



## GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

As the year 2020 draws to a close, our hearts and minds reflect on the painful events of this year. 2020 will surely be remembered as the Year of the Pandemic, a year marked by death, fear, uncertainty and hardship. And yet as Christians, we are people of life and hope. As Marists, we are called to be disciples in the manner of Mary and so, for us, 2020 is also a year of mission.

Pope Francis is convinced that "the pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. We must use this decisive moment to end our superfluous and destructive goals and activities and to cultivate values, connections and activities that are lifegiving...

We must eliminate the superfluous and destructive aspects of our economies and nurture life-giving ways to trade, produce and transport goods". (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 01.09.20, #3)

In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, our calling is to give flesh to the Good News again, the promise of the manger.

*Francisco Chauvet  
and Martin McAnaney*

## OBITUARY

Clive Birch (Eng) 01.12.2020

Guy Wernert (Fr) 04.12.2020

# EUROINFO

## A QUEST FOR BEAUTY, GIANNI COLOSIO (IT), A MARIST ARTIST

A Marist since 1963 and ordained in 1969, Gianni has an exceptional ability to share the Gospel through painting and the written word: "I am a 77-year-old Italian Marist. The thirst for "il Bello", for Beauty, has been my daily bread and has kept me young.



I have just returned from my first experience in parish ministry (better late than never!), a full immersion in the midst of God's people, and this has been a great inspiration to my creativity. I divide my time between pastoral care of parishioners, painting and writing (these too are extremely effective pastoral instruments).



I recently mounted an exhibition on the Lucanian landscapes (watercolours) and published two essays on Mary: "La Madonna col Bambino nel Rinascimento" (Madonna and Child during the Renaissance) and "Umile ed alta più che creatura, la vita di Maria attraverso l'arte" (Humbler yet greater than any creature, the life of Mary through Art). In addition, I published a pot-pourri of "reflections" which I gave to the parishioners on the occasion of my 50th anniversary of ordination.

In the Brescia community where I am now, which is truly an oasis, I am putting the final touches on a third essay, "Giovanni Bellini and Raffaello, madonneri" a meditation on the numerous Marian masterpieces of these two artists. I see myself as breaking the Bread of hope in a world both apprehensive and ill, reminding people that, "beyond our horizon", there is light and serenity. In other words, there is Beauty."





## A MARIST APOSTLE COMES HOME!

Born in 1940, Xavier Béchetoille is the newest member of the European Province. After serving as a missionary for 17 years in the District of Africa, he has just returned to France, his country of origin. He is now a member of the community in Ste Foy, Lyon. The province welcomes him and we are happy to share some words of appreciation written to him on his departure by the superior of the District of Africa, Albert Kabala:

"Dear Xavier, have a good trip and an enjoyable stay in Lyon. We are continuing along the path you traced out for us. The people of Burundi, Cameroon and Senegal with whom you shared the "joy of the gospel" will miss you. You always had an ardent and ever fresh desire to help all those who came to you, to alleviate the distress of the little people, to give dignity back to the broken reed. Even when weighed down by illness, you never let yourself be discouraged. You knew how to 'open yourself' so that God could become a 'torrent' flowing through you." Link to the full letter: in French <https://bit.ly/2LPFHN> and English <https://bit.ly/2K29STQ>



## PRAYER INTENTION

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins! Lord, inspire us to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the captive, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. May we radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say, that the work of Christmas may continue!

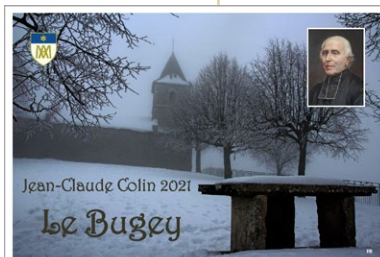


## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES BY RAFAEL RÁMILA (ESP)

Rafael has been a Marist since 1964. "I have written a book about my childhood years in Puente Arenas de Valdivielso (Burgos), from 1946 to 1958, entitled "Memorias de mi infancia" ("Childhood Memories"). I wrote it during the first Covid lockdown, with the idea of "selling" it in my village in the Burgos Province, as part of a raffle that my sisters organise every summer to raise funds for the Marist missions. I also illustrated the book with charcoal drawings and watercolours. All this raised €1,000 which is not bad in these times of crisis. The funds have already been sent to Africa." If you are interested in receiving a copy (in Spanish), please write to Rafael at [ramila.fernandez.7@gmail.com](mailto:ramila.fernandez.7@gmail.com)



## COLIN CALENDARS 2021 AVAILABLE FROM THE COLIN CAUSE NETWORK



Ron Nissen (Aus) is making available to all EuroInfo readers, free of charge, the 2021 Colin calendar. There is a 'Flipbook' version available on the Colin website (Resources/ Calendars): <https://www.jeanclaudecolin.org/resources/calendars>. For a printed version, please contact Ron at the CCN 'Contact Us' link at the foot of the Colin website pages: <https://www.jeanclaudecolin.org/contact-us> indicating the preferred language and postal address.