



# Marist Laity International

WITH MARY WE ADVANCE...

ADVENT 2016. Issue 3

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*Deadline for next edition news is 31st March*

## ***A Word from Michel Macquet:***

The beautiful Mass and celebrations at Fourvière for the Bicentenary of our founding Marist Commitments on 23rd July were broadcast on YouTube. This enabled the Mass to be seen by Marists from all over the world. The Liturgy in Lyon was unanimously acclaimed for the beauty and deep significance of the ceremonies.

All over the world, Marist groups have held their own commemorative ceremonies in union with the celebrations at Fourvière and we highlight many of these in this edition of the newsletter. Many testimonies of these events have also been reported in local and regional news.

The five Marist branches were all present at Fourvière each with a banner and there was a combined choir. One highlight for Laity, was a beautiful framed Cross stitch, gifted by Marist Laity Australia, to the Lay Marists of Lyon. It was laid before the altar during the service.

Laity were very involved in the Liturgy, including those who attended Dare to Dream and the four Superior Generals of the Religious Branches welcomed us. I dare to dream of a day when the Lay Branch will speak alongside them.

Ongoing shared reflection on the place of the W.M.L.C. within the context of an International Marist Laity with a great diversity of expressions is needed to bring that dream to reality.

The General Chapter of the Society of Mary will take place next year. At this time, few proposals have arrived from Laity in the Provinces and the extent of Marist Laity involvement at the Chapter is not yet determined.



We are however hopeful that local meetings between the Society of Mary and Laity of each Province may help proposals be raised. Input at the Provincial level could stimulate new ways of engaging with the vision of Colin and the unique contribution of Lay Marists to the Marist project and also help us develop guidelines moving forward.

Please continue to pray for Colin's vision for Marist Laity. I pass on my blessings for Advent and the New Year to all Marists around the world.

*Con Maria Avamos, Michel Macquet, W.M.L.C. Coordinator*

# News from Marist Laity Groups and Countries



## SULLANA – PERÚ

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

It is a joy to be able to communicate and share our experiences and activities with Marist Laity around the world. We have had moments of training, visits from the Fathers of Callao and also reflected on our work together, what we live and share as Laity. Here is a brief summary of it:



We visited Vista Florida, La Quinta, Palmeras and Sullana District and offered "Discovery" days for young people who want to give meaning to their life and learn more about Jesus and His Blessed Mother. After these we decided to schedule ongoing workshops to continue to accompany and support the growth of these young people. The workshops are held once every three weeks in each of the places we visited.

Vista Florida



We ended our workshop with the celebration of the Word. Around the altar we laid our hopes and dreams and as our mother did, silently listened to Jesus through His word as he feeds us with his Body and Blood.



La Quinta



## The Holy Name of Mary



On 12 September Marist Laity of Sullana gathered to celebrate Eucharist and share on the "Holy Name of Mary".



Our young people from the Sullana district, at their workshop.



*Dear Lay people of the world, friends, just as you want our little mission to advance, our Mother the Virgin Mary has shown us through our Marist founders at Fourvière, a special way of serving the Church with her discreet and silent style; seeking to evangelize effectively while avoiding applause and publicity. God bless you forever.*

*Lay Marists Sullana.*



## Callao (Peru)

We continue with our visits to REMAR house and Santa Maria de la Caridad house, two places where we help people in need, especially young mothers (REMAR) and elder people. Students of our school organize a variety of activities such as games, songs, and prayers and they also prepare meals to share with them.

### Significant events in Callao this year

On July 23rd we celebrated Mass commemorating the Bicentenary of the Promise of Fourvière. Our dear Monsignor Luis Sebastiani was the Presider. All the three groups were present (*Santa Rosa parish, Virgen Misionera parish and San José School group*). This was also a special opportunity for us to pray for the plenary indulgences of our Year of Mercy. Afterwards we had breakfast in the parish room.

