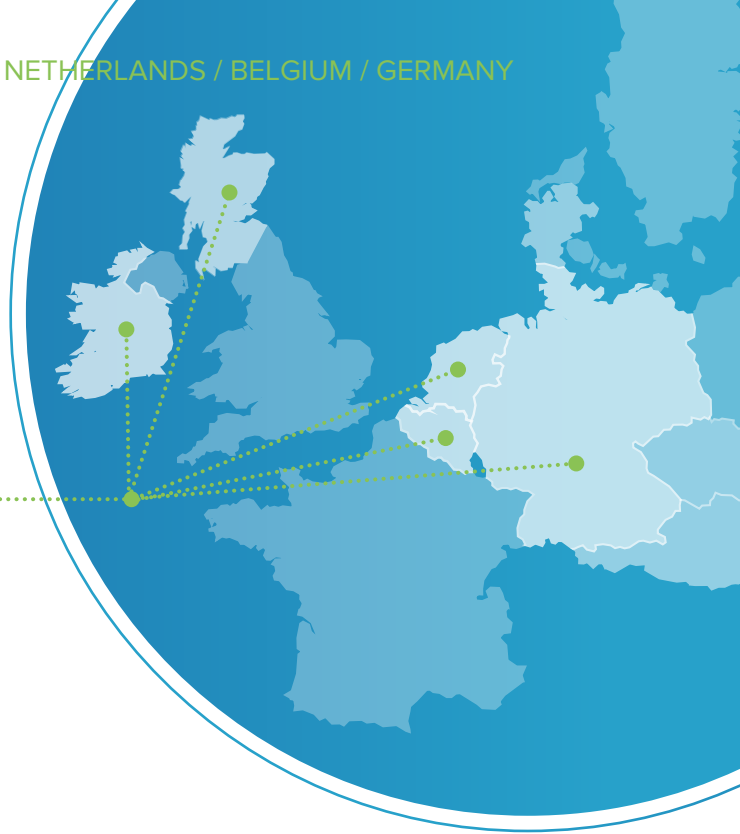


Being Marist

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE



03 | ORORE SUMMER
CAMP KENYA 2018



06 | MEETING DUBLIN
SEPTEMBER 2018



09 | MARIST WEEK
IRELAND 2018

Dear Marist Friends!

Welcome to the first edition of Being Marist. In June 2017 the Mission Council was set up in the Province with the specific purpose of promoting Marist values, sharing the experience of being Marist and developing our Marist Spirit.

I hope that these glimpses of what has happened in the province will give you a flavour of our own experience of Being Marist today.

Many thanks to Aisling for capturing the energy of so many of you who are involved in our mission in the Province.

Br PJ McGowan

Chairperson of the Mission Council
West Central Europe





MISSION COUNCIL - FORMED MARCH 2017

Chairperson: Br PJ McGowan

Secretary & Director of Marist Mission: Aisling Demaison

Members: Br Robert Thunus, Conny Stuart, Paul Cummings, Br Micheal Schmalzl

Provincial: Br Brendan Geary attends one meeting per year

HOW WE FUNCTION

Each member represents one of the five countries in West Central Europe.

We work as a team.

The Director of Marist Mission is supported and guided by each person from the respective country in her work in the entire province.

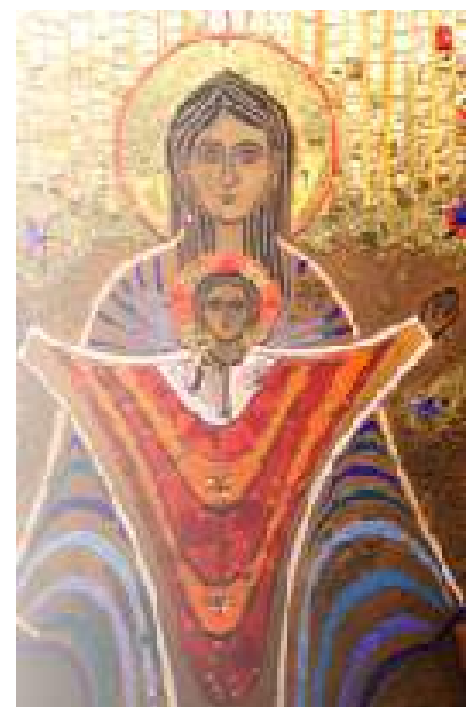
We meet every 3 months and in-between Aisling links with the relevant person from each country on topics of Mission.



