



EURO info



To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...

VISIT OF THE MARISTUA COMMUNITY, OSLO, TO WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA COMMUNITY, UK, 8-10 FEBRUARY



Andreas Rupprecht (Ger/No) writes: "Early in February, members of the Maristua community, Strømmen, fled the snow of Norway in order to get a glimpse of spring in Norfolk. We saw a blanket of snowdrops covering the impressive gardens of the former Abbey of Walsingham. However, the main purpose of this weekend trip, was to meet the confrères in the community of Wells. We had the opportunity to get to know the place where they work and live while enjoying their hospitality. We took time to build communion with one another through conversation, joining in prayer and enjoying meals together. We also had the privilege of visiting the different churches they serve. Our visit concluded with a traditional Sunday lunch at The Black Lion pub in Walsingham."

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The season of Lent was launched by two distinguished visitors at Notre Dame de France, London. They offered reflections on contemporary events, both political and religious, giving food for thought and cause for hope. The Year of Celebrating Community Life continues in the province with a visit from Norway to England. The meeting of national administrators and bursars continued the work of building greater solidarity in the province. We thank those who contributed so much inspiring material.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

PRAYER INTENTION

For unity amongst Christians: We thank you Lord, for the many colours, cultures, and customs that we share in this world. In our differences, unite us by your love. Enable us to act together to uphold life and to make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity.



OBITUARY Bernard Peillon (FR) 06.03.2019

MEETING OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND BURSARS, PARIS, 13-14 FEBRUARY

Jimmy McElroy, provincial bursar, writes: "The purpose of this annual meeting is to build up a sense of solidarity between national groups and to encourage accountability to one another within the European province. To achieve this, the national and provincial administrations come together with their lay assistants to share about the financial situation both in their respective countries and globally. This year I attended for the first time as provincial bursar and also present for the first time, was Bertrand La Clavière, our new European Finance and Administration manager. Bertrand has been examining the harmonised accounts of the European province in order to identify financial trends to help us better manage our activities. He offered a tentative analysis of our financial situation. He reported that our national groups are managing our financial resources well which was encouraging to hear. John Harhager, general bursar to the Society of Mary, was also with us and gave a presentation on the Society's finances. He also made particular reference to the importance of having protocols for financial control in order to protect our financial resources and all the people involved with them."



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AT NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, LONDON, 5 AND 10 MARCH



Hubert Bonnet-Eymard (Fr) writes: "At the beginning of Lent, we had the joy of welcoming two very special visitors. Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP (5 March) delivered a conference on "Christians in the

Muslim World: Signs of Hope". With great enthusiasm and humour, Fr Timothy offered his support for "FACE" (Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East), the young organisation which recently appeared in England and is a sister congregation of the "L'Œuvre d'Orient", founded in France in 1856. While drawing on his many field visits – to Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Algeria - he stressed the importance of dialogue, prayer, music, study ... And with a lot of tact, he pleaded in favour of 'staying', in so far as this is possible. In this he made reference, on the one hand, to the situations that force many people to leave their country, and on the other, to Christians from the West tempted to leave the Church.

A few days later (Sunday, 10 March), the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, gave us the pleasure of his visit. On 18 February 1970, the church of Notre Dame de France hosted the historic meeting between Cardinal



Marty, Archbishop of Paris and President of the French Episcopal Conference, and Dr Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of the Anglican Communion. Archbishop Welby, during the principal Sunday Mass, encouraged us to pray wholeheartedly for unity amongst Christians. Drawing on the Liturgy of the Word for this first Sunday of Lent (Dt 26, 4-10, Luke 4, 1-13), he developed a profound reflection on the question of identity, speaking about the identity of peoples and nations as well as personal identity. He pleaded for an identity which is open to 'otherness', rather than an identity that feeds on fear and may be tempted to close in on itself. (His homily in French www.bit.ly/abjwFRE and English www.bit.ly/abjwENG). With a lot of realism, the two speakers referred directly to current political and religious events, and left us with words filled with great hope.