From July 28th to August 5th a group of us travelled to Junín for our **IV Marist Mission**. First we arrived to Huancayo city, the capital of Junin (Peruvian Andes) and then we went to distant communities, (*more than 13,000 feet above sea level, we were freezing!*). The Mission participants were Marist Lay woman Marina de la Cruz, Sister Ana Briones, Brother Orlando Orozco, two candidates, five teachers and five students of San Jose School.

We also organized our "**Encuentro Marista**" where we had presentations on the activities for the Bicentenary of Fourvière. In this event we had the presence of the Marists of Callao, Champagnat Marists, Marist Brothers, Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) and Marist Fathers.

## Brazil

### VI National Gathering of Marist Laity January 2017

Brazil's Marist laity, are preparing for the **VI National Gathering of Lay Marists**, which will take place in the city of Palmas do Monte Alto, in the state of Bahia.

We meet between the **11th and 14th January 2017**.

The theme "**Being Marist Today**" invites us to reflect on our identity as Marist Laity and the role we have in the Church and the world.

Over 50 participants are expected to participate in the event, from different groups and states: Bahia, Minas Gerias, Paraná, Pernambuco and Rondônia.

*Please pray for this event with us.*



Fourvière  
Day  
Celebrations



# Mexico

## Fourvière Day

On July 23, a group of Marist Laity from several communities, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the promise of Fourvière. Father Pedro Herrasti SM, shared on Marist spirituality and his own Marist vocation. The day was very special and concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist and the renewal of our promise !

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## Dare to Dream: Lyon

I am grateful to God and the people who made this time possible. It was a unique experience with new friends formed with people from other parts of Mexico and round the world. I discovered that maybe the world is not as big as it looks and that we complement each other in our differences. It was wonderful to share these weeks full of much learning and deep feelings; the openness to live, share and truly open my heart was excellent and we all felt the whole atmosphere draw us into fraternity and Marist family solidarity.

This experience, besides building up the relationship between the 5 Marist branches, also showed me how to follow Jesus more deeply no matter what vocation I am in. I realized can always FOLLOW these lights as my life concepts: OPENNESS, MULTICULTURALISM, FRATERNITY AND MERCY.



- **OPENNESS:** being willing to accept others and confirm them in love, receiving them in true hospitality
- **MULTICULTURALISM:** we are called to the mission *ad gentes* - to dare to serve in places where no one else wants to go and to be prepared to meet and share everything that community contributes, respecting and learning from everyone.
- **FRATERNITY:** we aim to dialogue with respect for all differences, knowing we complement each other, and recognize and affirm that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.
- **MERCY:** have the doors open, but the heart more so. We are called to accept God's love and to be Mary in the world...

Today, I am happy to have had the opportunity to learn more about the Society of Mary. Mary undoubtedly leaves us a very strong challenge as Laity in the places and life situations we are called to in the world. I am challenged to dare to dream big, to try to make real changes and continue to build the civilization of love, because it is not enough to just dream, our action is important and the Church needs us every day. We are still called out by Mary to be Marist, to go beyond our comfort zone and be a source and witness to Mercy alive today. (Cont. /5)



I conclude by thanking Fr. Alejandro Muñoz SM for inviting me to serve and collaborate on this Project. I thank my parents and the Marist family in Mexico for their prayers.

My participation in this event was very enriching and I thank God and Mary for having made this possible.

*All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus*

*Lucero Sánchez Garduño (México) 24/09/2016*

### **Politécnico de Proyección (CPP)** *First Parish dedicated to serving students.*

Members of the Alpine PAX Group, began the season in August visiting the *Peña de Bernal*, the worlds tallest free standing rock at 1421 feet (433 Metres) in the State of Queretaro, central Mexico.



Fr Fernando Torres SM, accompanied young members to the National Catholic Meeting for Young People. (ENJES) Editors note: (Encuentro Nacional de Jovenes-ENJES 2016) was held in a football stadium and attracted more than 20,000 young participants. ... 2016 © Copyright by NEXOSA

### **Holy Name of Mary Celebrations**

The Marist communities of Centro de Proyección Universitaria (CPU) the University Parish, celebrated the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary in Toluca. Participants shared a range of activities ending with the celebration of Eucharist.