OUR VISION

Our vision as Mission Council is to discern, decide and to act together to live our Marist values in Marist schools and initiatives.

As a Mission Council, we seek to inspire the Marist Community in the province, through facilitating the exchange of ideas, experiences and resources for mission in the way of Mary.



Br. P.J. McGowan – Chairperson	pj.mcgowan@maristmissioncouncil.org
Ms. Aisling Demaison – Director of Marist Mission	a.demaison@maristmissioncouncil.org
Br. Micheal Schmalzl – Germany	m.schmalzl@maristmissioncouncil.org
Ms. Conny Stuart – The Netherlands	c.stuart@maristmissioncouncil.org
Br. Robert Thunus – Belgium	r.thunus@maristmissioncouncil.org
Mr. Paul Cummings – Scotland	p.cummings@maristmissioncouncil.org



Orore Summer Camp Kenya 2018

Once again this year, a group of 11 Marists, including Jasmin Nimar from the Cmi team, Wolfgang Hacker, PE Teacher at the Maristenkolleg, Mindelheim, Brother Michael and 8 young adults - 5 of them former Cmi volunteers from Mindelheim - came to Orore.

Orore is a fishing village on Lake Victoria in Kenya, where there is a community of brothers who run Our Lady of Orore Primary School and a boarding section. The summer camp, which was organized from that group, took place from the 18th till the 30th of August. Approximately 65 children, most of them pupils of our school but also some children from the village, were allowed to stay in the boarding section over the holidays instead of going home. They had the opportunity to participate in the programme of the summer camp, where they could work on something practical, or design some beautiful or simply interesting craft work in the 2½ h morning session.

In the afternoon they could experience fun while playing new games, practicing challenging group exercises or participating in competitions in well-known or new sports on the large sports ground like volleyball, netball or football. The programme was completely planned and carried out by the team from Mindelheim. The brothers and four local teachers from the school assisted us in the activities.

The objective of the camp, which was to provide a safe environment for orphans or children coming from difficult circumstances, has definitely been fulfilled. They had the chance simply to be children, having fun and experiencing a safe and joyful time. Sometimes it does not take much to make a child happy, even something as simple as blowing soap bubbles or playing silly games with young and old together.

In order for the summer camp to have a lasting effect, the volunteers want to organize events and personal

presentations back in Germany to inform people about the circumstances of children in our school in Orore, and to promote school sponsorships for particularly needy children. The school fee, which covers all costs for one school year (schooling, boarding, meals, school uniforms...) is 400 euros. If you would like more information or would like to take on a personal school sponsorship, you are most welcome to contact one of the participants or the Cmi office in Mindelheim (Tel No.: **+49 8261/22024-60** or Email **jasmin.nimar@maristen.org**).

For all 11 participants from Germany, but also for the brothers and teachers on site and especially for the children, the days together were a wonderful time, characterized by deep experiences, e.g. T. personal insights, experiences and joyful encounters. The feedback was so positive from all sides that already a third summer camp is being planned for 2020.

Br Michael Schmalzi

USA Leadership Conference USA July 2019



This year three participants of senior Management in our Marist schools attended the USA Leadership Conference and were accompanied by Br PJ McGowan. The three members were Principal Niamh Cahalane from Moyle Park College Dublin, Deputy Principal Pat Glover from Marian College Dublin and Deputy Principal Friederike Albiez from Maristen Gymnasium Furth Germany. Following this meeting Br PJ also attended the first ever Lay Marist Gathering in USA. Below are some reflections on their experience.

The Marist Leadership Institute Conference – July 15-18, 2018

A Reflection by Mr. Pat Glover, Deputy Principal, Marian College

This past July I got the opportunity to travel to Long Branch, New Jersey for the Marist Leadership Conference. San Alfonso Retreat House, located on the Jersey Shore, provide the ideal setting for a few days of reflection time and professional development.

The opening address by Brother David Hall raised the question of how the Marist mission fits into modern day society and contemporary second-level education. There was an emphasis on the value of the catholic tradition in today's often-troubled and secular society and how school leaders can propose to educators, students and families a new way of being human.

