EUROPEAN CONGRESS
IVth OFS-YouFra European Congress,
Llinars del Vallés, Barcelona 14 - 19 July 2025
Creation and Fraternity: one family, one mission - 800 years of the Canticle of the Creatures

Monday, July 14

16:00 Reception and Accommodation
20:00 The Holy Mass at the beginning of the Congress. Procession with the Icon of the Virgin Queen of the Franciscan Family (Chapel).

Casa de Colonias Mogent of the Marist Brothers in the municipality of Llinars del Vallés.





The Marist community has been present in Llinars del Vallès since 1957, when the Can Marsans farmhouse was purchased with the purpose of establishing a seminary.

The house has fulfilled this mission for more than 35 years, a period during which it has sheltered many students and aspirants to Marist life, as well as many Brothers who were formators and educators of those seminarians.

At present the community is made up of three Marist Brothers and one lay Marist.

The Mogent summer camp is located at the foot of the Corredor-Montnegre Natural Park.

Opening remarks:

The IVth European Congress is a unique event for us, brothers and sisters who have gathered here from various national fraternities in Europe and some Eastern European countries. The beautiful Spanish landscape perfectly complements the main theme of the Congress: “Praising Creation with the Canticle of the Creatures”.

"Creation and fraternity: one family, one mission". We hope that this Congress theme will inspire our reflections, prompting concrete actions and a deeper understanding of our mission to restore the original harmony and beauty of the world. We trust that the gathering of this Congress will renew our first love and commitment as devoted followers of St. Francis, motivating us to effectively love our neighbour and the world around us.

Today's first reading, taken from the Book of Exodus, describes how the Egyptians, concerned about the progress of the Israelites in their land, decided to oppress them with forced labour. In the context of Israel's history, this suffering can be understood as part of God's plan. It underscores that oppression and opposition cannot prevent God from blessing his covenant people. Moreover, it serves to remind Israel that their survival and prosperity are the result of God's intervention, not just their own efforts. Ultimately, this situation led to one of the greatest blessings for Israel: their deliverance from slavery.

Today's passage from the Gospel of Matthew is one of the most challenging and controversial texts in the New Testament. Jesus warns of the deep divisions that his message of the kingdom can create among people, even within families. Jesus encourages his followers to take up their cross and follow him. He warns that all will face loss in their lives, but only those who are willing to lose their lives for him will truly find it. This Gospel reminds us of St. Francis' willingness to literally follow Christ, and it inspires us to stand steadfast in the truth as we consider our commitment to living the Gospel.

LITURGICAL TEXTS for Monday, July 14

First Reading
Ex 1:8-14, 22

A reading from the Book of Exodus

A new king, who knew nothing of Joseph, came to power in Egypt. He said to his subjects, "Look how numerous and powerful the people of the children of Israel are growing, more so than we ourselves! Come, let us deal shrewdly with them to stop their increase; otherwise, in time of war they too may join our enemies to fight against us, and so leave our country."

Accordingly, taskmasters were set over the children of Israel to oppress them with forced labor.Thus they had to build for Pharaoh the supply cities of Pithom and Raamses. Yet the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread.

The Egyptians, then, dreaded the children of Israel and reduced them to cruel slavery, making life bitter for them with hard work in mortar and brick and all kinds of field work—the whole cruel fate of slaves.

Pharaoh then commanded all his subjects, "Throw into the river every boy that is born to the Hebrews, but you may let all the girls live."

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8

℟. (8a) Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Had not the LORD been with us—
let Israel say, had not the LORD been with us—
When men rose up against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive,
When their fury was inflamed against us.

℟. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us;
The torrent would have swept over us;
over us then would have swept
the raging waters.
Blessed be the LORD, who did not leave us
a prey to their teeth.

℟. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

We were rescued like a bird
from the fowlers' snare;
Broken was the snare,
and we were freed.
Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

℟. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Gospel
Mt 10:34—11:1

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his Apostles: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man

against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

When Jesus finished giving these commands to his Twelve disciples, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns.

21:00 Dinner

22:00 Presentation of the OFS-YouFra national fraternities (Central patio)

Welcome (In the Tent)