



MARIST LAITY INTERNATIONAL

With Mary we advance...

Advent 2015. Issue 1

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Finding the path of Colin for today...

In August this year an historic meeting of Marist Laity was held at Los Negrales when international delegates attended the European Marist Laity Conference, making it the first worldwide meeting.

Fifteen International delegates then went on to La Neyliere for a meeting which included a pilgrimage to the Marist places.

As part of that we had the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Mary on the steps at Fourvière and La Capucinière.



A Message from Michel Macquet, Coordinator of WMLC (International Marist Lay Network)



In September the Provincials and Major Superiors of the Society of Mary gathered for their Annual Review Consultation (ARC) at La Neyliere. Fr Alejandro Munoz shared on the recent Lay Marist international meeting at Los Negrales and La Neyliere.

The Provincials and Major Superiors recognized the autonomy and genuine identity of Marist Laity. They are ready to support us in the preparation for the General Chapter in the spirit of the European directory and in particular to sit at the same table and explore possible projects we could lead and share together.

For this, it will be necessary to develop contact and appropriate social, charitable evangelization projects which can help the renewal of the church. All this without losing the crucial insight that we are called to “*build a Colinian Laity for today*”. It was acknowledged that it is necessary for us to speak and act together. Following Los Negrales the General Administration asks us to raise some projects for the General Chapter in 2017. The projects can be completely new or the development of an existing programme. An outline of what the submitted projects will need to contain is at the end of this message.

We have planned a meeting in Europe for February on the theme “How can we promote Marist Laity and our common mission following on from the Los Negrales conference?” Let’s give ourselves a deadline



Participants at the Los Negrales Conference

of December 2016 for presenting these projects which will leave us a year to work on them before the Chapter. We make our own one of the conclusions of the participants from the recent Marist workshop in San Francisco.

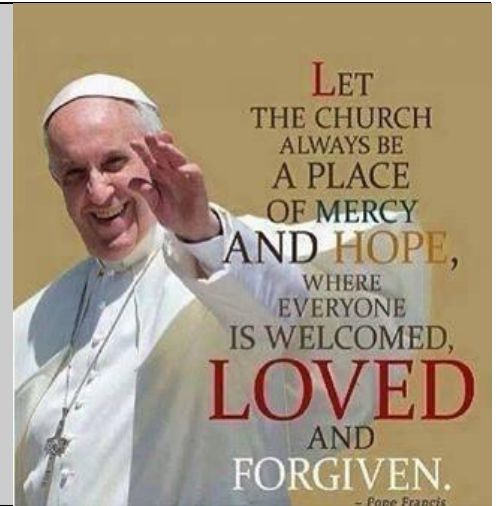
“Our Marist charism meets one of the great needs of people wishing to find faith in the lonely crowds of urban anonymity – a welcoming non-judgmental presence which offers compassion and companionship in the pilgrimage through life.”

Our challenge is to find Mary’s way to show how the Marist approach to the Gospel offers a source of renewal and hope for our fatigued and troubled societies today.

Michel Macquet. WMLC Network

Projects for consideration at the General Chapter in 2017 will need to contain:

1. A summary of the proposal including how the it meets an unmet need and fulfils our Marist charism
2. Challenges
3. Opportunities
4. Needs and possibilities for sharing amongst the Marist family
5. Realistic consideration of the needs of the sector and the available resources
6. Hoped for outcomes and goals.



News from Marist Laity Groups and Countries



Philippines:

For the first time in eight years and the second in Philippine Marist Lay history all the Marist Lay groups will gather for a General Assembly on Monday 30th November which is a national holiday.

It is hoped some international Lay Marists may share part of this event on Skype.

To help fund the work they plan to register an income generating project with the security and exchange commission. The groups will follow the European training and formation programme. *Kenneth Bretana*

Canada:

Gilles Rochon attended the International Lay Marist Conference and pilgrimage in August with Marie. They report that last July there was a three day conference in Saint-Augustin, near Quebec City, attended by about thirty Lay Marists from across Canada.

Together with invited speakers Father Yvan Mathieu, Sister Lorraine Caza and Father Gaston Lessard they explored Baptism and its importance for us as Marists.

Gilles Rochon



Spain: Meeting at Lardero – La Rioja – SPAIN

During the weekend of 25-27 September, in La Rioja (Spain), the Marist Brothers from the province “Ibérica” gathered 174 youth leaders (25-30 year olds), who are charged with formation and youth training from different communities of the province. Some Marist brothers, school managers and leaders responsible for youth groups were also present .

The motto and focus of the meeting was “**All new, in You**”.

