



## GREETINGS FROM ROME!

The Feast of Pentecost, which celebrates the beginning of the Church's ministry to the world, has arrived. The celebration urges us as disciples to act courageously inspired by the fire enkindled in us by the Holy Spirit. The life of faith is possible because of the wisdom and strength poured out on the Church through the Holy Spirit. This sweeps aside our hesitancy and allows the Church to reveal to the world, the God of unconditional love and life.

Following Pentecost the European Province is finally holding its Provincial Chapter (7-14 June) after many delays due to Covid. The aim of a Chapter is to review the life and mission of province, and discern God's call to us on how we make a Marist contribution to the Church's mission today. We pray that same Spirit may guide all Marists on their journey so they can fulfil their vocation to be and do the Work of Mary!

*Francisco Chauvet and  
Martin McAnaney*

## OBITUARY

Michael Simison  
(Eng) 2.6.2022

# EURO INFO

## 3-DAYS ZOOM SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER, MAY 27 -29

During a consultation of provincial chapter delegates held by Zoom (10 – 14 January 2022), the proposal was made to organise a wider consultation of the confreres in the province and of laypeople about Marist life and mission. The pandemic had robbed the event of the momentum that had been built up. What to do next? What are our options? Chapter delegates gave a clear answer, (i) complete the work of the provincial chapter as quickly as possible one way or another, and (ii) involve the confreres of the province and laypeople in a wider consultation with the use of Zoom. The Pre-Chapter Committee, with the expertise of Nancy Bragard as facilitator, assisted by Fanny Monod-Mitrev, a graphic facilitator, set about planning this broader consultation. The aim of the Zoom sessions was to connect together delegates, confrères and lay Marists, and have a conversation about Marist community life today and our common mission.



## FRIDAY 27 MAY

**First Session:** The theme of the chapter was articulated in October 2020 after consulting the members of the province and Lay Marists. It is, "Our Founder invited us Marists to begin a Church anew. Pope Francis invites us to live a different form of Church. Rooted in our reality, after this time of isolation, how can we strengthen the bonds that unite us and be signs of hope for the world?". After the third postponement and a year and a half delay due to the pandemic, the first Zoom session gave delegates the opportunity to reconnect with this theme.

**Second Session:** The delegates were joined by other confreres of the province thanks to the expertise of the team of interpreters. 50 participants shared their ideas, feelings, resistances, hopes, desires, and fears in relation to the Chapter. These were shared in small groups (breakout rooms) and also, in a plenary session. This same mixture of delegates and confreres gave their responses to two sets of questions: (i) What aspects of Marist life and mission in your communities promote health, growth, joy? And (ii) What aspects of Marist life and mission in your communities inhibit or restrict health, growth, joy?



BEING  
MARY'S  
PRESENCE  
IN THE  
WORLD



## PRAYER INTENTION

God our Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit, keep Marists united as a body, and creative in using our gifts so that all people may grow in hope. May the Mother of Mercy inspire us to be attentive to the most needy, and to build up your people in love. Amen.



## MARIST VOCATION YEAR REFLECTION SHEETS

For the final topic, entitled 'Marist Experiences', the team asked Marists from all over the world and from all branches of the Marist family to share about their vocation. Links to the different languages:

Deutsch: [bit.ly/mvy7de](https://bit.ly/mvy7de)

English: [bit.ly/mvy7EN](https://bit.ly/mvy7EN)

Español: [bit.ly/mvy7ESP](https://bit.ly/mvy7ESP)

Français: [bit.ly/mvy7FR](https://bit.ly/mvy7FR)

Nederlands: [bit.ly/mvy7NL](https://bit.ly/mvy7NL)

