



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The Gospel account of the five loaves and two fishes has an important lesson for us Marists in Europe: Jesus does not solve the problems by himself. He calls on his disciples, he works with them. They become bridges of hope between himself and the crowd, between God and his people. But importantly, through the twelve baskets of bread gathered at the end, he teaches us that, in spite of having little, we have enough to feed the crowd, and always will! Yet to provide nourishment for all, we have to let go of our human perspective, our worries and fears. In fact, this is the Work of Mary, to share a gift that comes from God! In this month's issue, we read of letting go, of moving on and of celebrations that remind us that Jesus walks with us towards a future that is both uncertain and life-giving!

*Francisco Chauvet and
Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Michael Simison
(Eng) 2.6.2022
Charles Sureau
(Fra) 26.6.2022

EURO INFO

EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2022



Declan Marmion (Ire) is the new vicar provincial for Europe. He writes: "One of the first things we can say about the Provincial Chapter is that it finally happened! After three postponements, we finally met physically in Casa LaSalle, Rome (7 – 14 June). The Chapter took as its theme the building of a new kind of church and the strengthening of the bonds that unite us. The Provincial's report encouraged us in this direction and its description and analysis of the state of the Province, were wholeheartedly endorsed by the Chapter delegates. It offers the new Provincial and Council an indispensable vademecum for the next few years.

The Chapter also heard, discussed, and approved excellent reports in the areas of Finance, Education, Legislation, Vocations and Solidarity. The Chapter statements will be communicated to confreres in due course as will the updated Provincial Statutes, once they have been approved by the Superior General. There were some rumblings about the working process of the Chapter as some felt it took us too long to get into the 'meat' or 'decision-making' aspect of the Chapter. Clearly there is learning for us in terms of planning the 2025 Chapter.

In all, the Chapter reinforced its commitment to the mission of the Society of Mary in Europe. Yes, we will have to continue along the path of consolidation of our communities and ministries. As the Spanish proverb puts it, 'we have to plough with the oxen we have!' Our contribution in the future will be smaller and more modest but our vocation is still valid. The candles are still burning. Mary's call persists."





PRAYER INTENTION FOR MIDSUMMER



As the sun rises, Lord, let your light shine on me - the warmth of your presence, the brightness of your love, the radiance of your joy, the shining of your hope. May your light guide me, your light lead me, your light direct me. As the sun rises, Lord, let your light shine on me. Amen. (From a Celtic prayer)

FAREWELL PARTY AT THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE

Aude Guesnon, the house manager for the provincial community (104), writes: "Departures are often an opportunity for our loved ones to show their appreciation of us and, of course, to wish us well. The farewell party (22 June) illustrated this. About forty people met at 104 rue de Vaugirard for the farewell-do of the Provincial, Martin McAnaney (Ire), and the Provincial Vicar, Jean-Marie Bloqueau (Fr), whose mandate ended on 30 June. They were joined by a whole 'ecosystem' of the Marists of Montparnasse - Frs Georges Richard, Olivier Laurent, François Drouilly, François Chauvet, Jean-Yves Denizet, the Dominican Sisters, the Marist community of Bon Secours, the Marist Brothers, the Marist Fraternities, the team from Le Forum, the gardeners and personnel. This was a testimony to the friendship and esteem in which they hold Frs McAnaney and Bloqueau, but also, more globally, for the whole Marist community. Olivier Laurent (Fra) expressed *'our gratitude for these years when we had the opportunity to cross your paths or to collaborate with you. Devoting days and nights to the service of the Marists of the Province of Europe has not been easy. [Yet you took] up the challenge of a renewed local presence and think of a common future.'* After the aperitif, all the participants shared a simple but extremely fraternal meal, served in the dining room of 104. A little tight but very happy with this moment shared in honour of Frs McAnaney and Bloqueau who have contributed to weaving those invisible yet very real links that connect all the women and men involved in and alongside the Community."



JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD! SAHAGÚN, 24 JUNE 2022

Rafael Rámila (Spa) writes: "A sign on the door of the Marist albergue of Sahagún, said in several languages: "Albergue closed for staff break". In truth, the albergue was closed because the Marist community was celebrating the golden jubilee of the priestly ordination of our confrere Angel Antón. Six Marists from León attended, along with two from Madrid and Fr Juanjo, the parish priest of Sahagún. The mass in the hostel chapel was solemn and simple. In his homily, Angel emphasised that, 'When God closes doors, he opens windows. The Spirit guided me and continues to guide me along unexpected paths.' After the fraternal meal, experiences of the Chapter held recently in Rome were shared by those of us who had attended it. Afterwards, we visited the new community residence. The day ended with a time of thanksgiving in the chapel: 'Holy Mary, pray for us and for all Marists!'"



CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT, PARIS (6 JUNE)

Jean-Bernard Jolly (Fra) writes, "The Marist Brothers community of rue Dareau revived a tradition of a common celebration of the Marist family in Paris which was interrupted by the pandemic. The two communities of Brothers of the region of Paris generously welcomed the two Marist Fathers communities of Paris, as well as members of the Marist Fraternities and the Champagnat Laity. We opened the meeting with a very lively celebration in the chapel of the Brothers. A magnificent buffet allowed everyone to sit down and eat, to get to know each other for the first time or to reconnect with old friends. We are grateful to Br. André Deculty, superior of the rue Dareau residence, and to those who helped to organise the gathering."

