

## Shared mission in Sahagún

Dear Members of the Marist Family

An affectionate greeting on behalf of the Marist community "Virgen peregrina" (The pilgrim Virgin) of Sahagún! As you probably know, we are in the process of organising the project of a community which will welcome pilgrims of the Camino de Santiago. This project is raising a lot of hope as well as expectations. For us, it is a new way of working for the Kingdom of God in a Marist way, an opportunity to exercise our creativity in ministry.

We are convinced that the Marist Family is an important part of this project and with whom we can share this experience. We are already in contact with some people from different places associated with Marist life. Many hands will be needed because our intention is to be a permanent presence on the Camino, or at least for most of the year.

[Our activities commenced around 15 March 2018].

The involvement of the wider Marist Family brings something distinct to the project because we do not see you as collaborators only but as co-workers, co-responsible for this shared mission. So, we would like to invite you to share the first steps of this project. We wish our community to be a light on the path on the journey of faith of many people who are searching for God and for themselves. Also, we wish to offer a Christian welcome to the pilgrims in a Marist way, and to make of the Holy Cross Pilgrim's Shelter at Sahagún, an oasis of spirituality where those who arrive can meet God and Mary, even if they do not recognise it.

An outline plan of the day would be something like this: to welcome pilgrims throughout the day, a moment of meeting with them in the afternoon, a pilgrim's mass and blessing. We will try to share supper, and of course not forgetting moments of prayer. We know that it is difficult to be free for a ministry of this type, but we think that even a period of one or two weeks of collaboration would be good. Although if someone wishes to come for a longer period, we will of course consider it. If you would like to collaborate in the ministry of welcoming pilgrims, please contact us at these email addresses:

alberguesantacruzсахagun@gmail.com => email of the community.

dfernandezsm@gmail.com => email of the superior of the community.

We are sure that you will wish to support this project with your help and your prayers, so we thank you for this in advance. Could I ask you to please spread this invitation as widely as possible? For those who are curious about an international experiencing of Marist welcoming, we encourage you to try it. If you do, you will surely wish to repeat it.

Martin McAnaney, Provincial of Europe  
And the Marist Community "Virgen peregrina"

07.01.2018