The gathering was based on the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière Promise, to be commemorated next year and for this reason, some representatives from the other branches of the Marist family were invited. Everyone shared experiences in the mission as religious and lay people of the Marist family, especially about their work with young people in their parishes, schools and groups. Moreover, some talked about their vocational and spiritual journey, which was an inspiration for others to take further steps to connect more closely with all the Marist branches in the same mission.



Sr Silvia Sanz SM, Daniel Fernandez SM Deacon,
Fr Angel Anton SM, Sr Beatriz Matos SMSM

Deacon Ordination of Daniel Fernández

On the morning of 24 October, in the Cathedral of Alcalá de Henares, Daniel Fernández, a Spanish young Marist Scholastic, was ordained Deacon by the Archbishop of the Diocese of Alcalá, in Madrid, Spain. Other young men of the Diocese were ordained priests and deacons alongside Daniel.



The ceremony was full of solemnity and lots of people from Daniel’s home parish were present. He was accompanied in this important day in his religious life by many from the other Marist communities in Spain and some Spanish Marist Priests concelebrated the Mass. Fathers Martin McAnnaney and Jean Marie Bloqueau attended from Europe.

We pray for Daniel so that he can carry out his ministry in the Church with his Marist style, wherever he develops and fulfills his mission.

Greetings from David Sanz, European Marist Laity

Ireland:

Greetings to all. Since returning from Spain, a couple of things have taken place.

Sept 6th in Tubbercurry, in the west of Ireland, Marist Laity gathered to celebrate Mary's birthday. The Marist sisters and the Laity organized this occasion. We had Mass and dinner, followed by a great party. More than one hundred Laity attended.

On the 19th Sept. the Resource Group met to arrange future events.

- 1) Reena and Eileen will visit all groups to talk about preparing for "The Fourvière Pledge, in 2016". We intend to have a Commitment service some time in June, please God.
- 2) Next April we are having a weekend retreat, in Knock; our National Marian Shrine.
- 3) Reena has been invited to speak, about "**Being Marist**", in the local parish, here in Wicklow. We are trying to start a branch of Marist Laity here in our home town. We ask for prayers for this venture.

God bless, Nuala



Peru:

The “San Jose” school group of Lay Marists is meeting on the first Wednesdays of each month. We are sharing our prayers for the “Way to Fourvière” César Mattos participated in the International Meeting in Madrid and we had a meeting where he explained the activities carried out by laity around the world. Many of the Laity were very impressed with the different ideas of other countries where Marist Laity communities are working.



In August, we took part in the “Misión evangelizadora” to the poorest peoples of Peru (Huancayo). The group was made up of Father Miguel Angel Contreras SM., Brothers Orlando Orozco and Luiz Maciel, students and teachers of San José College and two Lay Marists. It was a huge



experience in their lives, especially for the students. It allowed them to experience different realities and at 4,000 metres above the sea, with temperatures below 5°C, some of us felt dizzy from the altitude, and frozen with the weather! Thanks to the “Misión evangelizadora” their lives have



changed significantly. Everybody experienced what it is to really love our *neighbour through selfless help*, service and by living in the harsh realities of some parts of our country. At the moment we are visiting shelters and homes of teenager mothers. César and Maria



Brazil:

During September Br. Ailton Gonçalves, s.m. and Cenaria de Freitas were in Palmas de Monte, Bahia to pass on the information received at the International Meeting which took place during August 2015 in Spain. The group was well received. During this meeting in Palmas de Monte Alto we took advantage of the opportunity to organize the 6th National Encounter of Marist Laity. This meeting will take place in Palmas de Monte Alto in January 2017. We invite members of the Marist Laity who may be interested in attending the National Encounter to begin preparing for the event.

Cenaria and Ailton



SULLANA – PERÚ

Dear Marist lay around the world we are happy to share our activities and projects with you. During the year we had two Retreats for our Young members from Sullana Area, including youth who are not Marist, but are seeking meaning in their lives and want to learn more about Jesus and his Blessed Mother.

Our First Retreat: Descubrete

This was held on July 05, attended by 70 young people from our province of Sullana. The aim of this retreat was to help young people discover their qualities and how to make them available to others.

Our Second Retreat “TRASCENDS”: make the difference

This took place on Sunday 25 October, on Marcavelica, in the farm Matorela. The purpose was to discover the plan that God has for each one, and how to give a generous ‘FIAT’ of self in service to others. Youth of our province attended as well as young Laity from Callao.



Our Spiritual Formation

Our meetings are held every fifteen days, on Sundays, ending with the Eucharist in our parish. We have formation and the priest who lives in Lima- Callao visits us.

We have had our spiritual retreats in the Valneario Colán, where we have been strengthened spiritually and renewed our commitment to Jesus and the Virgin Mary,

our Mother to live like Mary in our daily life, serving others simply while hidden like her in the Gospel.

