

## THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS IN EUROPE

In the Easter season we are invited to reflect more deeply on the experience of the Early Church after the resurrection of Jesus. Mary as the perfect disciple is our guide. *As Marists, we are called to be like Mary and the Apostles 'one heart and one mind'.*

We understand communication as a tool of evangelisation and also as a type of ministry. As a provincial communication team, we put our talents and efforts in the service of the Society of Mary (Marist religious and laity) in order to help us connect with one another and build 'communion for mission'. Our external communication focuses on sharing our Marist spirit in contemporary ways, especially in cyberspace. To be Mary's presence not only in our daily lives and serving others, but in a modest and simple way, make her presence known in the online world as well.



In the European Province we experience a complex reality, where the SM communities are present in eight counties and live out their vocation in seven languages. This makes inclusive communication rather a challenge!

We were delighted to reach a point when the new European website was launched – if you haven't done so, check out: [www.maristeurope.eu](http://www.maristeurope.eu).

We hope it is just the beginning, as we share something of the richness of Marist life with the wider world this way. Everyone is invited to join and learn this ministry, inspired by Mary's efforts and enthusiasm, just as she shared the Good News throughout her life and in the Early Church!

*Anne Marie Salgo,  
chair of the Communication Commission*

## DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

The items in this month's EuroInfo have a distinctly intercontinental flavour.

Dani Fernández recounts his journey to NZ with lay Marists from Mexico to learn about Marist youth ministry there while Paul Molbwet, himself from the Pacific nation of Vanuatu, welcomes a new addition to the Omnes Gentes community in Sahagún, New Zealander Matt Crawford.

These words are being written on 28 April when confreres from the communities of Spain are converging on Sahagún to celebrate the feast of St Peter Chanel.

*Kevin Duffy, sm*

## PRAYER INTENTION:

We invite you to pray for our new *Pope Leo XIV*



# MARIST YOUTH LEADERS PROGRAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Sometimes opportunities that you would never imagine arise out of nowhere. That happened to me when I heard about the MYL (Marist Youth Leaders) program. I asked Fr. Mark Walls, a Marist Father from New Zealand, for information. He responded with a generous invitation to participate in this program that he has been carrying out for almost 25 years with the 9 Marist schools in New Zealand.

***This is part of the magic that appears when Marists work in a network.*** For a week, boys and girls in their final year of high school learn and develop fundamental leadership skills

such as teamwork, a principle-centred living, being proactive, perseverance, servant leadership... It is a great way to prepare our young people to accept without fear the difficult task of leadership. This is something we need in Mexico and any part of the Marist world. In addition, we were able to discover a beautiful, peaceful country, full of wonderful corners and its own culture, the Maori, which invites you to communion with nature and contact with your roots. There I also found my Marist roots, since New Zealand was one of the destinations of the first Marists in Western Oceania in 1838. The work of Bishop Pompallier and the Marists is still remembered and highly valued in that country. So, I feel grateful and privileged for everything I experienced and learned in the three weeks I spent there, in the company of two teachers from the Franco-English school of Mexico. A time to return to my roots, discover new realities, and see that the ***Marist connection between different parts of the world is still alive and giving life.*** Mary, Queen of the Society of Mary, make fruitful the work of your children.



*Daniel Fernández, sm*

## SAHAGUN, AN OMNES GENTES COMMUNITY AND PROJECT.



After Fr Daniel Fernández left for his new mission in Mexico in September 2024, I took on the role of interim director of the ***Auberge de la Santa Cruz, our Marist hostel for pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela.*** I was assisted by Antonio Fernández while awaiting the arrival of a new director in Sahagún. Since April 1, 2025, a new confrere has joined the Sahagún community to assume the role of director of the Marist hostel of La Santa Cruz. This is Matthew Crawford, from New Zealand.

Meetings have been held so far not only to establish the objectives for the year 2025, but also to allow the new director to discover, slowly but surely, what characterizes the mission of Sahagún: ***an international mission, Omnes Gentes.*** The current community is composed of Fathers Antonio Fernández (Spain), Paul Molbwet (Vanuatu), Valentin Aparicio (Spain), and Matthew Crawford (New Zealand). This community thanks Daniel Fernández, as well as John McAllister (now in Ireland), for their service and dedication to the pilgrims. It also warmly welcomes not only Matthew Crawford, but also Valentin Aparicio, who joined the Sahagún community last September.

Repairs, cleaning, and laundry work has been done, and the hostel opened its doors on Saturday, March 15, 2025. Now we are in the pilgrim season and the walkers come streaming in ...

*Paul Molbwet, sm*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

***Provincial council in Paris 14-15 May*** ♦ Televised mass in La Verpillière 25 May at 11h – Channel France2 - Le Jour du Seigneur with Fr Kevin Duffy and Fr Roger Lordong ♦ ***Provincial council in Paris 9-10 June in Paris*** ♦ National Administrators and Bursars meeting in Paris 11 June ♦ ***200 years anniversary of the Marist Fathers and Sisters' presence in Belley 21 June.***