
Meeting of Head Teachers.
Geraardsbergen
Tuesday 26th of May 2009

The annual meeting of Head Teachers took place in Geraardsbergen. Those attending the meeting were:

From the Congregation.

Fr. Robert. Fr. Paul Janssens. Fr. Martin Ashcroft.

From Geraardsbergen.

Hilde Van Berlamont. Hubert De Weerd. Albert Gossye (Morning only).

From Melle.

Marijke Bousard. Guido De Temmerman. Luc Mattens.

From Leuven.

Patrick Segaert. Daniël Caron. Rudi Demoitié. Claire De Bruyne.

From Weybridge.

Joe Peake. Antony Hudson.

From Houtaing..

Jean Fraipont. Fr. Guido.

We were also joined by Faith Wheat, Chaplain at St George's who was visiting our Belgian schools with Fr Martin.

The Meeting opened in the Chapel of St Joseph's Institute. St Joseph's Institute is the first Josephite school, established in 1817, and it was fitting to start our meeting with the prayer of the Founder.



During the morning session Fr Robert explained what had been going on in the Congregation since the last meeting. The European region had been established with Fr Paul Janssens as Regional Superior, there had been an official visit to the Congo and a pilgrimage was being planned "in the footsteps of the Founder". The possibility of sending a delegation of Head teachers to visit St Etienne was discussed.



After a light lunch there was a short visit to the schools before climbing the hill to visit our Special School. Hubert De Weerdts gave us a short tour of the school. The school is very special and Hubert and his dedicated staff look after and care for children some of whom have a variety of ailments. There are Downs Syndrome children and autistic children. Fr Robert explained that the Congregation were very proud of this school and expressed the gratitude of the Congregation for the devotion of Hubert and his staff.



The afternoon session continued in the special school. Discussion centred around future developments and future planning. It was agreed to set up a small steering committee who would undertake some of the work and planning involved in the annual meeting.

As always the Head Teachers were anxious to explore ways of bringing the pupils from our different schools together.

It had been decided to repeat the experience of the “Musical Day”. There was also the possibility of organising a sports meeting at Melle for the 10 to 12 year olds.

School exchanges for over 16 year olds between England and Belgium were always possible and not too difficult to organise.

Some future dates were fixed.

Musical Day : Thursday April 22. 2010. Geraardsbergen.

Meeting of Head Teachers. 2010. Monday 15th of March. Weybridge. England.

Meeting of Head Teachers at the General Chapter. 2011. 14th of July 2011.

At the end of the meeting we continued our climb to the top of the Old Mountain to visit the Chapel dedicated to Our Lady. Fr. Francois, the Rector of the sanctuary was there to meet us together with Fr Jacob.



The journey by foot back to the Institute took us through the centre of the town.

The buffet supper was enjoyed by all. Luc Vande Moortel (former Head Teacher of Melle) joined us.

Once again the meeting of Head Teachers was a great success. The family spirit was reinforced and everyone is looking forward to the next visit to Weybridge.

Out thanks go to Peter Van Goethem the bursar who looked after us so well.

R.D.H
Melle
27.05.09



