

## COLINIAN RENEWAL AT LA NEYLIÈRE



From January to June, eight of us, from Oceania, Africa, Australia and the Philippines, participated in this session in the house where our Founder lived his final years and died. The course was led by Frs. Raymond Chapman, from Australia, who made a remarkable contribution on discernment, and Donato Kivi, from Fiji, who presented an ecological Marian spirituality.

Despite the rigours of winter, the session enabled me to delve deeper into the consecrated life. Talks by Alois Greiler and Paul Walsh on Colin's life and spirituality were enriching. We visited the Marist places of origin.



From 7 March to 6 April, we did a 30-day Ignatian retreat at Nemi outside Rome, accompanied by Patrick O'Hare sm and Thérèse Carroll, an Australian religious. It was a powerful spiritual time. Over Easter, we stayed at the General House in Rome and followed in Colin's footsteps during his Roman time.

We visited the international scholasticate and met members of other branches of the Marist Family, returning to La Neylière in April.

We had various face-to-face and virtual sessions on Colinian themes drawn from Taylor's biography, the Constitutions, the Marist laity, psycho-affective issues, self-care and the protection of the vulnerable.



The final weeks with Frs. Ben McKenna and John Larsen helped us to re-read the experience of the session in the light of the mission. We walked the roads of the Bugey region with a final celebration at Fourvière.

I am grateful for these good times, for the fraternal welcome of the members of the Marist community of La Neylière and the many people I met. Now I turn happily to other horizons.

*Damien Diouf, sm*

## DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

Hope for a future we cannot see was a major theme of the Provincial Retreat this year given by Fr Arnaldo Pangrazzi. Years of experience taught him this is what distinguishes happy from unhappy older people. Well, we have three hope-filled contributions in this month's EuroInfo, from three generations of Marists.

Three quotes will do:  
*Now we're off to The World Youth Day: that is another beautiful perspective for our human and spiritual growth. We are grateful* (Joseph Arnaud Ondoua)  
*Now I turn happily to other horizons* (Damien Diouf)  
*How to deal positively with changes in the world and in our personal lives, learning from Jesus in the Gospel and living with Hope* (Paddy O'Hare).

Have a good summer break, if you can.

*Kevin Duffy, sm*

## PRAYER INTENTION:

That we receive the gift of growth in the virtue of **Hope**.

# MARIST PASTORAL EXPERIENCE IN LONDON

Two of us from Casa di Maria, Lewis Kum, sm. and myself, Joseph Ondoua, sm., are currently sharing the daily life of our confreres in mission here in London at Notre Dame de France. At the same time, we are appreciating the diversity of the city of London.



Our journey from Rome was easy but the security measures to enter the UK were exacting. The London metro system is very different from Rome, but fortunately we had the help of Fr Christian Abonbung who met us at the airport. We joined the welcoming community for lunch, meeting the members of the community: Marist fathers Hubert, Pascal, Martin and Christian; the Marist missionary sisters: Marie-Emmanuelle and Anne and some Marist collaborators. A varied group of missionaries. We met groups from Notre Dame de France: the youth, the administration, the associations, and we even had an ecumenical breakfast. We are living daily as a family: we pray, serve and share meals together.

Notre Dame de France is like a door opened to the world: tourists passing by; parishioners living in London; refugees looking for administrative help or (the most enriching experience for us) homeless people, coming to get some attention and care. In fact, every Saturday we host the homeless in the refugee centre for a couple of hours and we give them food and clothes, talk with those who are willing to, take them out for an excursion, or show them a movie. It's amazing how many people (from different generations) work with the Marists for the people of God.



There are many interesting sights in London: gardens and parks, musicians performing in the streets, cars driving on the left. Buckingham Palace, London Bridge, The National Gallery, China Town, Leicester Square (with its movie Premieres) are some of the attractions we discover as days go by - London weather permitting!

Now we're off to The World Youth Day: that is another beautiful perspective for our human and spiritual growth. We are grateful.

*Joseph Arnaud Ondoua, sm*

## PROVINCIAL RETREAT IN LA NEYLIÈRE JULY 2023

The warm Marist hospitality of the La Neylière confreres, excellent food, blue sky all week, and benign temperatures compared to the rest of Europe, combined to provide the setting for a very enjoyable and inspiring retreat (16-22 July). Italian Camillian Father Arnaldo Pangrazzi shared his wide experience of hospital and aged-care ministry, giving us innumerable valuable insights for personal prayer, and providing ample resources to take home for further reflection. The twice daily talks focussed on "the big issue presently and for the next 20 years: the care of aging religious, how to deal positively with changes in the world and in our personal lives, learning from Jesus in the Gospel and living with Hope". While some of us initially may have preferred more quiet time for personal prayer, I began to appreciate the "sharing and practical exercises in groups" as the week progressed. Meals were in silence except for the evening meal each day. The Eucharistic celebrations, very well prepared by language groups, and Morning and Evening prayer beautifully animated by the La Neylière confreres, all together gave a rich liturgical flavour to each day. Numbers were fewer than in other years, but everyone appreciated the fraternal spirit and the joy of meeting together.



*Paddy O'Hare, sm*