



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We have not yet emerged from almost two years of loss, trial and struggle due to the pandemic. Yet this experience has not been entirely one of hardship, especially for those of us who have the gift of the Gospel. Hope is more than an essential Christian virtue to which we aspire, it is a ministry, a mission to the world around us. Marist ministries for today and the future need to draw inspiration from the first generation of Marists who were called to offer the people of their age a faith-response to the upheaval of the French Revolution and the hardships of that time.

Marists are missionaries of hope, called to serve our neighbour, irrespective of our own vulnerability. We are still called to do the Work of Mary.

In this edition of EuroInfo, we read the witness of a faith community that faced the challenge of the epidemic, and of two confreres who have embraced the challenge of change and a new mission for today and for a future which is uncertain.

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

EUROINFO

JOURNEY THROUGH THE PANDEMIC: A TESTIMONY FROM DUBLIN, IRELAND

Marists have been working in the parish of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Donore Avenue, Dublin, since 1980. The parish team and parishioners have produced a book about their experience of the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns during the years 2020 to 2021. Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin, wrote the foreword. The first part of the book is a social chronicle of the parish's response to the pastoral challenges during these difficult times. Part two brings together the personal perspectives of parishioners, including prayers and poems. The book is beautifully laid out, and is interesting and easy to read. It is a moving testimony of a faith community developing great solidarity and a spirit of prayer with the church as the place to meet. *Journey through the Pandemic*. The experience of life in the parish of St. Teresa's during the Covid-19 pandemic 2020 to 2021, Dublin, private publication, December 2021, produced by Donal Bergin, Deirdre Farrell, Alice O'Connell and Fr Alois Greiler, layout by Marie Reilly, Chaos Design.

Copies are available from the parish office at info@donoreavenueparish.ie or dcorrigan181@gmail.com.



MARIST VOCATION YEAR REFLECTION SHEETS



During this special year focused on the Marist vocation, a series of reflection sheets has been prepared. The one for this month is on the theme of *Nazareth and Marist Spirituality*.

Links to the different languages
Deutsch: <https://bit.ly/mvy3DEU>
English: <https://bit.ly/mvy3EN>
Español: <https://bit.ly/mvy3ESP>
Français: <https://bit.ly/mvy3FR>
Nederlands: <https://bit.ly/mvy3NL>
Italiano: <https://bit.ly/mvy3IT>



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD



A MISSIONARY COMES HOME

Michele Palumbo (Ita) has served as a missionary for 47 years in Latin America and has recently returned to Italy. He writes: "It was 14 December 1973 when, at the age of 27, on board an Alitalia plane, I landed at the airport of Maiquetia (Caracas-Venezuela). The first shock was with the weather. It was 300 C. at 7:00 a.m., when in Rome it was zero! But the biggest and most beautiful impression was the encounter with the people of this beautiful country: their joy, generosity, simplicity, religiosity, fraternity and good humour."



During the 35 years of my stay in Venezuela, I had the opportunity to collaborate in many activities: building churches and also the Juan Claudio Colin College, training catechists, accompanying groups and movements, providing animation for young people, accompanying vocational discernment, forming choirs and musical groups, and of course, administering the sacraments. After some time in Venezuela, my superiors asked me to go to Peru to work on the Marist formation programme and the administration of the Colegio San José de la Perla. Those were five difficult and intense years, in a country marked by great poverty and, at the same time, a great spirit of hard work and struggle. After working in the District of Peru-Venezuela, I requested a move to the Province of Mexico and was given the opportunity to join the mission community in Chiapas. It has been 8 very beautiful and difficult years, in a parish of 45 communities spread over a radius of 110 km. The decision to return to my country after 48 years in Latin America was not an easy one. I am now 75 years old. Another phase is beginning for me, another mission... God will tell where and how."



SERVING THE MISSION OF THE WIDER SOCIETY OF MARY – PADDY O'HARE (IRE)



At short notice, Paddy O'Hare left the community and his active participation in the Marist project in Toulon, and joined the international novitiate team in Italy. The novice master, David Sanchez (Mex), writes: "Paddy has been part of the team accompanying the eleven candidates since 17 December. They began their novitiate programme at the beginning of January 2022. His presence has been welcomed with joy, both by the team and the novices, because his simple but effective way of being and doing things is very much "Mary's way". Although his call to participate in the novitiate was unexpected, the way he responded was prompt, knowing that this formation ministry has been evolving, but he was willing to accept the changes and the challenge of accompanying these young men on their vocational journey."

While his main role is to be present as a support for the team and he serves as a confrere with a wide experience of Marist life for the novices. Paddy also gives presentations on religious life, liturgy, the Bible, and prayer life, not to mention, accompanying the group in singing and music. Each of these lessons forms part of the full program offered to the novices by the formation team. We must emphasize that the figure of Paddy has been inspiring for the novices, as they have begun to show interest in developing areas of spirituality and human growth through contact with nature, ways that some of them had not considered before. For all these reasons, Paddy is very much appreciated by the whole community, where we hope it will be, also for him, a moment of growth and richness in the Lord Jesus in the manner of Mary."

PRAYER INTENTION

- Based on a prayer from the book, Journey through the Pandemic, Dublin, 2021

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come to you in our vulnerability, with our fears and anxieties. Yet we come to you also with trust, for you alone are our hope. We turn to you in our time of need. Bring wisdom to medical personnel, our politicians, and recreate our communities. Endow caregivers with your compassion and generosity. Heal those who are ill, protect those at risk and comfort those who have lost loved ones. Replace fear in our hearts with love and hope in your compassion for us. Amen

