

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023: FROM SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA TO LISBON



We experienced WYD 2023 in two stages. We met up in Sahagun to spend a few days on the road to Santiago de Compostela. After a day at the hostel run by the Marists, which enabled us to get to know each other, to discover the Marists and to appreciate the warm welcome of the local community, we set off for Santiago de Compostela. Finally,

we went to Lisbon and were joined by the rest of our group to experience WYD: the week of preparation and the great celebrations of the closing weekend.

Who were we: young students connected with Notre Dame de France through the school chaplaincy, young professionals from the Gaudete group of Notre Dame de France, 4 seminarians from the Casa de Maria in Rome, 3 Marist religious (one SMSM and two Marist Fathers) and a few people from Toulon. There were 19 of us in Sahagun and along the way, and 61 in Lisbon.



What do I remember? On the Way of Saint James, we were able to create a group and enjoy meetings and good times of shared prayer. Mass in Santiago cathedral was the high point of the week. In Lisbon, we were among the crowds, very well received by the Marist Brothers who had made a school available to the Marist groups of the world. What I retain

from these days is the experience of a young and joyful Church and the words of the Pope who invites us to open our hearts by speaking simply and concretely. **"The Church is for everyone, for everyone, for everyone"**, he chanted with the hundreds of thousands of young people present.

So what's next? I am sure that these moments will bear fruit in the hearts of young people. Following in Mary's footsteps, they have been invited to set off in haste to meet Christ. After the time of sowing will come the time of harvest.

*Pascal Boidin, sm*

Also at the WYD, **Bishop Alan Williams, sm** gave catechesis to young people in Fatima. He spoke about Mary as a 'juggler' combining action and interior stillness. More details (in English): <https://bit.ly/48bACij>

## THE APOSTOLATE OF THE PEN (OR THE KEYBOARD)

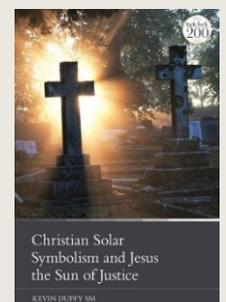
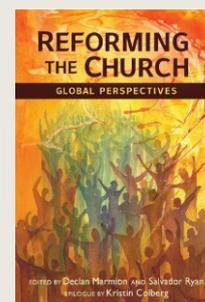
Father Colin looked forward to Marists writing books. Today, of course, books are only one form of writing. Most writing is on the internet and in the social media. Next year, we hope to introduce a renewed provincial website that will demand constant feeding in different languages ...

Back on books, Declan Marmion will be publishing a book later this year, and in Paris Olivier Laurent is busy composing a work on religious life. In Rome, Faustino Ferrari is doing the same. I too have written a book – about sunshine. Here is a link to a flyer – you get 20% off!

<https://bit.ly/KDbook20off>

(French: <https://bit.ly/KDlivre20>)

*Kevin Duffy, sm*



## PRAYER INTENTION:

The Education Forum in Toulon  
on 9th-11th October

# Marist Laity Gathering in England, 30<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August

The 5<sup>th</sup> international meeting of the European Marist Laity was held in the High Leigh Ecumenical Conference Centre in England on the theme of **"Marist Spirituality in a Synodal Church"**. Around 65 people gathered from different countries including Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Brazil, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain and Norway. A rich program encouraged a warm family atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the week was a pilgrimage to Walsingham, the national Marian shrine in Norfolk. After Mass with the local Marists, participants walked the "holy mile" leading to the Shrine Chapel, praying the Rosary. Another day was spent in London, which included a visit to the Marist church of Notre Dame de France. Here are some thoughts from participants:

*"This was a very beautiful experience for me. Thank you to our organisers and all the people who contributed in one way or another to making this gathering unforgettable."*

**Angela, Vanuatu**

*"When you live in a country like Ireland you can sometimes feel down BUT when you meet the Marists from Oceania and other places you realise that is where the future of the Church is safe. They are so full of life and enthusiasm and with so many young people involved."*

**Eileen, Ireland**

*"We are really one big family! The same Body of Christ united by the Holy Spirit despite the different*



*languages, ages and backgrounds, but we are all under the mantle of our Mother Mary."*

**Jean-Claude and Suzanne, New Caledonia**

*"I would like to thank the English team for this wonderful organisation. This week motivates me to continue in the Marist spirit at home, in my community and in my parish. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"*

**Marie-Renata, Vanuatu**

*"For me the time at High Leigh was one of renewal. Renewing old friendships and making new ones. Most of all it was a renewing of Marist Spirituality with a worldwide family of fellow Marists. A time of hope and challenge."*

**Nuala, Ireland**

*"It was a great week spent with Marist friends, old and new. The talks and the programme were inspiring."*

**Siri-Beate, Norway**



## WHAT DEFINE US AS MARISTS?

The **Vocations Committee** has started a process of discernment to find out what elements we need to promote to attract young people. Therefore, we are asking for your help by answering these 3 questions:

- ◆ Name **3 elements of our identity** as Marists.
- ◆ How do you make yourself **present and visible** as Marist in your context? How can we be a more life-giving presence today?
- ◆ Do you still believe that you are called to **continue Mary's presence in the world** today? Why?

Please send your answers by email to: [europepromotionvocation@gmail.com](mailto:europepromotionvocation@gmail.com) before the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Thank you in advance for your collaboration.

**Daniel Fernández, Teri O'Brien, Florence Poirier, Emmanuele Di Mare**



## DATES:

PC meeting 6-7 October, Paris • Education Forum 9-11 October, Toulon •  
Council of the Province 7-8 November, Paris • 40 year Anniversary of **"Forum 104"**, 6-8 October, Paris