Throughout the conference there were a number of memorable presentations and thought-provoking workshops. Bro. Steve Schlitte gave a very practical guide

to the methods adopted by Steve and his staff at Mount St. Michael to develop the core values of Respect, Integrity, Professional Behaviour, Perseverance and Accountability. The case-study-based curriculum is certainly something that could be adopted in my own school to nurture these essential values.

Principal Melissa Valdez described life at St. Joseph's Academy; this talk reminded us all of the fact that each school exists in a unique operational environment and as such our students and faculty face particular challenges. Other interesting talks focused on the subject of 'Flipped and Blended Learning' and 'Faculty Development'. On the final day the team from Marist High School, Chicago gave their reflections on school administration within a Marist School. The school's principal Larry Trucker shared many

insights and anecdotes from his 20+ years as a school principal.

While it was a busy few days of work the group were able to fit in some down time. Flanked by my Irish colleagues Br. PJ McGowan and Ms. Niamh Cahalane we immersed ourselves in the evening socials and, like most educational conferences, it was here that we got the ideal opportunity to share educational thought and practice with other school leaders. Rather than perceived cultural differences it became clear that Marist schools around the world have much more in common than what sets us apart.

Overall, this was an extremely worthwhile and enjoyable experience. I am very grateful for the very warm welcome that we received from our hosts Br. Pat McNamara, Br. Tom Schady, Br. Dan O'Riordan and all of the staff at San Alfonso Retreat House.

Pat Glover

Read more reflections from Principal Niamh Cahalane Moyle Park College



First Lay Marist Assembly in USA

It was a special privilege to attend the first Lay Marist Assembly in the USA from July 18th to 20th. The meeting was held at the Redemptorist Retreat centre at Long Branch New Jersey and was attended by 75 Lay Marists and a number of Brothers including the Provincial Bro Pat McNamara. It was a very enjoyable experience, with a great sense of togetherness and a strong vibrant spiritual experience.

The meeting was facilitated by Pep Buetas Co -Director of the Laity in Rome and Patti Rios from Mexico who is very involved in the Champagnat Movement.

The process at the conference clearly established that any Marist Group must have three elements to it's life, Reflection, Community experience and an Action plan.

The first exercise allowed the participants to break into three groups and identify from experience which element of the above areas attracted them most to the Marist charism.

This process was followed by two main presentations from Pep and Patti. Pep shared the evolution of thinking on Lay Marist through the various General Chapters and Marist documents including Water from the Rock and Gathered around the same table.



It is clear that the first stage is to awaken and discover the charism, followed by an encounter usually through some formation programme and then follows various levels of engagement depending on each person's journey.

Patti in her presentation traced the evolution of the Champagnat Movement from it's inception by Bro Charles Howard in 1980. It is interesting that by and large this movement has never gained any traction in the English-speaking world. Since 2012 a review of this programme has been in place to make it more lay friendly.

The rest of the Conference involved brainstorming about what a Lay Association might look like and the creation of a series of proposals that would form the basis of

such a movement.

It was clear that a leadership team will need to be set up to look at the various proposals and develop a plan of action. Communications and Formation were seen as two key areas that will be crucial in the development of the Lay Association. Another interesting but very realistic conclusion was that a source of funding of the Lay movement will have to be established.

I really appreciate the opportunity of being present at such a historic moment in the establishment of a Lay Marist group in the USA and thank all the participants for the welcome I received.

P.J McGowan

F.M.S.

MEC Meeting Dublin September 2018

The European Mission Council meeting was held this September 12-15th in Moyle Park Dublin. The council is made up of representatives from each province in Europe and they work on initiatives and programmes to bring the five provinces in Europe together as one Marist Europe. Aisling Demaison is the representative from West Central Europe.

During this meeting in Dublin, the council took the opportunity to visit Moyle Park College in Clondalkin. They were extremely impressed by the welcome they received by Principal Niamh Calahane, all the teachers who welcomed them into their classrooms and students and Marist Leaders who explained so much of their work in the school. A great glimpse into an example of the Marist family spirit that exists in all our Marist Schools in the province.





Marist Footsteps 2 Programme

I attended the Footsteps 2 programme in Mittagong outside Sydney from the 9th to the 12th September

This is a follow up formation programme for teachers in Marist schools in Australia.