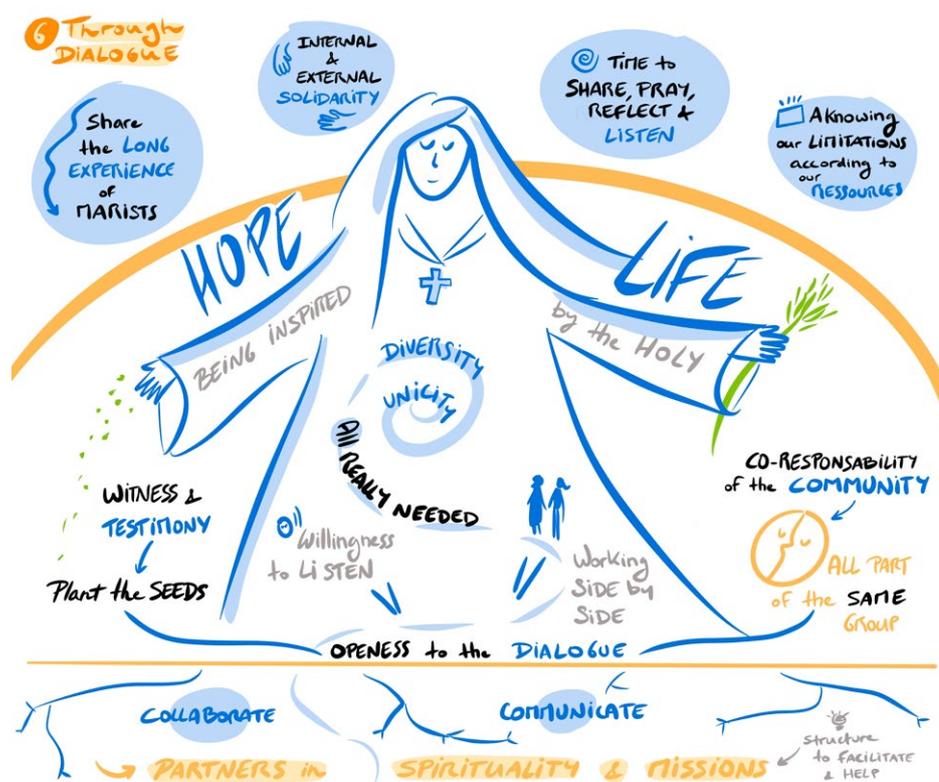
Italiano: [bit.ly/mvy7ITA](https://bit.ly/mvy7ITA)



## SATURDAY, 28 MAY

**Third Session:** Fanny shared her drawings of what she had heard the day before. In small groups, participants went further with their reflection and identified what they had learned from their fellow Marists in relation to the health of Marist life and mission. Echoes of these discussions were shared in the plenary group. A number of the confreres mentioned how helpful they found Fanny's drawings. These helped to summarise the evolution of the group's thoughts.

**Fourth Session:** The delegates were joined by the link confreres for Lay Marists from each unit. Representatives join the session from Lay Marists, lay partners-in-mission and others associated with the Marist project. The laypeople spoke about their place within the Society of Mary and the ways this is a source of joy, fulfilment, and life, and the opposite, a source of discouragement, frustration, even desolation. The confreres, from their experience of laypeople in the life and mission of the province, focused on the key features of their involvement together.



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## SUNDAY, 29 MAY

**Fifth Session:** The following day the laypeople articulated a message to the delegates to nourish the chapter on the question of laity. The delegates identified the impact of what they had heard in the 2 sessions as they approached the task of the Chapter. This again was followed by a set of images from Fanny.

**Sixth Session:** The intention this time was to give delegates the opportunity to meet as a group to draw the threads of the exchanges together for themselves. Each one said what had changed for him and how this might impact on the work of the Chapter. Fanny summarised all the sessions through her drawings which were much appreciated by the participants.

The Provincial Chapter is finally taking place in Rome (7 – 14 June). These Zoom sessions helped delegates focus on the task of the Chapter. This event so important to the Marist life and mission, will guide the province as it faces the challenge to be signs of hope for our world.