



# MARIST LAITY INTERNATIONAL

WITH MARY WE ADVANCE...

May 2016. Issue 2



## A MESSAGE FROM MICHEL MACQUET, COORDINATOR OF WMLC (World Marist Lay Coordination Team)

On July 23rd, 2016, all branches of the Marist family around the world will be gathering in their regions and provinces to celebrate the bicentenary of the Pledge of Fourvière, in 1816.

Each country and region is organising activities to commemorate the event. We propose that our " Montée à Fourvière " is characterized by

some action which would allow Marist Laity in each country to answer the question: " *How can Lay Marists respond to the pledge of Fourvière today ?* "

We suggest that Lay Marists in each country join with the other branches of the Marist family, or at least gather in a Marist place if that is possible, and in unity with the Marists gathered at Fourvière read a modern wording of the Pledge together.

Each country is hopefully well on the way with their planning for this commemoration day and all the challenge and hope it holds out for us as Marists. Please send your photos of these worldwide Lay Marist events to share in the next newsletter.

Blessings to you all, *Michel Macquet,*

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HOW CAN LAY  
MARISTS RESPOND  
TO THE PLEDGE  
OF FOURVIÈRE  
TODAY ?



Excitement is rising amongst Marist youth around the world as we begin the count down to the International Marist Youth Meeting in Lyon 'Dare to Dream'. Fr Alejandro SM of the organizing

committee said the meeting is to encourage young people today "To dare to dream, like that group of young people did 200 years ago."

### Inside This Issue

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“Fourvière is a promise that has given us a lot of life and has certainly given a lot of service to the world,” he added.

The encounter will focus on the celebration of the pledge at Fourvière 200 years ago by twelve young seminarians and newly ordained, and the preparation of the bicentennial of the founding of the Marist Brothers.

According to Fr Alejandro, the programme will include “moments in which we are together, moments in small communities throughout the encounter, moments in which the youth of the four Marist branches will visit historical places such as L’Hermitage, La Neylière, Belley and Sainte-Foy.”

The gathering will take place in the Marist School of Sainte Marie Lyon – La Solitude, located on the hill of Fourvière and the youth will stay at the Lycée Aux Lazaristes high school.

**FOURVIÈRE  
IS A PROMISE  
THAT HAS GIVEN US  
A LOT OF LIFE  
AND HAS  
CERTAINLY GIVEN  
A LOT OF SERVICE  
TO THE WORLD.**



This world-wide gathering is a joint initiative of the four religious branches of the Marist Family, and precedes World Youth Day, in Krakow from 26 to 31 July.

The main aims of Dare to Dream are:

- to promote the coordination and integration of young Marists
- celebration of the bicentenary of the Pledge of Fourvière
- preparation for the bicentenary of the founding of the Institute of the Marist Brothers on 2 January 2017.

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**World Marist Laity Coordination Team**

USA & Canada: Christine Colomban

Latino America: Jorge Lopez

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

**A.M.D.G & D.G.H.**  
AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM ET DEI GENITRICIS HONOREM



# NEWS FROM MARIST LAITY GROUPS AND COUNTRIES



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Brian Sowers new group in Brooklyn, Ohio

I first came to know about the Marists while volunteering for Peace Corps in the Republic of Vanuatu in 1999. I would walk to Mass about 45 minutes north of my site to the Marist mission of Lowanatum, Tanna. It was here that I came to know Father Albert Sacco, an English Marist in Vanuatu for nearly 50 years.

Back in the United States, I reconnected with the Marists along with my wife Mary Ann. We both made our commitments at Saint Vincent de Paul parish in Wheeling, West Virginia. We had been making the three hour drive there from Cleveland for a number of years for the Annual Days of Recollection led by Father Ed Keel SM. We were thankful that there were Marists we could celebrate with as close as Wheeling. Like Wheeling, we look forward to having more Marists in our area over time, please God.