While the first Footsteps programme concentrates on introducing staff members to the life of Champagnat and the values we promote as Marists, Footsteps 2 is fundamentally focussed on Marist spirituality. We spent time reflecting on our own Spiritual autobiography and how our spirit has been nourished. I was particularly impressed with the presentation of the gospel story in terms of the Song of Jesus. The song comes down to us as faith passed on and we have to sing the song and sing it as part of a community and hope that through us all hear the voice of Jesus. Very good reflection presented on Spirituality versus religion and how we evangelise in our different

contexts in today's world and seeing ourselves as Marist apostles which I found attractive.

We spent a significant time reflecting on a number of Champagnat's letters to various Brothers and people in authority which allowed us to experience the depth of Champagnat's faith.

A meditation on the three violets as core concepts in Marist Spirituality was very good.

The presentation on the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy was very refreshing and adapted for the times we live in. We also had an excellent reflection on mercy and justice in the context of Pope Francis's year of mercy. Prayer was a very central part of the programme. We were introduced to different types of meditation including Ignatian contemplation and Lectio Divina and had enriching morning and



evening prayers as well as Eucharist. It must be said that the participants were very engaging and the richness of their contributions and testimonies were the highlight of the few days together. A very worthwhile experience.

P.J McGowan

F.M.S.

The Netherlands Pilgrimage to L'Hermitage

From 12th to 16th September the new board of Management and companions of Leerhuis Westerhelling went on a pilgrimage to l'Hermitage. It was an inspiring event, reflecting on our Marist roots and our own mission.

The Marist places like LaValla, Champagnat Route and "Souvenez-vous" inspired us in the reflection on our accompaniment of young adults in Nijmegen.

Conny Suart

Delegate Marist Projects



Marist Week Ireland 2018

The annual Marist Week in Ireland continues to grow from strength to strength. The purpose of the week is to allow the entire school communities in the three Marist Schools to work together on a series of projects and activities that promote Marist Characteristic spirit in the school. Marist Week is held in the first week of October every year with a view to kicking off events that will continue on many smaller levels throughout the year.

Events included; visits and tours for younger students to the Marist Brothers houses, Marist Curriculum in Religious

Education classes, Whole School Spectrum Art project to promote family spirit, School Mass and celebrations, talks to all students from International speaker Rebecca Bromhead Three2Six Programme South Africa, Joint Marist Schools History Quiz, Joint Marist Schools Annual Marist Cup (sports day), daily Marist reflections for school community, Marist Leaders class visits to junior classes to share experience of L'Hermitage, Marist subject competitions and much more.

Here is a glimpse at just some of the magic moments from this years Marist Week Ireland 2018.



[Click to view gallery of photos from Marist Week](#)



Marist Prayer and Reflection Booklet Launch 2018

Following his attendance at the Marist Lay Gathering in USA, Br PJ returned with the inspiration to create a prayer booklet for Marist Core Teams in Ireland to be used as a resource to develop the reflection and Spirituality element of the groups.

With this idea in his mind he set about asking a selection of members of the Marist Core Teams from each of the three schools and also past members and connected Marists to write Marist reflections, and to choose their favorite prayers. The result is a beautiful representation of Marist reflections, prayers and readings that is a wonderful resource for Marist Core Teams and also for personal use.

The launch of the Booklet took place in Moyle Park Brothers House during Marist Week and was a proud moment for all involved.



[Click to view more photos from the launch](#)

2018 – Five year Anniversary of Cmi Germany

Since August 2013 29 young graduates from German Marist Schools were sent for a voluntary mission service to other Marist projects all over the world. The young people live and work for 9 months in a Marist receiving community.

Looking at the last 5 years it was desire for us to pause and to say “thank you” together with many people who are significant for Cmi Germany and the Marists in Germany. On Saturday, 5.10.18 the Provincial of our Province, Bro. Brendan Geary, two representatives from Cmi Rome, Brother Joao Carlos do Prado, Councillor General and Brother Valdicer Fachi, director of the Sekretariat Cmi Rome, and several German Brothers who are interested in Cmi, many past volunteers with their parents and friends and supporters of Cmi and the Marists came to the commemoration. Representatives of public life, such as the mayor of the city and the mentors of incoming volunteers, as well as the principal and teachers of the Marist College attended the celebration. Maristenkolleg Mindelheim provided us the schoolhouse for this day. After the celebration of a thanksgiving mass, our incoming volunteers planted a tree as a symbol of hope and growth.



