



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Change occurs naturally in life, yet often we find it challenging when it comes our way.

The pandemic generated enormous changes in almost every aspect of routine life, and little of it was welcome. While it caused a great deal of suffering, and still does, we adapted.

Now most of us are struggling to rediscover the ordinary patterns in our lives. In the face of change, our faith urges us not to be afraid and to embrace it trusting in God, who is our constant companion on the journey of life, wherever that road leads us, in good times and in bad. Every journey is full of changes, some arrive suddenly and others occur gradually.

This month we read of celebrations to honour the achievements on the Marist journey in Toulon and Coslada and of the return to the normal pattern of a fraternal holiday in France now that restrictions are easing. There is a season for everything, planting and harvesting.

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EUROINFO

CELEBRATION OF 175 YEARS OF MARIST SERVICE IN THE TOULON REGION



Paul Walsh (Ire) writes: "It all began in 1846, when a group of missionaries on their way to Oceania started the Sainte Marie school at La Seyne, Toulon. Marists are still present, alive and well in the three schools, and in the Marist Cultural and Spiritual Centre (CCSM) through the many laypeople who share with us in the common Marist mission.

The two-day programme included a reception, a magnificent concert of sacred music, and guided tours of the chapel. The Centre was beautifully decorated with panels presenting the different dimensions of the Marist mission since its origins. Lionel Roos-Jourdan, a teacher with a passion for Marist history, brought the afternoon to an end with a detailed and fascinating presentation of the beginnings of the Marist Fathers' presence in Toulon. On Sunday 19 September, a festive Eucharistic celebration brought together a large assembly in the chapel of the Institut Sainte Marie. Wallisian singers and dancers carrying the Book of the Word and offerings highlighted the connection between the Toulon community and the Mission in Oceania.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the generations of Marists, Fathers, Sisters and laity, who have gone before us – they are a source of inspiration to guide us in the years to come". Link to the full text in En: <https://bit.ly/2Xp3LHa> and Fr: <https://bit.ly/30yw72R>; photo gallery: <https://bit.ly/3DTroHv>; PowerPoint presentation (in Fr): <https://bit.ly/3alapLx>



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD



THE MARIST FATHERS' MINISTRY IN THE PARISH OF COSLADA, MADRID, SPAIN COMES TO AN END

PRAYER INTENTION

Lord, we are aware of and thankful for change in our lives, for it is you who guides and encourages us to advance in the journey of life. We thank you for the new and different experiences, even though we feel challenged and uncertain. As our lives continue to change around us, may we become more aware of your care and protection. Amen.

The Marist Fathers have served the parish of Saint Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles since December 1973. The moment has come to hand the parish ministry over to the diocese after 48 years. The last Marist parish priest, Ramón Fernández (Esp), writes:

"Under the protection of the great apostle Paul and animated by our Marist intuitions, we have all planted the seed of the simple, humble presence of Mary, the perfect disciple of Jesus. Several priests from the archdiocese and Marist Fathers, joined the Vicar General of the Diocese of Alcalá, Don Florentino Rueda, for a celebration of the Eucharist on 11 September. In his address he highlighted the pastoral service our congregation had provided over so many years and he thanked us on behalf of the Diocese for our presence and apostolic work. The assembled faithful who filled the church shared their message of gratitude and regret at our departure."

A member of the group of Marist Laity and of the parish council, Mrs. Pepita Sánchez, said in her words of farewell to the Marist Fathers, "Each one of you has given us the best of yourselves and each one of you evokes in our hearts unforgettable and endearing moments. For this reason, our gratitude goes to each and every one of you who have passed through here. We want you to know that we will never tire of thanking God for the gift he has given us through your presence among us. We will always welcome you with open arms and we will always keep you in our prayers. We also know this is a difficult time for you and we hope that, wherever you find yourselves, you will continue to respond to the challenges that the Lord places before you." Link to the full text Esp: <https://bit.ly/3p5wOed> and Eng: <https://bit.ly/3j4QYBa>. Photos: <https://bit.ly/2YTUWpC>



"RELAIS MARISTE" ENCOUNTER IN FRANCE, AUGUST



Relais Mariste is a week-long group holiday which offers opportunities for reflection mostly for families linked to the Marists. It is organised every two years. Pascal Boidin (Fr) writes: "This summer, there were 75 participants aged from 2 to 78, 40 adults, including 5 Marist religious, and 35 children and young people. The location was La Chaise Dieu, 40 kilometres north of Le Puy in the Auvergne region of central France. The mornings were devoted to reflection and the afternoons to relaxation. Themes for reflection and sharing focused on *Laudato Si'* and our relationship to ecology. The morning sessions were prepared by the participants themselves. They were asked to write down three words that best summarized their experience. "Friendship", "joy" and "fraternity" came on top. As we returned home, I was deeply thankful for the beautiful experience of Church we had shared."

