



# SOCIETY OF MARY ★ MARISTS IN THE U.S. e-BULLETIN

Volume 4/Issue 9: July 28, 2016

## MARISTS CELEBRATE BICENTENARY OF FOURVIÈRE PLEDGE

Over 130 members of the Marist Family in the United States gathered at a retreat center on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourvière Pledge. The pledge, made by 12 diocesan seminarians in France on July 23, 1816, declared that the signers would face any adversity, including even possible torture, in order to found a new Marian congregation called the Society of Mary. The participants met July 18-22 at San Alphonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey. Keynote presentations were made by Paul Frechette SM, Linda Sevcik SM and Sean Sammon FMS. The time together also included the vow renewal of Brother Sam Amos, FMS and signing the Pledge by all participants.

Highlights from the keynote presentations:

***Marists strive to forget themselves by getting lost in the Marian work of mercy. Like Mary, Mother of Mercy, Marists want to tell today's people – no matter how indifferent or skeptical they may be – that God loves them and understands their doubts and fears and their desire for liberation.*** Paul Frechette, SM



***Our challenge today: to help bring to life in our world the Marian Church first envisioned by those gathered at Fourvière. A Church of mercy and compassion.*** Sean Sammon, FMS

*Perhaps a few thoughts from Br. Emil's beautiful document "Fourvière: the Revolution of Tenderness" would lead us forward. He invites us to renew our heartfelt commitment to be the Marian face of the Church and this is something we can each consider personally, but I wonder if **it's possible that something can come from this historic gathering that helps us to renew that commitment that all we Marists hold dear.** He reminds us that Fourvière is the symbol of the Marist dream. So, in this anniversary year, **can we continue to dream with the passion and boldness of our founders?***

Linda Sevcik SM

## U.S. MARIST FAMILY AT FOURVIÈRE CONFERENCE