The first possibility of exchange was given at a short welcome drink at Maristenkolleg hall.

Immediately thereafter, the guests were asked to participate in a panel discussion on the deep meaning of volunteering abroad.

Brother Joao Carlos and Brother Valdicer gave us their reflections from the Marist point of view, while Mr. Max Engels provided insight into a sociopolitical perspective.

Afterwards we enjoyed a dinner together and had enough time to talk to many guests of the celebration. The past volunteers

were very happy to meet again and to have time for each other.

Ms Nancy Camilleri enriched the evening with a short sketch, presented by incoming and past outgoing volunteers. This sketch showed us in a loving and funny way, how tricky German language could be for learners.

At the end many of the volunteers helped us to clean the rooms and to complete the celebration.

A big “Thank You” to all people who make this wonderful day possible!

Renate Hacker

CMi



Marist Leadership Gathering L'Hermitage 2018

**MARIST
LEADERSHIP**

This years Marist Leadership Gathering was the biggest one yet. The gathering took place in the Hermitage Notre Dame in Saint Chamond, France, the home-place of Marcellin Champagnat.

The schools involved are from both Scotland and Ireland.

Scotland: St Johns RC High School Dundee, St Joseph's College Dumfries. **Ireland:** Marian College Dublin, Moyle Park College Dublin and Marist College Athlone.

The two facilitators who ran the event were: Aisling Demaison, Marist Education and Alastair Callaghan, Kinharvie Institute in Glasgow.

The weekend was a combination of learning about the origin of Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Values, team building, and learning Leadership skills and practicing leadership activities. It was a very active and reflective weekend.



[Click to view a video of the Marist Leadership Gathering 2018](#)

Year 2 Marist Leader statement Jamie Purcell

I had somewhat of an idea what to expect from L'Hermitage as I was lucky enough to travel to Scotland last year with the Marist leaders. Over the course of the weekend we learned a lot about team building and the history of Marcellin Champagnat and the good work he did for the Marist Brothers and the Marist schools. I got the chance to develop on my team building, communication and leadership skills. I made some really good friendships, and improved the connection with friends I made on last year's trip.

It was a good experience to see the different sites and places where

Marcellin grew up and lived. As a Year 2 Marist leader the highlight of my weekend was to be involved in the leadership activities from another angle. I had the opportunity to facilitate the activities for Year 1 Marist Leaders. The thing I learned was that sometimes the role of a good leader is to step back and let the Year 1 Marist leaders take charge. I found the experience extremely beneficial, and have gained many ideas from fellow Marist Leaders that I can bring back to my own school.

Jamie Purcell
Marian College



Feedback from St Josephs College Marist quotes

During the trip I learned so much about Marist values. The most interesting thing about what I realised about Marist values is that they are all best revealed through teamwork. I learned about presence: that you should always try to be present in the moment. I learned this best through the leadership teamwork activities as when everybody was present and paying attention to help each other, the team worked best. Also, I learned about the Marist value of 'Love of Work' because when everyone, especially the leaders, were passionate about completing tasks together, it was completed to a high standard. Finally, I learned about the 'Way of Mary'. My team were very kind and caring and

helped to nurture one another. This was really nice for me as it made me feel more confident and happy in myself. (Erin Howat)

I learned a lot about leadership during my visit to the Hermitage. We were all given pieces of paper with quotes about leadership on them. Written on mine was, 'No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or to get all the credit for doing it'. This struck a chord with me as I try to do most things on my own, even when I am in a group. This quote also helped me to realise that a great leader is someone who doesn't ask for credit or fame.

One of the highlights of the visit for me was the tour of the chapel at the

Hermitage. It was such a beautiful space. The stained-glass windows were amazing. I have never seen any as clear and bright and so full of images as these. (Matthew Asher)

I have learned that I have to believe in myself to achieve a goal and that to grow in confidence I have to push myself harder. I will put this into practice by pushing myself and believing more in myself to achieve my best at school and with others. Finally, I learned that every Marist value plays a part in everyday life, even though you might not notice that they are there. (Sophie Armstrong)

St Josephs

College Dumfries Scotland

L'Hermitage

Before we left for France I was expecting an experience where each school would stick to themselves or maybe we would only interact when we were forced to in activities but in reality it was quite the opposite.

