



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The first signs of spring accompany the first signs of hope in the fight against the pandemic reminding us that our life is a journey. Amidst the difficulties and the losses, we make our way towards the Kingdom, and we discover that the journey itself is the Kingdom - God in our midst, walking with us, inviting us to walk in humility and trust.

Pope Francis leads by example as he embarks on a new apostolic journey, this time to Iraq. Is this perhaps an invitation to go beyond our personal borders, our limitations, and dare to live life to the fullest?

We are not alone on this journey because the Society of Mary in Europe is part and parcel of that Kingdom, through its works, its heritage, but mostly through its people. Religious, lay members, students in our schools are themselves a Presence - that of Christ walking towards Jerusalem in Lent and Easter.

The March issue of EuroInfo shares some of the stories of those people walking in faith with Jesus, building His Kingdom one heart at a time.

*Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney*

OBITUARY

Maurice Valette (Fr)
13.02.2021

EUROINFO

THE CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FR COLIN MOVES TO ROME



Bernard Thomasset (Fr) is the Marist promoter for the Province of Fr. Colin's process of beatification.

He writes: "Fr Colin's cause was first introduced in 1899. In spite of facing many difficulties, the cause made progress and in 1935 the Vatican granted Fr Colin the title of Venerable Servant of God. Frs Jean Coste (Fr) and Gaston Lessard (Can) did the historical and critical research required to reopen his cause in 1985.



Another important step was taken when Carlo Maria Schianchi (It) was appointed postulator, and at the same time, the writing of a biography was entrusted to Fr Justin Taylor (NZ). This major work entitled 'Jean-Claude Colin, Reluctant Founder, 1790-1875', was published in 2019.

After many years of work, the diocesan stage of the process for beatification was completed on 12 February 2021 and all the documentation will now be passed on to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints. We continue to hope and pray for Fr. Colin's canonisation." For the website dedicated to the cause, click here: www.jeanclaudecolin.org





PRAYER INTENTION

Heavenly Father, we come to you with thanks, for again and again, you have let your light shine on us so that we can rejoice in the knowledge that our lives are in your hands. Protect us, that the light of true life may radiate more and more brightly and that we may praise your name with our whole heart. Amen

REFLECTION SHEETS ON THE THEME OF SOLIDARITY MINISTRY

In January the Provincial Solidarity Committee circulated the first of its four reflection sheets on the social justice ministry. Jan Hulshof (NL) writes about the experience of the Marist community at La Neylière after using this valuable tool:

“We are impressed by the testimonies on the life of Sonny, a man who is homeless in London and of Youssouf Stev Doum, a Marist whom we met last year here in La Neylière. The reflection sheet helps us to follow more closely the work done by organisations in our local area of the Monts du Lyonnais and in the Diocese of Lyon. In the town closest to us, Saint-Symphorien-sur-Coise, we have an organisation of interest to us which welcomes migrant people, *Association locale pour l'accueil de réfugiés et migrants* (ALARM). In our community meeting, we mentioned the provincial plans to create an annual system to channel funding towards special solidarity projects, among them the work for welcoming refugees at Notre Dame de France, London (www.notredamerc.org.uk). The work of our confrères and those people who collaborate with them, is very much in our mind and prayers.”



The **second reflection sheet** on the theme of concern for the sick and the elderly, is now available online for all to use:

Español: <https://bit.ly/36Hxxs2>

Deutsch: <https://bit.ly/2MrR7Si>

Français: <https://bit.ly/2MrRa0q>

Italiano: <https://bit.ly/3oMZ15Q>

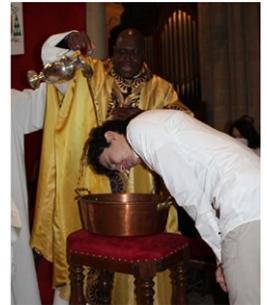
English: <https://bit.ly/3axlte2>

Nederlands: <https://bit.ly/36JiBcZ>



BAPTISMS AT THE LYCÉE ST VINCENT, FRANCE

Myriam Le Maire, pastoral assistant at St Vincent writes: “Day of Joy for the Saint Vincent de Senlis High School on 31 January! The baptisms of three high school students were finally celebrated! Dates missed in 2020 because of the pandemic were 7 June, the 21 November, and then 6 December. Camille, Apolline and Miguel, motivated to the end and supported by their classmates, received the sacrament of Baptism in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Senlis. As the three were splashed abundantly by the blessed water, a great emotion gripped the whole assembly, a feeling of profound joy of the presence of the Lord, reigned in our hearts.



The celebration of Mass moved the families present and the young people were carried by the enthusiasm of Fr Séraphin, the voices of the Little Singers of Senlis and the music of the pupils of St Vincent's High School. What a magnificent testimony! Some of the young people present came after the celebration to ask us to prepare them for Confirmation. Some members of the families of the baptised told us: "If this is baptism, I too want to be baptized!" This feast day of 31 January 2021 will remain engraved in our memories. May this rebirth in Christ allow these young people to discover every day how much God loves them.”