On September 24, Marists from the Contadero Parish, participated in the National March for the Family.



*P. Armando Barrón SM (CPP)*

The CPU community also sent a participant to 'Dare to Dream' in Lyon.



Parroquia Universitaria (CPU)

## SPAIN

Dear friends, Marist laity in Spain celebrated our remembrance of the Promise of Fourvière on the 27 August, in a retreat house in the mountains of Madrid.



The Laity joined a retreat that had started the week before, for Marist Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, SMSM Sisters and Lay Marists. The five branches of the “Marist Family Tree” were called to have some days of prayer and recollection, but most Laity were only able to join the celebration on that day.

Fr. Toño Fernández inspired us to reflect and remember what happened two centuries ago with the 12 seminarians who pledged fidelity to the Society of Mary. It was a memory not only of sadness or nostalgia, but also of engagement, commitment and responsibility for being chosen by Mary to bear Her name, to build Her Society in this world and to do Her work.

After that time of reflection, we celebrated Mass in the chapel of the house. At the end of Mass, the representatives of the five branches (except the SMSM, who sadly could not make the Mass) made the same pledge which was made by all Marists some days before at the Cathedral of Fourvière and around the world.

As it happened to the first Marists 200 years ago, now we are called as Lay Marists to be the presence of Mary among the people. We, as Lay Marists, are chosen by Mary to be part of a “Marian Church” remaining hidden and unknown, being instruments of God’s divine mercy.

David Sanz de Diego.



Br. Laudelino (Marist Brother in charge of the retreat house), Fr. Ángel Antón, David Sanz de Diego and Silvia Sanz SM

## Forum Novum

The new edition of Forum Novum is available on the Society’s website: <http://www.maristSM.org/en/forum-novum.aspx>. This edition is dedicated to the bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge and aspects of our Marist History and Spirituality.

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*My sister, Nora and I (Anne Coghlan) along with my brother Myles, a Marist priest for 50 years, went on pilgrimage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière Promise, made on 23rd July 1816. Marists: Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Laity of all nationalities including groups of young people from 'Dare to Dream' all flocked to Fourvière to join the celebration. There was a great feeling of unity and belonging, highlighted by each person being given and wearing an azure blue scarf as they entered the magnificent Basilica.*

*The whole experience was very humbling as we travelled in comfort to the significant places in our Marist story.*

Adapted from Anne Coghlan's article in Sept 2016 Marist Way Newsletter (England)

## Engl and

Saturday 2nd July Marists gathered in Walsingham. The Marist Sisters prepared the liturgy based on the Fourvière Promises. The weather was kind to us. Evening prayer was held in the church of the Annunciation and gave us great insights into the Fourvière Promises. Many thanks to all.



Marist Days of Recollection were held at Sunninghill on the 10th September given by Bishop Tom Burns SM and the Northern day was on Saturday 17th September at St Mary Magdalene, Cudworth, given by Fr Peter Corcoran SM.

## Canada



On July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> a group of approx 30 Lay Marists and 5 Fathers from eastern Canada met in beautiful Cap-de-la-Madeleine Québec for 2 days of conferences organised by Fr. Gaston Lessard & Fr. Yvan Mathieu to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Promise of Fourvière.

From June 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 a group of 7 Marists from Ottawa, ON and Buckingham, QC accompanied by Fr. Yvan Carré & Fr. Gérald Montmigny went on a pilgrimage in Lyon France to discover the different sites of our Marist origins across the region.



## FRANCE; Relais Mariste

The Relais Mariste group met at La Neyliere 20th-23rd July around the theme of "**promises of yesterday... and of today**". Sixty people, lay, parents & Marist religious attended. They were mostly from France but also Ireland, Germany and Holland. In a joyful atmosphere of family, fun and celebration, we shared the promise of 1816, its meaning and what future promise it holds for us.