I made new friends from each of the schools present. It was truly an experience I will not forget. I had high hopes for the weekend but my expectations did not reach what it really was. In addition to having a wonderful time, reflecting on the experience I can definitely see how I've grown as a person. I have developed many of my leadership skills and amongst other things have greatly improved my social skills.

Through this weekend I have learned how essential and present our qualities as Marists are in everyday life. I have seen the Marist values at their very core



during my visit and I will definitely be practicing them in school and outside of school too. One of my favourite parts of the weekend was when we went out for dinner and we had our burgers and chips because our family spirit really shone through and we had a lot of fun together

that night singing and even just playing games together. I thoroughly did enjoy this weekend at l'Hermitage and my experience practicing the values and learning more is not yet finished.

Ian Stynes

Moyle Park

[Read more from the participants](#)



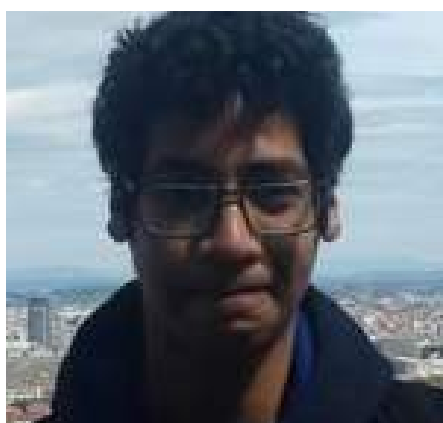
Weaving Life

Marist International Youth Gathering Guatemala January 2019

On January 14th – 20th 2019, 6 young people from our province of West Central Europe will participate in the Marist International Youth Gathering in Guatemala. The title of the event is «Weaving Life» and it aims to offer a deep experience of community with other young Marists

from across the globe, also a sense of contemplation and solidarity as a way of growth and creating a bond of connection and personal commitment of young Marist Leaders.

Here is an introduction to the six young people attending the event:



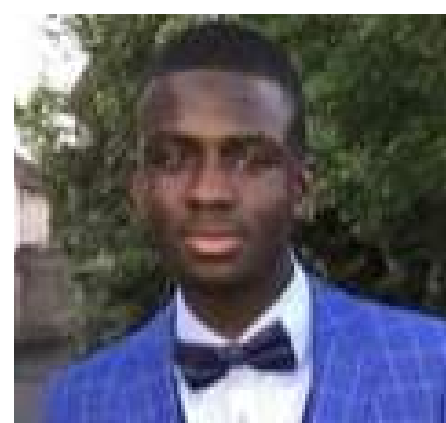
AHMED HAMED ALY

My name is Ahmed Hamed Aly and I'm currently studying Computer Science in Trinity College. I initially became a Marist Student Leader in Marian College towards the end of 3rd year and remained the Marist Student Leader throughout my stay in Marian College. I've been involved in various different Marist work as Marist Leader. In 5th year, one of my tasks was to manage the twitter page for the Marist Leaders. Being a Marist Leader means that I belong to a family of Marists. To be a Marist for me gives me a sense of belonging and family. I'd love to attend this event as I have been a Marist Leader for over 2 years and I would love to share my journey and experience with everyone. I hope to get more involved in Marist Leadership after I return.



CIARÁN McDERMOTT

My name is Ciarán McDermott, I am 19 and from Athlone. I attended Marist College Athlone from 2012-2018. I believe that being Marist is centred around the idea of family and making everyone feel included in whatever they do, and I think the five Marist values all point towards this idea. My work as a Marist leader revolved around my school; making sure the students, especially the younger years felt as welcome in the school environment as the staff do, and are treated with the same high level of respect. By attending the event in Guatemala, I hope to learn even more about the Marist ethos, values, and way of life. Upon my return I hope to find ways of applying the Marist ethos to everyday life, and to help more young people gain confidence in their leadership abilities. The youth make up 100% of the future, and I believe that by giving them the right support and leadership, the future will indeed be a much better place.