With the approval of Father William Bouhall and the encouragement of our mentor, Father Edwin Keel SM, the promoter for Marist Laity in the United States, we began a new Marist Laity Group at our home parish of Saint Thomas More in Brooklyn, Ohio. Including the two of us, Mary Ann and Brian Sowers, there were six present at our first meeting on October 17, 2015. Since then, we have generally had eight or nine present as we follow the 15 Marist themes over the course of the next year. We meet in the parish rectory on the third Saturday of the month for an hour and a half. We pray for the success of all groups and may all the world be Marist!!



*Ohio group: Left to right standing: Joan, Brian, Ron, Tom and Mary Ann.  
Seated: Paula and Rita. Absent: Vern and Christine*

### Christine Colomban, Houston, TX

#### Technology Provides New Ways to Meet:

This year, a small group of Lay Marists was formed and its particularity is the great geographical distance between its members: Philip lives in Pennsylvania, Martha in Louisiana, Brian and Mary-Ann in Ohio, Bob, Dottie and myself in Texas, Katharine in Colorado and we meet via Skype on the last Friday of each month. We are following a formation program written by Marists in France and translated in England. This Journey with Colin called "Nazareth" is composed of 9 index cards and can be found on the Society of Mary USA website:

<http://www.societyofmaryusa.org/resources/JourneywithColin.html> .

"Nazareth 2016 Skype Meetings" These are a way to build bridges between us within our own country and are particularly designed for Marists who do not have groups near by but have a desire to connect and to share on Marist Spirituality, our baptism and Lay mission. Fr Edwin Keel helped the group together and provides spiritual accompaniment as needed.



USA Cont'd.

### Quarterly Skype Meetings

Another 2016 project is our quarterly skype meetings; each on a different topic. We held our first one on March 15th; Fr Keel made a presentation on "Marists and Mercy", it can be found on his new parish website <http://www.olachurch.org/education-formation/fr-ed-keels-bible-study/>

Our ideas for the 3 upcoming "rendezvous" are

- meeting Marist Laity from another country,
- be introduced to a foreign mission/project led by Marist Laity,
- connect with Marists on the hill in Lyon for the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge on July 23rd and celebrate with them !

*May we all stay connected in the name of Mary. God Bless, Christine*

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Ah!" he said to me,  
 "how I long for this  
 notion of mercy to take  
 root in the [society].  
 Oh! how much easier it  
 is to get  
 rid of dangerous  
 elements than  
 to convert them."**

*(BT 490. Colin.  
 Remarks on education. 1839.)*

## PERU: LAY MARISTS FROM CALLAO

The first group of **YOUNG Lay Marists of "San José Parish School"** made up of former students, reunited on March 17th, 2016. They meet monthly and give support to the different pastoral groups in our school. They also receive formation in our Marist spirit.

The Lay Marists are getting together to prepare for the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge. A schedule of activities has been made with the three Marist Laity groups in Callao (Santa Rosa Parish, Virgen de la Misericordia Parish, and San José Parish School, with the support of the Marist priests.)

The activities scheduled are:

- **April.** We held a "Day of Gratitude". Understanding the Celebration of the Eucharist presided by Reverend Miguel Ángel Contreras S.M. and a *pilgrimage* to the Baquijano Cemetery. We celebrated Saint Peter Chanel for 3 days with a solemn Mass to remember his martyrdom
- **May:** We are discussing; "Mary in the Marist Lay Spirit" by Monseigneur Luis Sebastiani S.M.
- **June:** We are planning reflection "How to live out the Fourvière Pledge today as Marist laity", by Reverend Fransico Aller Fernandez S.M.
- **July:** The whole parish community and the Callao Marist Laity are invited to the Celebration of the Eucharist. We will take advantage of the year of



Mercy indulgences, later sharing with everyone in the Parish room. Then, Marist Laity and the Marist Fathers will share lunch in the San Jose Parish School auditorium.