We remain encouraged by working in the communities where we have hosted young people for two years and accompany them in their personal and spiritual growth. We trust in the support of Mary for every project we undertake for the sake of her son Jesus and we are preparing for the bicentennial of the promise of Fourviere where those twelve young newly ordained men, promised the Virgin Mary to begin a congregation that would bear her name and devoted their lives to this purpose. They started a missionary work in places that needed the proclamation of God. Now we are a part of that family and intend to live that same mission through the witness of our life.

María Elisa Álamo Franco



LAICADO MARISTA SULLANA

*A Marist heart must be open to everyone;
especially the most needy*



Communication amongst WMLC:

Keeping it Simple.

Following up with some of the ideas which came up in our meeting at La Neyliere, a shared email account has been set up for the WMLC contact group. There gives us the opportunity for our own meeting point to share documents (Google drive), photos, events (calendar) etc, with each other which may make us feel closer in time and distance. The account is "worldmaristlaity@gmail.com". If you need the passwords please contact a WMLC team member.

Copies of this Bulletin will be available there. *David Sanz*

Holy Year of Mercy

8 December 2015, Solemnity of Immaculate Conception -
20 November 2016, Solemnity of Christ the King.

"We entrust the
year to the
Mother of Mercy,
so that She may
turn towards us
Her gaze and
watch over
our path."

Pope Francis



Testimony from Madrid

*I would like to say a million
thanks to you all for making
the whole experience much to
cherish and remember.*

*We may come from different
parts of the world, speak
different languages, and*

*came from very diverse backgrounds but we
definitely came from one culture:*

THE MARIST CULTURE.

It was evident to each and every one.

+++++

*Despite the distance and the time difference,
our prayers and our hearts will now unite to rise
in one prayer throughout our large Marist
family pilgrimage on this earth*

+++++

*I think it's so great what happened in Spain.
After every meeting I feel I'm stronger than ever!!
It's definitely the work of Mary...I can feel it!
Meeting all of you was one of the greatest
experiences of my life, I've learned so much and I
thank God everyday for that.*

+++++

*The challenges faced were similar throughout the
world...*

*However what also struck me was the evidence of
Mary at work.*

+++++

*Even though we Marists are just a small and
mostly unknown family in our world, together, we
have much passion and joy
and this is MAGNIFIED when we are all
together, as we were in Spain and later in France.
As Corinne said in her talk, God doesn't count!!*

*Mary was a lay person who
didn't count!! And yet, look what she did
WITH God, FOR our world,
with her passion and joy!!!*



Christine, (USA) Kirsten, (NZ) Mikaela (N.Cal.),
Pepita (Sp.) Suzanna, (NCal.) at Los Negrales opening night.

Mexico:

As Marists we are called to “breathe” Mary’s spirit, “to think, judge, act and even feel *AS* Mary”. With the joy of being part of Mary’s family, we salute our Marist sisters and brothers in other countries and share with pleasure some activities which we have developed.

On September 12, in each community, we celebrated the feast of the Holy Name of Mary and reflected on articles 49 and 50 of the SM constitutions and how they apply in our daily life. All those who heard the call of Mary and said “Yes” made their Marist commitment promise.

That same day, the Centro de Proyección Universitaria (CPU), the University Parish, celebrated its patronal saint, many members shared their talents as well as training and food; The party included Priests, SM Brothers and Laity.



Marist Laity of the Parish of San Bernardino, Toluca,

We concluded with Holy Mass and twenty Laity made their Marist commitment for the first time.



Marist Laity after making his commitment promise, CPU

On 10-11 October, the staff working in the “Colegio Franco-Inglés de México”, participated in a retreat that was intended to strengthen collaborative work and Marist formation. Also in October, former members of the Kerygma, group and the Centro Politécnico de Proyección (CPP), our first parish dedicated to serving students, met to share in retreat on how the encounter with Christ, can help prepare them to be counter-cultural in our world, through commitment, prayer etc.

On 25 October, after seven years break, we held the XVII Marist Olympiad in the College Franco-Inglés under the title “*With Mary we advance*”. We had Laity from six communities. The day started



with Holy Mass then a warm up, before we played sports like football, volleyball and basketball, plus ping-pong, chess, jenga, etc. It was great to share fun, food and build bonds together, united as one family.



A Personal sharing

Moni and I, (Jorge), met on retreat in 2001, the Lord prepared us and in 2008 we got married. During this courtship and marriage we have been very blessed to belong to the family of Mary!

Our spirituality has allowed us to discover a path of faith and much love. We share the ideal of Fr Colin about “*the whole world Marist*”. We try to start with our family in the challenge of educating our children, in prayer,



dialogue, and common things and even differences. We have a long way to go, but we are certain that under the mantle of Mary we’ll arrive at the joy of contemplating the face of our loving Creator for eternity. We are expecting a Baby in November and ask for your prayer and that you share our joy. Glory to God.

