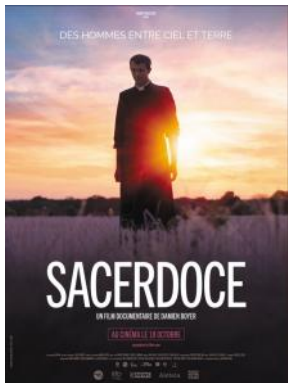


DEVELOPING VOCATIONS AWARENESS IN NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE: THE MOVIE "SACERDOCE" (PRIESTHOOD) AND MORE



The francophone chaplaincy in London has many activities with the students who are enrolled at for catechesis class at very levels. One of the key activities for this academic year was showing the movie "*Sacerdoce*" produced by Damien Boyer, a French film producer. The movie was shown at the Prince Charles cinema next to Notre Dame de France on Sunday 17th November 2024. The movie is based on the life and mission of some French priests. It was an exciting moment for the youths, students and their parents meeting the producer after the movie in a question-and-answer session in the Church. The showing of the movie is part of the activities of the NDF for vocations awareness for the youths and more especially for students and young adults preparing for the sacrament of confirmation.



In addition to the movie and for more visibility of the Marist community and team serving at Notre Dame de France, a photo exhibition was setup in the gallery of the church on the same day. In this exhibition, we have an overview of the mission and all the entities of the parish. Each Marist serving at Notre Dame de France told the story of his/her vocation.



Since this was just around the date of the anniversary of the death of Jean-Claude Colin, it was also an opportunity to celebrate his life and to share with the people the rich legacy that we have inherited from him and the first Marists. The parish newsletter of that week was on the life of the Jean-Claude Colin, who are the Marists and the mission of the Marist family in our world of today "called to begin a new church". *This is one of the means of creating*

Marist vocations awareness among the students and young adults in the various groups of our parish in London.

The photo exhibition will remain in the church for the coming months. We invite all who visit the church to pray for vocations in the church and more especially in the Marist family.

Christian Abongbung, sm

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

I write these words for the first number of EuroInfo for 2025 from the Marist community in rue Sala, Lyon. A few doors down on the other side of the street is a residence of the Marist Sisters. Later today, I hope to be travelling by train with Sister Marie-Thérèse SM and Sister Anastasie SMSM for a meeting of Marist Family provincials in the house of the Marist Brothers in Barcelona – the Marist Brothers have a single province of France-Catalonia. Hopefully this will be a useful and enjoyable family outing, and also an opportunity for some of us to see for the first time the marvel of modern Christian architecture that is La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. While in Barcelona, members of the Marist family and the family of Xavier Béchettoille who died recently will be coming together for his funeral mass in Lyon.

Martin Simna, the Major Superior of the African District, has written a moving testimony to Xavier, a great missionary who served for many years in Senegal, Burundi and Cameroon, and it will be read at the funeral.

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION:

the life and mission of the Marist Brothers

AUSTRALIAN MARIST TEACHERS IN THE MONTS DU LYONNAIS



I was happy to be asked to act as chaplain to a group of Australian Marist teachers visiting the Marist places in the Lyon and Belley regions. Sr. Teri O'Brien was our intrepid guide.

We stayed firstly in La Neylière and then in Belley. We visited all the usual Marist foundational places, and *it was a moving experience*. It was good to see that some of the small churches in the Bugey mountains had gotten something of a facelift.

And of course, it is so nice to feel welcomed in all these places. At the end of the day, it's really human interactions that count the most. That's what makes or breaks a tour. A group on tour could have any kind of dynamic. *What struck me was the commitment of these teachers and their two leaders Chris and Gregg to the Marist ethos.*

We were blessed with the care people in the group gave to one another. This was much needed as four people got Covid and plans had to be adjusted. We came through all this, and the group readied itself the final leg of the journey, Rome. Yes, there is such a thing as the Marist spirit. And yes, it helps so much to give us a handle on life in a down to earth way.

Jimmy McElroy, sm



NEW ARRIVAL IN LA NEYLIERE: ITALIAN MARIST, FAUSTINO FERRARI



I've been living in the community of La Neylière for nearly three months. Over the last few weeks, a lot of people have been asking me 'What can we do at La Neylière? The question implies that this house/community is special. I can say that here I have time... Time to do a lot of things. Pray and meditate, read and study, write and prepare the conferences and retreats to be organised... But also to go for long walks, watch a film or listen to music...

It's a different rhythm of life from those we usually lead, characterised mainly by many other occupations/preoccupations. We are a very special community, bringing together the confreres from Lyon and La Neylière. *It's a new experience, to be built on fraternity and relationships.*

So for me it's a matter of gradually learning to understand the different realities that make up La Neylière and to build relationships with the many people who find a point of reference in this house/community. *In short, La Neylière is an unexpected new chapter in the book of my life.*

Faustino Ferrari, sm