The program included:

- Exploring 4 stages of our Marist origins (Cerdon, Bugey, Belley and Oceanía).
- A Scripture reflection to help us update our promises.
  - Creativity (theatre, singing, painting, writing, free expression, clay, photography).
  - Cultural Festive evenings: 'Sherlock & the Marist dossier', dance, songs, games.
  - We planted an Apple tree in the garden of La Neyliere where we hung sheets with our written promises. This was a sign of our intention that our promises today will bear fruit to be enjoyed for generations to come.



On the 23rd July we all went to the solemn Mass at Fourvière celebrating the promise made 200 years ago by a dozen young people committed to found a congregation that would take the name of Mary; the name we now bear. *Georges and Gislaine Lajara*

**New Caledonia.** The coordination team met on the 9th September with Suzanne Kono (President) Yvonne Hnadriane (Cells), Malia Sao (TOM), Bruno, Ericka, Pierre-Chanel & Julia (Speranza Marista of Mount Mou), Sr. M. Ancilla SMSM (Marist Fraternities), P. François Grossin (SM).

Fr. François read a passage from Fr John Hannan's last circular: "**It is time to look outward**": To bear the name of Mary - the key is what we do as Marists (pp. 12-14). Fr. François shared about the international celebrations at Fourvière on July 23, in which he participated with a dozen Caledonians, including Suzanne Kono.

The Marist Fraternities had a reflection day with the deacon Gérard Jasserand on August 27th and continue to meet each month.

The different zones of the Third Order of Mary met at the cathedral on June 16th to enter the Holy Door of Mercy. The cathedral was full and groups met who had been apart for a considerable time.

Speranza Marista participated in the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat in Sainte-Marie de Païta on June 4th. They did the same for the blessing of the Holy Door at the parish on the patronal feast. On 25 September, they visited the Foyer Reznik in Nouville. On November 26 they gave a Concert in Saint-Léon, to commemorate the bicentenary of the Fourvière promise.



Suzanne Kono



## Norway

Not having been able to celebrate together on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, Norwegian Lay Marists gathered on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August on a farm, 80 km. from Oslo. After the blessing of a new home, the bicentenary of the Fourvière pledge was celebrated.

**1<sup>st</sup> October** in Norway: Lay Marists of Norway made a 13 km. walking pilgrimage from one medieval church to an even older pre reformation church, which was once a shrine. The theme of this pilgrimage and autumn seminar was 'Laudato si and Marist spirituality.'

## Italy

Lay Marists of Castiglion Fiorentino (Italy) celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July the second stage of the formation course of Annunziata, Luigi and Elena. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July many Marists, lay and religious, gathered with others, to celebrate the Eucharist. They renewed their own Marist commitment. In Pratola the Jubilee was celebrated by the Marist Family on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August.

## IRELAND

The Marist family of Ireland gathered on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June in St. Mel's, Longford. 200 people were present. Fr. Edwin McCallion was the main celebrant for the Eucharist. Symbols of our Marist story were brought forward and the commitment pledge was made. After the celebration the participants went to the nearby hotel for a meal followed by a good Irish Hooley!

## Germany .

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September in Ahmsen (Germany) there was an autumn gathering of Lay Marists. The group chose the theme: 'Meeting Christ in the Sacraments, notably in the Eucharist.'

*These snippets of Lay Marist activity are from the Marist Laity Europe newsletter LINK: Circular Letter No. 33 with thanks.*

## News from the

### European Coordination Team.

The EMLC (*European Marist Laity Coordination*) held its yearly meeting in Los Molinos (in the mountains of Madrid, Spain) from 19 to 21 August, 2016. The representatives of each country were present and we had quite a full agenda, going through the following points:

**Los Negrales:** the minutes of Los Negrales was presented and approved by the representatives, before being sent out to the rest of delegates all over the world. Moreover, an evaluation of the meeting, sent by each country, was read, as well as the comments of the weak and strong points to take into account for future meetings.