Jorge Lopez and family. Mexico, University Parish. Toluca

Australia:

In November, 2014, Marist Laity Hunters Hill "adopted" Father Long SM who runs an orphanage in Davou, Philippines and Father Eneriko in his work in his impoverished parish in Vanuatu. We undertook to join in their respective missions by paying for a social worker to assist Father Long, thereby enabling him to care for more children and contributing to the cost of school expenses for the school children of the parish of Father Eneriko.

Pictured is "Mary's Stall" which was held at The Glebe Markets on 15th August, 2015, one of the fundraising events whereby the 2015 objective of \$4,000 for each priest was raised. With much support from the Villa Maria parishioners, the stall was full of saleable items and volunteers. We enjoyed the day meeting people and working together raising money for a good cause. With Mary's help we hope to continue to support our adopted priests through our ongoing financial support and prayers.



A LIVEABLE SPIRIT

On 17/9/2015, St Patrick's, an inner-city Marist parish in Sydney, held a Marist Spirituality day for the lay volunteers who work there. Many of these volunteers are attracted to this church because of the presence of the Marist Fathers and Sisters, but many would not know about our wonderful Marist history and spirit. The program offered was called "The Liveable Spirit."

After a prayer and discussion of the Marist "tree of many branches", a member from each branch told their story. Fr Ray Chapman SM, Br Greg McDonald FMS, Sr. Fidelis SM, Sr. Janice Ruff SMSM and I, spoke of our particular branch's history and spirituality. I was able to draw on the wisdom and insights of the Madrid conference. The volunteers were very keen to know more about Marist Laity as they all have a deep love of Mary and her Son. It was a day full of joy and hope! *Maria Baden*

England: www.maristway.org

Fifty people, flew to Lisbon for the Fatima Pilgrimage on Sunday 11th October. The mass on the Feast Day, 13th October, was attended by a huge crowd – possibly 200,000 pilgrims – it was a moving experience. We enjoyed perfect weather for our excursions and all pilgrims enjoyed the pilgrimage.

The "Walsingham / Thursford Christmas Extravaganza" (24th Nov. 1st & 8th Dec) should be a great experience. Over the years this has proven to be a very good preparation for Christmas with our Advent Service and all the Christmas music and poems in the Thursford Extravaganza. *Michael Coleman SM*

World Marist Laity Coordination Team

USA & Canada: Christine Colombar

Latino America: *to be advised...*

Australia: *to be advised...*

Africa/Europe: David Sanz de Diego

Asia: Kenneth Bretana

Oceania/New Caledonia: *to be advised...*

New Zealand: Bev McDonald

Team Coordinator: Michel Macquet

New Zealand:

On returning from Europe Kirsten and I (Bev) gave a brief presentation on the Conference to a Marist Family gathering for the Feast of the Holy Name. A report of the conference was given to the Society of Mary and all the Lay groups received a summary in their monthly material which is available on www.maristlaitynz.org. It has given us lots to reflect on as we prepare for the Year of Mercy and the anniversary of the Fourvière pledge.

The Marist Family is beginning to plan the New Zealand celebrations for Fourvière Day 2016. We are delighted that one of our Logos Youth Leaders, Jennifer Martinez is travelling to France to support the Youth event at Fourvière with a few others. Jen and Jan made Marist Commitments at a beautiful Mass at Logos on the 14th September.



Marian Mothers, Henderson November 2015



A group in the Otago Marist Parish is preparing to make their commitments and I am going to Christchurch soon to share Marist Laity with the Parishioners in Addington where Fr John Craddock SM, whom some of you will know as a past Marist Laity Director in NZ, is the Parish Priest. I will be meeting with Marian Mothers and Marist Laity groups in that area. Please keep in your prayers two seminarians who have been called to Novitiate for 2016, and Ben D'Souza who is renewing his vows this month. We also pray for the Marist sisters as they work through issues around their 2016 novitiate. *Bev McDonald*



**ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR GREETINGS AND
BLESSINGS TO OUR
WORLDWIDE MARIST
FAMILY, LAITY AND
RELIGIOUS, ONE IN MIND
AND HEART
TOGETHER WITH MARY.**

"Allow yourself to be possessed by joy. Joy is of benefit when it comes from God."

J.C Colin, Marist Founder

A reminder to pray for the beatification of Fr Jean Claude Colin and that the website www.jeanclaudecolin.org has a wealth of resources that can be used in many different ways.

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Coordinator: Michel Macquet, France
Email: worldmaristlaity@gmail.com

Editor: Beverley McDonald, New Zealand
Email: maristlaity@gmail.com