## **SULLANA – PERÚ**

*Un corazón marista debe estar abierto a todos, especialmente hacia los más necesitados*

Dear Marist Laity around the world, in this Jubilee of Mercy, we want to share our activities and projects for 2016 with you. We began with a planning day, which finished with a time of family sharing. We all participated with enthusiasm in setting out our work for this year.



**HOLY WEEK**  
With Joy we celebrated these holy days, we began with *Palm Sunday* jubilation, see how they prepared, despite the strong heat and a scorching sun, there we were!



**HOLY THURSDAY**  
we celebrated the day of love of the priesthood and service, in the la Quinta, Palmeras y Vista Florida!



**GOOD FRIDAY**, we reflected how Christ lives for us and all he had to endure to overcome sin.



The joy of Christ's Resurrection



We celebrated Easter with the joy of the disciples and Our Mother Mary. We thank you Lord for allowing us to live these Holy days, together with Mary.



**Mercy:**  
the bridge that connects  
God and man,  
opening our hearts  
to the hope  
of being loved forever  
despite our sinfulness.  
-Pope Francis



## MÉXICO

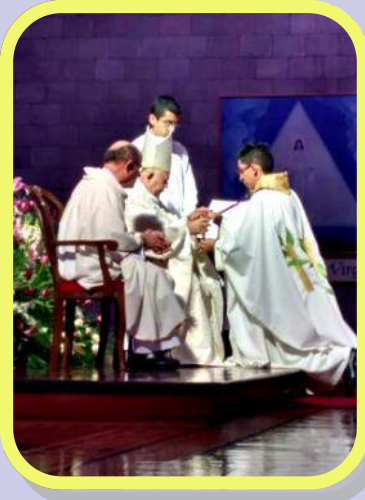
### Cultural Week

From 9 to 13 November 2015, at the University Parish, Mary Mother of Wisdom, in Toluca, we held a Cultural Week. The main theme was "The family ". Many young students, parents, teachers and adults in general took part.

We reflected on communication, conflict resolution, parenting styles, education and some themes from the World Meeting of Families held in Philadelphia, United States. It was a great opportunity to share our Marist spirituality and to form human and Christian values.



### The Ordination of David Sanchez SM



On April 9, the Lord blessed us with the ordination of David Sanchez. He was ordained in the Cathedral of Toluca, with Bishop Francisco Javier Chavolla Ramos, Bishop of Toluca.

It was a great joy to be at the beautiful ceremony as part of the Marist family. We pray for the vocation of David , to be an instrument

of God's mercy following the example of Mary.



### Visit of his Holiness Papa Francisco to México



In February, Lay Marists and priests were present at different times during the visit of Papa Francisco in México.

### 2nd Meeting of Laity

On 19, 20 and 21 February 2016, at the "La Jordana", house of spirituality, we held our 2nd meeting. It was attended by 30 laity and we shared issues of Marist spirituality and prayer. We are discerning the identity and direction that Marist Laity can take in our country and the steps needed to consolidate that.

The most beautiful surprise was the growth of a group of Marist Laity in Toluquilla, Jalisco, a place where no Marist Fathers have been for many years!



### Centro Politécnico de Proyección, CPP

On March 12, the CPP celebrated 50 years of walking alongside the polytechnic youth. These years have been devoted to promoting Evangelization in a material, cultural, professional and spiritual level amongst the Polytechnic Students and all the staff and community who relate with them.

We ask Mary to continue accompanying all those who come to the CPP in search of the Lord.



## EUROPE.

During the weekend of 13-14 February, the European coordination committee and the Council of the Marist Fathers met in Paris to think about follow-up actions to take on between the Society of Mary and Lay Marists. After our meeting at Los Negrals (summer 2015), the subject of collaboration in the same mission with the same Marist spirit, was quite strengthened and highlighted the desire to find common projects between the two branches of the Marist Family.

Some specific actions to start with were set at the meeting, such as the presence of some delegates of Marist Laity at the General Chapter of the Marist Fathers in 2017. The contribution to this gathering will be prepared by each group in the countries where Marist Laity are active, so that the voice of Marist Laity may be “present” at the Chapter through communication of our experiences, sharing, wishes and comments lived about our Lay mission journey with Marist Fathers so far.