***By the way, the next European gathering for the Marist Laity will be organised by the Irish group, in Ireland (2019).***

A draft of the Marist Laity European Statute was presented and discussed in all its points. After the meeting it was sent to the countries to be reflected on in their groups so that comments and suggestions may be made. It will hopefully be approved by December.

The way and steps to follow for contributions to the Marist Fathers' Chapter (2017) was established and confirmed in some aspects. There is still some time to review the questionnaires proposed as a guideline to contribute and share.

*David Sanz, EMLC Coordinator,  
26 October, 2016*



## NEW ZEALAND *Dare to Dream.*



Throughout our week in Lyon we unpacked the theme, *Dare to Dream* through prayer, animations, activities around the city, music and listening to the dreams of Lay people and Religious in Marist ministries. One of the highlights was listening to the four Superiors General. Fr John Hannan's keynote address was passionate and energizing, encouraging us to be courageous as the early Marists were.

La Neyliere. Before walking into Fr Colin's bedroom we listened to extracts from his letters, and I was moved by his words of mercy, courage and compassion. Later that day a few of us Kiwis gathered in silence around Fr Colin's tomb. It was a beautiful moment of solidarity and peace, a gentle but powerful reminder of the promise that was made 200 years ago. A promise that required sacrifice and gave a lot of life.

I've come back to my work as a Lay Marist with a renewed sense of hope and vision. I didn't realize that I needed a renewed sense of hope or vision, but I guess part of the journey is discovering what you need to carry out the dream.

Jen Martinez leads *The Logos: Marist Youth Development.*

Jen's reflection is at

[www.maristmessenger.co.nz/2016/11/01](http://www.maristmessenger.co.nz/2016/11/01).



For regular New Zealand news and resources go to [www.maristlaitynz.org](http://www.maristlaitynz.org), which also has a link to their Facebook page a Marist Advent service and an online version of this newsletter.

Fr Justin Taylor's Auckland keynote address is available online at [www.sm.org.nz/2016/07/Fourviere-keynote-justin-taylor/](http://www.sm.org.nz/2016/07/Fourviere-keynote-justin-taylor/)



Fr John Hannan (left), Fr Alejandro Muñoz (right) of Marist General Administration join LOGOS members Sam Mano (left blue T-shirt) and Jen Martinez (right blue T-shirt). Among other visitors are NZ Marist priests, Kevin Conroy and Peter McAfee (kneeling front)

### Marist Family Gathers In Auckland for Fourvière Day

Around 150 people from the five Marist Branches gathered at Sacred Heart College, Auckland on July 23 to celebrate the bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge.

We were welcomed by Brother Richard FMS and Fourvière candles were lit. The opening prayer drew together many aspects of this special day in the Year of Mercy. Fr Justin Taylor SM gave the keynote address which deepened our appreciation of the pledge by setting it in the context of the life and history of the seminarians who composed it.

After a celebration lunch there were workshops on: *Marian music, Mary in Art, Keeping Pledges, Early Missionaries whose names were recorded in the heart of Mary, Mary, Mother of Mercy, and the Work of Mary today as it is lived by each of the branches.*



The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Fr David Kennerley SM, Provincial. Candles imprinted with an image of Mary of



Fourvière were presented to each branch of the family as we all recited a Fourvière pledge for today. A beautiful day left 150 Marists with memories to ponder and challenges for the future to absorb.

*Adapted from SM Sisters website with thanks.*

## Australia (MLA)



Pictured here and prominently included in the celebration of the International Bicentenary Liturgy was the Cross-Stitch Logo, the initiative of our branch members, lovingly cross-stitched by Tess Young and hand delivered by our young Lay Marists from Brisbane who attended the Fourvière Celebration on their way to World Youth Day. Truly a collaboration of Lay Marists, a symbol not just of our own solidarity but of our solidarity with our universal Marist Family, all our efforts joined (*stitched*) together, in Mary's Name.

