



EURO info



To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...

REVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE OF WELCOMING PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO, SAHAGÚN, SPAIN, 12-13 JANUARY



Pilgrims travel along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela throughout the year, yet the pilgrimage season gets going in earnest around March and then slows down in November. In 2018, the province began a ministry of hospitality and accompaniment of pilgrims in Sahagún, located exactly at the half-way point along the French Camino. The confreres Daniel Fernández (Esp), Toño Fernández (Esp) and Andrea Volonnino (It) welcomed 3,333 pilgrims during the 2018 season, working in collaboration with the Benedictine sisters at the pilgrims' hostel (*Albergue de Peregrinos de la Santa Cruz*) (www.alberguesensahagun.es). The hostel aims to be an oasis of peace and spirituality. During the off-season, Daniel and Toño reviewed the experiences of last season with Martin McAnaney and Marcello Pregno and with the assistance of Francisco Chauvet (Mex) as interpreter. The team offers an invitation to pilgrims to focus on the spiritual dimension of the Camino and reach a greater understanding of the motivation which brought them on the journey in the first place, and the meaning of their experiences along the way. Over a cup of coffee, the team shares the pilgrims' sorrows, their joys, and sometimes their hunger for meaning and for God. Some 40% of pilgrims participate in this conversation over coffee. This is followed by a Mass and a special blessing for the journey. The day is rounded off by a meal in common to which everyone brings something, and 60% join in this activity. By sharing with the pilgrims in this way, the team has discovered that they too are pilgrims. The review showed that the project is going well. Some elements of the programme need to be adapted and the team faces new challenges for the coming year. The province plans to strengthen the community for 2019 season, hoping to offer spiritual hospitality, inspired by the Marist vision, to even more pilgrims. The team welcomes volunteers for short and longer-term placements (dfernandezsm@gmail.com).

GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The year began with a fraternal visit of the community of La Neylière to the Marist communities of Moncalieri and Torino, in Italy. Two other gatherings took place in Italy and the Netherlands in order to address important questions about the future Marist presence in those countries. Members of the community of Sahagún took time to reflect on their experience of the ministry of welcoming pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. We are very grateful to all of you who contributed material this month.

Francisco Chauvet and Martin McAnaney



MEETINGS TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE MARIST PRESENCE IN ITALY (15-16 JANUARY) AND THE NETHERLANDS (22 JANUARY)

The reality of the province changes at such a pace it is difficult for us to keep up! During the first half of the 20th century, Marists spread throughout Europe and beyond, as they sought to contribute to the mission of the Church by their presence in particular locations and their involvement in specific apostolic activities. Today our situation is different. Given the changes in the social context and in our circumstances, how do we remain faithful to our vocation to be the Work of Mary today? We need to ask ourselves this question constantly. In Italy, a working group of confreres, Mario Castellucci, Giovanni Danesin, Marcello Pregno and Bruno Rubechini met in September 2018 and again this month, to identify possible future arrangements for Marist life there. Martin McAnaney joined them for this work. An assembly of confreres will take place in Rome next month, to consider the fruit of their reflections. In the Netherlands, a group of Dutch confreres, Ad Blommerde, Ton Bun, Joop Reurs and Jan ter Braak met twice with Jean-Marie Bloqueau and Martin McAnaney, to address the same question for that country. The Dutch confreres will likewise hold an assembly in May, at which they will receive an update. We may not be able to predict the future exactly but we know we can influence it by the decisions we make today in our efforts to live our Marist vocation faithfully.



VISIT OF LA NEYLIÈRE COMMUNITY TO MONCALIERI AND TORINO, 27- 31 DECEMBER

The Year of Celebrating Community Life has encouraged some communities to build stronger ties throughout the province by visiting other Marist communities in Europe. Bernard Boisseau (Fr) writes, “The current members of the La Neylière community, Jan Hulshof (NL), Jimmy McElroy (Ire) and myself decided to take the train, as it is the safest way to travel in winter, to spend 3 days with our confreres in Torino and Moncalieri. Memorable moments were the visits to the “*Museo Egizio*”, the beautiful museum of Egyptian antiquities (the largest outside of Cairo) (www.museoegizio.it), and to the magnificent royal palace of the House of Savoy (bit.ly/TorinoPalazzoReale). However, the most beautiful memory of all is the fraternal welcome of the Villa Santa Maria community in Moncalieri and that of Corso Francia in Torino. Long live the Year of Celebrating Community Life that offers the opportunity for such exchanges and gatherings!”



PRAYER INTENTION

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will accomplish for you today” (Ex. 14:13). Lord, help us to grow in our trust of your love for us as we turn our faces towards the wilderness of the unknown. Help us to resist the temptation to retreat into the more familiar territory of the way things were, and guide our steps into the way of peace which leads to the fulfilment of your loving plan.