FUAD USMAN DIO

My name is Fuad Usman Dio, I'm a 19 year old Psychology student in University College Dublin. I got involved in Marist work through the Marist leadership program in my secondary school. I am glad to be still involved in it after graduation from Moyle Park College. Undertaking the Marist leadership program has been very useful to me. The leadership skills I picked up from it shapes the way I make my decisions today. It means a lot to me that I get to represent all the Marist leaders from my school. I wish to attend this event in order to understand what other Marist leadership programs are like in the rest of the world. I am also looking forward to meeting many people from the Marist community. I intend to use the knowledge and experience I will acquire to help strengthen the Marist leadership program here in Ireland, especially for those leaders who graduated from secondary school.



LEIGH ELLIS

Hi Everyone! My name is Leigh and I am the Art Teacher in Moyle Park College, Dublin - one of three Marist Schools in Ireland! I teach boys from the age of 12 to 18 and we also run many creative engagement projects with the entire school. I have also worked for the past five years in the Moyle Park English language Summer School teaching Art and English to visiting students studying, and getting to meet and work with other students and teachers from Marist schools around the world has been a joy.

In Moyle Park College I work with a group of students called the Marist leaders, where they are encouraged to develop their leadership skills in order to support fellow students and to benefit the wider community. We are currently working on getting a new bike shed for the students and a graffiti artist will help us create a more welcoming space for our students.

It has been a rewarding experience working with these young people and seeing them grow in confidence and seeing new friendships forming.

Each year for Marist week, I host an Art event where the entire school, staff, students and Marist family join together to participate in an Art project. These events have been fantastic ways for students to collaborate and meet other students and staff, and learn a new skill!

I hope to be able to get some inspiration for more creative projects during my trip to the International gathering of Marist Youth in Guatemala this year!



MITCH LINDSAY

My name is Mitch Lindsay. I am a Geography and English teacher in Marian College, Dublin, Ireland. I have been teaching in Marian College for 7 years and I am also a former pupil and school captain of Marian College. I have been involved in Marist work directly for the past 2 academic years co-ordinating the Marist Leadership program in school. We have recently returned from a trip to Hermitage in France with our Marist Leaders.

I have seen the incredible impact on been a Marist Leader has had on our pupils. Our pupils wear the Marist Leader badge everyday with pride, the Marist Leader hoodies were also a hit and are worn to school by our leaders! The Marist Program has helped build our pupils self esteem, self worth, confidence and there sense of been part of a community. It is a hugely beneficial and enjoyable program for leaders and co-ordinators.

I am very excited and honoured to attend the upcoming Marist event in Guatemala. I am very open to learning about others experiences and what successes they have had and I hope to implement such ideas/programs upon my return.



MATTHIAS SPANRAD

My name is Matthias Spanrad and I'm a young teacher from Maristen-Gymnasium Furth. I'm working there for more than four years now and I have already encountered the Marist spirit several times.

Last year, I joined the pilgrimage to hermitage in France and we had a lot of events at our school with and for the Marist work. For example, a musical about the life of Marcellin Champagnat. In my job in the senior leading group of our school, I was able to have more contacts to Marists from all over the world. I have learned they are all open-minded, cosmopolitan and forward thinking people. That's what the future must be: open minded to other people and ready for new borders.

In Guatemala, I hope to expand the network to other Marist leaders from all over the world. Especially at the moment open-minded young people – and we should teach our students to be open minded persons – the future of our world. Only when we all are able to approach each other we can manage the pending challenges. We can see that in Europe at the moment, but also all over the world there will be complex tasks in this century.

I hope to see more of the Marist spirit, more open minded young teachers from all over the world, because the Marist spirit is exactly that. All the previous conversations have been enriching for me and for my work with the young and older students at our school here in the little village in Bavaria.

Province Marist Coordinators Gathering Mindelheim

On the 9th-11th November, Marist Coordinators from schools around the province in Ireland, Scotland and Germany gathered in Mindelheim. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about Marist life in each others schools and to develop a greater sense of the life of a vibrant Marist Core Team.

Martin Pearson from Kinharvie facilitated the event and Pep Buetas from the Hermitage province shared insights into

Marist teams around the world.

The Coordinators looked at how the three elements: Action, Community, and Spirituality, make a framework for a vibrant Marist Core Team.