This matter is also a response to one of the most remarkable thoughts of Father Colin when he said that, in current words, “*the Marist Laity was an important part of the Society and could not be detached from it, in its mission or identity*”. There has always been a desire to follow this vision and, brought into our current situation, we, Fathers and Lay Marists are being called to work together.

By *David Sanz*, Chairperson of the European Marist Lay Coordination  
*April 2016*



## AFRICA

Greetings. In the Great Lakes of Africa the coordinators of the Lay Marists who are in Burundi have been to visit the young Marists of the Fraternities who are in the parishes of Kiganda and Munanira. It was on Sunday 14 February 2016. This was to launch the preparations for the bicentenary of the Society of Mary which will take place 23 July 2016. In Burundi the festivities will take place in the parish of Munanira, in the Archdiocese of Bujumbura.

During this time of preparation the members of the fraternities will also reflect on the extract from the letter of the four Superior Generals to the members of the Marist Family, in view of the celebration of the Fourvière Pledge.

As Marist Family we would like:

- to create a sense of newness and pride in the meaning of the Fourvière Pledge today
- develop a heightened sense of Marist identity as “Marist Family”
- raise up energy, hope, joy, motivation and commitment to the Work of Mary.

By *Joseph Havyarimana*



## NEW ZEALAND

Our challenge has been our administrator for 23 years, Jane Langham, retiring. We relocated the office from Wellington to Auckland and share a Laity Centre with Logos Marist Youth Team. Vanessa Ornelas is now managing the distribution of monthly material and the register of prayer for dedicating unborn and new-born babies to the care of *Our Lady of Good Hope*. Both ministries are well received and combined with the Marist Laity Facebook presence reach far beyond committed Laity or Catholics. We maintain the website [www.maristlaitynz.org](http://www.maristlaitynz.org) with a lot of Marist Lay resources.



**Retreats:** We have had two “*Living Mercy*” retreat days; Wellington and Auckland. We explored through prayer, creative exercises and sharing, ways to encounter the face of God's mercy for ourselves and then how to share mercy in Mary's way.

**Mary's Family is Growing:** A great joy has been the first commitment of 14 new Lay Marists in the Otara parish. The group began meeting last year to discern what it means to be Marist as Laity.



*Lay Marists make commitments, Otara, Auckland. May 2016*



Fr Soane Lomu and I received their commitments at Mass and then we all shared a celebration breakfast.

The group is inter-generational which shows how Mary's call is reaching people of all ages and cultures today.

**Fiji:** I was privileged to go to Fiji to lead the Laity retreat at Tutu Marist Centre on Taveuni. However Cyclone Winston intervened and I spent five days with the Marist Sisters in Nadi instead. The destruction was severe with 42 deaths and the economic and social cost inestimable. I encourage Marist Laity to keep praying for the people of Fiji and for the Marist missions and schools there. They sustained heavy damage. Donations can be made to the Marist Religious branches in New Zealand and Fiji. I met a small group of the Lay Marists in Nadi and was encouraged by their Marist mission.

## Fourvière Day

We celebrate with the Marist family in Auckland on the 23rd July. The Keynote speaker is Fr Justin Taylor SM. There will be a celebration lunch, Mass and workshops by Marist Religious and Laity on a range of topics aimed at exploring the significance of the Fourvière pledge in our lives and mission today.

We are joining in the modern version of the Promise Michel Macquet has circulated.

Also I want to create a power point of Marist Laity around

the world, waving to the Marist Family for Fourvière Day. **If you can email me a group photo or a video I would be grateful.**

The NZ Logos team with leader Jen Martinez, are working at the ‘*Dare to Dream*’ Marist youth event in Lyon. We are excited that they will bring that experience home and share it with the Marist students once school resumes.

**Thanks** It is a privilege to put together this newsletter and help Marist Laity communicate internationally. Please keep sending in your news and photos.



