



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

The Covid epidemic drags on into another year. Yet, the New Year has begun and, for most of us, this means turning a new page in our lives. New beginnings are central to the message of the Gospel of Hope no matter what challenges we face. For the third time, the province has postponed its chapter meeting but we proceed in faith, confident that God's call to us is unceasing and will lead us forward to a fresh expression of the Work of Mary for Europe in 2022.

Signs of new beginnings are found in this edition of EuroInfo. A confrere begins a new mission in Mexico as he takes up his responsibility as district superior there, and another confrere is named as the new provincial for the European province. As a province, we rejoice with another confrere who has reached the milestone of his 100th birthday. God is with us as we turn the pages of our life's journey!

*Francisco Chauvet
and Martin McAnaney*

EUROINFO

NEW EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL ELECTED

On Friday, 7 January, the Superior General confirmed the election of Kevin Duffy (Eng) as the provincial of the Marist Fathers in Europe with a mandate to begin on 1 July 2022.



Kevin was born in Stockton-on-Tees (1949) and educated in England. Professed as a Marist in 1968, he worked in the secondary education ministry before entering full-time into Marist formation and teaching theology in Ireland, Belgium, and Cameroon. He served as assistant general in Rome (2009 - 2017).

He has just finished writing a major work, "*Christian Solar Symbolism and Jesus the Sun of Justice*". He lives in the community in Hull and is currently the national administrator in England. We congratulate Kevin on his election and wish him all the graces he needs for his new responsibilities.

MARIST VOCATION YEAR REFLECTION SHEETS



During this special year focused on the Marist vocation, a series of reflections sheets has been prepared. The one for this month is on the theme of, The Baptism of the Lord, Our Own Baptism and the Missionary Mandate.

Links to the different languages:

Deutsch: <https://bit.ly/mvy2de>

English: <https://bit.ly/mvy2eng>

Español: <https://bit.ly/mvy2es>

Français: <https://bit.ly/mvy2FR>

Nederlands: <https://bit.ly/mvy2nl>

Italiano: <https://bit.ly/mvy2it>



BEING
MARY'S
PRESENCE
IN THE
WORLD



SERVING THE MISSION OF THE WIDER SOCIETY – JOAQUÍN FERNÁNDEZ (Esp) IS APPOINTED TO MEXICO



Alejandro Muñoz (Mex) writes: "On 12 December, the Marist Province in Mexico became a Missionary District, as requested of the Superior General by the last provincial chapter. This change will lighten the structures and allow us to be more focused on the mission in a context of a small membership. The Superior General has appointed Joaquín Fernández as Superior of the new District, an appointment which gives us a message of identity and hope.

Joaquín knows perfectly well the identity and vocation of the Missionary Districts in the Society, so he will undoubtedly encourage us to maintain this missionary vocation. I expect his international contribution will be rich and will add to the awareness of belonging to the Society of Mary as a whole. Joaquín will also be a good companion on the path of hope. We firmly believe that Mary desires her Work to be carried out in Mexico and that by strengthening our Marist life, we will walk towards the future with confidence.

The District is beginning its life with 17 members in 5 communities, 4 confreres on ministry outside the District and 5 young Marists in the international formation programmes. The District is also blessed with a very committed and mostly young Marist laity. Joaquín knows the works and the Marists in Mexico very well. In this context of great challenges and opportunities, we welcome Joaquín, and we thank his Province and the Superior General with joy and gratitude. We place his new mission service under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe."



BERNARD DE VERNEUIL (Fr) CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY, PARIS



On his actual birthday, Sunday 28 November, Bernard de Verneuil was at the centre of a small celebration at Sainte Monique care facility, where he lives.

Bernard was born in Saint-Etienne, France, and did his studies at the Marist college of Saint-Chamond. He entered the Marist novitiate in La Neylière (1939). The war sent him to Germany for the Forced Labour Service. Ordained in 1948, he served in the Marist colleges, especially as spiritual director at Sainte-Marie de Lyon where he led the famous holiday trips to Greece. After ten years as parish priest in the Paroisse Française of Mexico City, he served in the CEFAL (Episcopal Commission for France-Latin America).

Jean-Bernard Jolly (Fr) writes: "It is difficult to fit 100 years into ten lines, there are many aspects to his adventurous life, such as his passion for motorbikes which took him from the Cap Nord to the Hoggar mountain range, or his solidarity with families in the Philippines, where he kept ties for a long time... In the 1970s, he helped set up the Association Arthur Rimbaud with Fr Emile Granger, to welcome young drug addicts from the Saint-Etienne region. He also served in a special ministry community in Gentilly (suburb of Paris) until its closure in 1996." Bernard becomes the third centenarian in the province, together with Fr Paul Fontanier (Fr) and Br Paulus Tanghe (NL).



PRAYER INTENTION



God of Love, you are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this New Year with excitement and perhaps even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion and abounding love for us, and your presence with us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. You have blessed us with gifts, talents and skills. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. Amen.