of finding you'. With Augustine, we 'offered hospitality to God into our lives' with the desire to 'continue to welcome God at all times, in all circumstances'. The time of silence during a retreat is necessary to give us courage to continue our spiritual journey. For many participants, it was a time of renewal 'to love, hope and live in confidence'."

MARIST DAY IN WALSINGHAM, ENGLAND, 3 JULY

Each year, the Marist family in England organise a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. The different branches come from around the country for a day of prayer and celebration of their Marist identity. The Marist Fathers and Sisters have a long history at the place of developing the shrine ministry and welcoming pilgrims. During the pilgrimage this year, Mgr. Canon Philip Moger express his appreciation of the Marist contribution to the life of the shrine. The local Marist community of Well-next-the-Sea continues to carry responsibility for the parish in Walsingham. There was doubt about the annual Marist pilgrimage taking place this year but it happened.

Pam Kershaw, a member of the Marist Way and the European Lay Marist Coordination group, writes: "The pilgrimage this year was very different due to Covid-19 restrictions. The numbers were down because people were reluctant to travel with the rising numbers in Covid infections. But those pilgrims that made the journey enjoyed a day of Marist hospitality at its best. Warm welcomes, renewal of old friendships, and receiving the Eucharist once again in the Basilica with our Marist priests celebrating Mass. The threatened thunderstorms never materialised and we enjoyed a balmy summer day for the picnic lunch, followed by a leisurely walk of the Holy Mile, and evening prayer in the gardens in Elham House. Our Marist spirituality shone out through every pilgrim there, what a pleasure to have been part of it."

