



EURO info



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

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN HEADS OF EDUCATIONAL CENTRES, SENLIS, FRANCE, 31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY, 2019



Mr Frank Dowling, Provincial Education Deputy writes: "Snow covered the ground in the picturesque town of Senlis as the Heads of Marist Education Centres gathered at the Lycée St Vincent. This year the 4 primary schools were represented for the first time. The beautiful 17th century buildings made a magical setting for the gathering. The warm welcome from the

school community and its principal, M. Philippe Revello, more than compensated for the cold weather. The gathering reviewed the Education Network current projects and identified actions for the year to come. Social interaction ensured that everyone had a relaxing and productive time. Lycée St Vincent is celebrating 150 years of Marist presence there. At the Town Hall reception, Fr Martin McAnaney spoke of the commitment of the Marist Fathers to Senlis and presented the Deputy Mayor with a glass plaque to commemorate the occasion. As we departed the elegance of the ancient cloister of St Vincent, our determination was renewed to maintain Marist ethos and its characteristic spirit in all our schools."



PRAYER INTENTION

- adapted from World Youth Day Prayer. Merciful Father, you call us to live our lives as a way of salvation. Help us to recall the past with gratitude, to embrace the present with courage and to build the future with hope. Grant us the grace of being a Church that goes forth with vibrant faith to communicate the joy of the Gospel.



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

We receive news from three important ministries of our Marist mission. The leadership of the Marist Education Network came together to review the past year; a group of young people from Norway participated in the 2019 World Youth Day; members of the Solidarity committee travelled to the detention centre close to Schiphol, Amsterdam. We thank those who contributed this thought-provoking material.

Francisco Chauwet and Martin McAnaney

OBITUARY Rudolf Wenk (DE), 02.05.2019 • Pierre Vignal (FR) 16.02.2019

WORLD YOUTH DAY, PANAMA CITY, PANAMA, 22-27 JANUARY, 2019



Andreas Ruppercht (Norway) writes: “Even though January is not the best time for many European students to abandon their studies for two weeks, 40 young adults from Norway along with me and some other priests, made their way to the 2019 World Youth Day. After more than 24 hours of travel, we reached our first destination the small town of Quepos at the Pacific coast of Costa Rica where we spent the first week. We shared the lives of our host families and we participated in the celebrations of the parish, experienced the presence of the faith in everyday life. We were involved in some of their social and environmental concerns when we helped to clean the local beach and visited an old people’s home. We also had time to enjoy the natural beauty of the place. We reached Panama City after 19 hours travelling by bus where we were welcomed at a parish in the city’s outskirts. Mornings were spent following a series of catechesis together with other Scandinavian countries. In the afternoon, we participated in the main events in the city, celebrating with the Pope and hundreds of thousands of young people, mainly from Central America. We returned home with many wonderful impressions, renewed in faith and new ideas for the future.”



VISIT OF THE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE TO SCHIPHOL AND UITHOORN, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, 29-30 JANUARY 2019



Two members of the committee, Sr Catherine JONES (NDF, London) and Mr Jean-Claude BOIDIN (Brussels) visited Fr Wim VAN BROEKHOVEN (NL). The purpose of these visits is to support those engaged in diverse works of solidarity, and where possible, to build networks with other Marists engaged in similar works. They write: “Our visit to Fr Wim focussed on the Schiphol Judicial Detention Centre, a very modern complex in the vicinity of the international airport, which hosts and caters separately for two kinds of residents: judicial convicts serving short sentences, and asylum seekers arrested at Schiphol airport. In contrast with this modern physical environment, the moral condition of detainees and asylum seekers remains fragile. Separated from their families many suffer from isolation and uncertainty. In the words of Fr Wim, ‘pastoral care alone is not meaningful’. Spiritual care cannot therefore be disentangled from human attention and solidarity. Fr Wim will often encourage refugees to obtain legal assistance. He offers his help in contacting their families, often by obtaining telephone cards. Our visit was as an eye-opener on the condition of people in a detention centre, and their need for moral support and spiritual care. While unable in itself to change the course of government policies or legal proceedings, human solidarity remains essential to uphold the dignity of detainees and asylum seekers, and to safeguard their hope in a better future. In Fr Wim’s words refugees want “their stories to be heard, and their word to be trusted”. For more follow the link: <http://bit.ly/solvisit>