### Fourvière Mass at Holy Name of Mary, Hunters Hill.

Hope, joy and the future were the themes from the Fourvière Mass celebrating 200 years of the solemn pledge to found the congregation of Marists. Father Kevin Bates SM was the celebrant and he recalled in his homily "that sense of adventure, courage, excitement, youthful energy and earnest faith...."that the twelve young seminarians had as they made their pledge to be Marists. And the fact remains that all over the world and here in Australia we are their legacy today.

Leaders of the five Marist Branches receive a copy of the Pledge



*A brief excerpt from Maria Baden's address at the Combined Fourvière Celebration Dinner.*

Today, the Fourvière Pledge must be interpreted anew, for our times. Here is my attempt:

1. We (a group) work together as committed people: "*sincere intention*"
2. We are human/fallible: "*in so far as we can*".
3. We are a deeply reflective, prayerful people: "*having weighed everything before God*"
4. We *accept the inevitability of suffering* because Christ's strength is in us; we remain in a church that renews
5. We will not be an obstacle between God and others: "*saving souls in every way*"

Fourvière was a promise for the future. One could describe the events of 200 years ago as the twelve's YES to a call they fervently believed came from Mary...

My point is that Fourvière didn't just happen 200 years ago! We are always, in a sense, beginning.



Fourvière was a promise for the future.

MLA encourage you to join their **Online course** on Foundations in Marist Spirituality starting February 2017.  
[www.maristlaityaustralia.com/course](http://www.maristlaityaustralia.com/course)

## United States of America

In **Louisiana** the 200th Anniversary Mass commemorating the Fourvière pledge was celebrated at St. Michael's Church on Tuesday, July 19th, 2016. Marists,

Fr. Bill Roland, former Pastor of St. Joseph Church, celebrated this special Mass along with Fr. Ed Fuss, retired Marist, Fr. Vincent Dufresne, Fr. Alec Sheldon, and Deacons Alfred Adams & Sam Sammartino.



Fr. Roland stated it was only fitting that the 200th Anniversary be celebrated at St. Michael Church at Convent since it was the first Marist Community in the United States. It was a beautiful Mass followed by a reception in the newly renovated Church Hall.

There were also great celebrations in **Atlanta** and other regions.



**September 24, 2016, Florida.**

At St Andrew Catholic Church, Coral Spring, Marist Laity of South Florida held its Tenth Annual Consecration Renewal and Marist Family Blessing of Children.

Postcards "*if you knew the gift of God*" made to commemorate the Promise at Fourvière were also given out with a special stamps on the envelopes!



Christine Colomban reports that the Skype formation meetings are going well and the last meeting on 25th November was on the of **Theme Clearing the Decks**.

The NAZARETH series resumes on Friday 27th of January on **Theme 9, Being Patient**. Anyone with Skype capacity who can manage the time differences is welcome to contact Christine for the details. She can be reached on the Regional Lay Marist USA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1626038130973697/?fref=nf>

### World Marist Laity Coordination Team

USA & Canada: *Christine Colomban*  
 Latino America: *Jorge Lopez*  
 Australia: *Maria Baden*  
 Africa/Europe: *David Sanz de Diego*  
 Asia: *Kenneth Bretana*  
 Oceania/New Caledonia:  
*Suzanne Kono*  
 New Zealand: *Bev McDonald*  
 Team Coordinator: *Michel Macquet*

Editors Note: Thank you for supporting this bumper edition of the newsletter covering so many wonderful Fourvière celebrations around the world. I think we can all agree 2016 has been a year filled with hope.

We all pray it will bear fruit as we move forward with renewed commitment and trust in Mary's call.

*The next issue is Easter 2017.*

Please send submissions to [bev@maristlaitynz.org](mailto:bev@maristlaitynz.org).

by your  
deadline of 31st March.