*Blessings together with Mary, from New Zealand, Bev McDonald*



## FIJI

Several Marist missions in Fiji were severely affected by Cyclone Winston, according to a report by Fr Pio Fong Waqavotuwale, SM.

At the Tutu Rural Training Centre in Taveuni, 22 buildings were either completely or partially destroyed. These were staff houses, dormitories, workshops, hall and kitchens. Tens of thousands of kava and dalo plants, many belonging to student farmers, have been damaged. Tutu has a large active group of Lay Marist families.



St John's College in Cawaci, Ovalau, sustained extensive damage to school buildings, girls' dormitories, teachers' and staff quarters, the church, convent and presbytery.

- The ablutions block for these dormitories was blown down.
- The church has half of its roof ripped off, including the roofs of the two steeples.
- The presbytery also has half of its roof blown away and its balcony upstairs wrecked.
- The convent by the girls' dormitories has its roof completely ripped off as well.

The only buildings that were intact, with minor damage, were six dormitories for the boys.

Principal Fr 'Ekuasi Manu said the rebuilding of the school will be administered by Fiji's Ministry of Education.

The heritage group has been to assess the damage to the church and so the urgent need now is the repair of the presbytery and the convent, for which the ministry will not take responsibility.

Loreto primary school in Sacred Heart parish, Levuka, has been completely destroyed.



Cyclone Winston resulted in some 42 deaths in Fiji, and produced widespread devastation.

Marist Lay woman, Marie Blot, described this image of the Society of Mary to Fr Colin in 1866.

## NEW CALEDONIA:

*A message from Fr François.* In what is considered the most powerful cyclone to ever to hit Fiji 42 people died.

It is primarily the north of the main island of Viti Levu which was struck in the night from Saturday to Sunday, and the small surrounding islands, where entire villages were swept by winds reaching 315 Burst kilometers per hour. Hundreds of buildings and residential houses were totally destroyed, infrastructure (roads and bridges, telephone and electrical networks) have also been hit hard.

Local authorities have officially appealed Tuesday for international help and in response the United Nations and the Pacific Humanitarian Team are involved. Many international countries are engaged in providing funds and support for the rebuilding of lives and the economy.

Father François GROSSIN SM  
BP 170  
98845 NOUMEA CEDEX



## AUSTRALIA:

# The Marist Journey of Mercy

## 800 STEPS

## 7000 Leagues

## 200 Years.



This Lay Marist Seminar

held 28-29 May was a

great success. Laity from the Philippines, Kiribati, New Zealand and around Australia attended. Saturday morning Fr Michael Whelan SM led us in reflection and prayer on Mercy and the need for faith to be 'conversation' with God, within ourselves and amongst one another. He suggested true conversation is always open to growth and transformation. We need to be vulnerable to truly encounter the other and be willing to be changed by each encounter if we are to live mercy in Mary's way.

On Saturday afternoon the different groups and country representatives shared on the situation in their areas. We had presentations on progress toward better communication amongst Lay groups in the Philippines, struggles with rising sea levels in Kiribati, a range of experiences and groups in New Zealand and Australia and the emerging Brothers and LayChampagnat Association in Australia.

On the Sunday Fr Peter McMurrich gave us an inspiring walk through history as we went on a mini-pilgrimage to the Marist places around Sydney. Fr Robert Barber, Provincial of the Society of Mary Australia, celebrated Mass for the group at St Peter Chanel and the day concluded with afternoon tea with the Marist Sisters at Woolwich.



### Fourvière Day Sydney

Members of all branches of the Marist family are invited to the 200th anniversary on the 23rd of July. The day begins with Mass at the Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill, followed by lunch and presentations by each branch of the family at St Joseph's College. There is a charge for lunch. Contact Margaret Woods 0417 682 872 to register.

### **Publication of Marist Laity International** **Network NEWS Issue 2 .**

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**The next issue will be late September.**

**Deadline for material is 15th September.**

Please send even a simple paragraph with picture.

***Our stories are worth sharing.***