After many insights, discussions and experiences the wonderful weekend was topped off by a beautiful night of Gospel music and praise organised by Br Michael. We are looking forward to our next meeting and all the creative Marist projects we can do together in the meantime.



History of Marist Brothers Germany

A Brother from Mindelheim, Germany, in the province of West Central Europe, has published a book on several aspects of Marist history, including on the history of the brothers in Germany.

Br Augustin Hendlmeier, aged 75, is the author of 'From L'Hermitage to Germany: Studies

on the History of the Marist Brothers' – a book of short chapters totaling 136 pages.

The text, originally in German, has been translated into Spanish and English. Copies of the English translation have been sent to several provinces to distribute to their communities. Follow link to read: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=4890>



Tutors from Mindelheim visit the Hermitage for the first time!

Twenty-two tutors from the Marist College in Mindelheim visited the Hermitage with their teachers (Nancy Camilleri, Bro. Michael Schmalzl, Wolfgang Hacker) this September for one week.

Deeply impressed by the visits to the sites of Marcellin (La Valla, Le Rosey, Marlies), they drew strength for their demanding honorary service at our school.

In the next school year, we will try to repeat this visit and coordinate a meeting with Scottish and Irish students!

Wolfgang Hacker



My Sabbatical Year – Br Robert Thunus

After my 9 years of service as head of the Marist Community and the Welcome Center in Habay, I had the chance to live an enriching sabbatical for which I am very grateful to our Province.

I tried to live firstly a time of healing and rest and then a training time. In between, I also had the chance to participate as a delegate to the General Chapter in Colombia, with



brothers Gerard de Haan and Brendan Geary from our Province.

Two short stays in Spain allowed me to deepen my Spanish language, with a remarkable reception in the

Marist Communities of Salamanca, Valladolid and Segovia. I

was then able to experience a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and to immerse myself in places where Christ

lived. A little later I was able to participate in a retreat for 30 days according to the Spiritual

Exercises of Saint Ignatius. And finally, I spent two weeks on the Marist places.

My training time took place in Canada from January 1 to August 30 of this year.

I shared the life of the Marist Community of Willowdale, with two Quebec Brothers



and 14 University students. At the Institute of Integral Human Training of Montreal (IFHIM) I went through the first cycle of a training course that spans 3 years. It allowed me to get to know myself better, to gain more confidence in myself, and to deepen tools to better support people, young people and adults.

Br Robert Thunus

Belgium



Maristen-Realschule Recklinghausen Germany

A journey to the roots

It all started with the province pilgrimage to Notre-Dame-de-L'Hermitage in March 2018. Among the participants were two teachers from the staff of Maristen-Realschule, Recklinghausen, Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany. They returned to their school with shining eyes and the belief: "Everybody who works with the Marists should see this place!"

So a date was decided, the staff informed and a list appeared in the staffroom, asking everybody who was interested in the journey to put their names down.

In the end 11 teachers, one headteacher, one additional Bavarian brother and one parish priest travelled to L'Hermitage from 19th to 26th October. There they walked in the footsteps of Marcellin, enjoyed the view and sound of the river Gier, the water from the rock, and, as you can see in the picture, gathered around the same table at La Valla. Of course, we also visited the other significant places under the literal and spiritual guidance of Bro. Diogène from the L'Hermitage community (a great many thanks again for this). And it was not just the visit of the places, but also

the atmosphere in house, the quiet and peaceful landscape and meeting other groups who were there. Above all we must mention a group from South Africa, the visit from the diocese in Lebanon which is connected with the diocese of St. Chamond, and the brothers who are staying at Manziana at the moment.

We returned to Recklinghausen full of ideas and plans for developing Marist projects in our school. The journey brought a new spirit. I hope it will be nourished and kept up for a long time!

Ulrike Weber

Marist Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE PROVINCE CALENDAR 2019

JAN 14TH – 20TH

/ International Marist Youth Gathering in Guatemala

JAN 14TH -16TH

/ Assembly of European Mission Councils

MARCH 21ST – 24TH

/ Province Pilgrimage to Hermitage

APRIL 23RD – 26TH

/ Province Chapter

JUNE 14TH – 16TH

/ Province Gathering Guardamar



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