



SM bulletin

FOURVIÈRE 1816 - 2016

Friday, 12 August 2016

General Administration

Greetings for the feast of Mary's Assumption from the members of the GA,

In the 1872 Constitutions Father Founder invited Marists on this day, in honour of Our Lady and in thanksgiving for their vocation to religious life, to renew their vows. Also, on this same day or on another day within the octave, Marists were to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament "in honour of the most pure Heart of blessed Mary, so that she may herself thank her divine Son for their religious vocation and for the benefits they received during the year".



FOURVIÈRE CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

USA

Invited by the Marist Brothers, 130 Members of the Marist Family gathered for five days on the Atlantic coast for a conference "Commemorate, Celebrate, Collaborate". Prayer, presentations and workshops provided opportunities for personal reflection and group sharing. At the closing ceremony and liturgy of the conference all were invited to re-commit themselves to a third century of Marist life and mission and to sign a new pledge committing themselves to the vision and values of our spiritual heritage and of our respective founders.



OCEANIA

In the **Solomon Islands** all the Marist family, including the laity, came together on 23 July to commemorate and celebrate with joys and thanksgiving the bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge. After Holy Communion all stood around the altar and recited together the pledge. At the end of the mass a representative from each congregation shared the meaning and importance of Fourvière for them.



Entertainment and feasting followed and it was a joyous occasion. The local press reported on the celebration and highlighted the importance of the Fourvière pledge.



In **Samoa** the celebration started with a mass at the Immaculate Cathedral, Mulivai conducted by Archbishop Alapati Mataeliga. This was followed by a reception and the cutting of the cake at the Tuutuileloloto Hall. The Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi, delivered the keynote address.

In **Futuna**, 140 members of the Marist Laity, coming from two parishes, gathered for three days of retreat at the Shrine of St. Peter Chanel at Poi. The retreat concluded on Fourvière day, on which social entertainments and a meal took place. The closing mass was honoured by the presence of the king of Alo, Tu'iagaifo.



>>>>>

AUSTRALIA

A packed church of the Holy Name of Mary, **Hunters Hill** celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière Pledge on 23 Jul. Members of the Marist Family recalled the promise of the Marist aspirants on Jul 23, 1816, to form the Society of Mary. **Sydney's** city-centre church of St Patrick's recalled the Fourvière pledge in a Eucharist on 24 July when Marist family members renewed the promise of 1816. A page in the parish bulletin contained background to the Fourvière Pledge, and a display in the crypt of the church presented information and audio-visuals on the Marist branches.



BRAZIL



80 young people from three Marist parishes in Palmas de Monte Alto made an early morning pilgrimage to the spring which has always supplied water and life to the town, stopping on the way at pools and waterfalls to reflect on Le Puy, Fourvière, Cerdon, Bugey, and important moments of our Marist history. An important moment was the stop in front of the local prison, to remind that Marists have a special commitment to do works of mercy and serve the poor of the area. An outdoor mass was celebrated for about 600 people from the region served by the Marists.

NEW ZEALAND

Marists from all branches of the Marist Family from around New Zealand gathered to mark the bicentenary of signing the pledge at Fourvière. A highlight of the **Auckland** gathering was the celebration of mass presided by NZ provincial Fr David Kennerley. A keynote address by Fr Justin Taylor SM had been given in the morning and workshops on a range of topics occupied the 'post-festive lunch' afternoon. In **Wellington**, it was a full house at the Pa Maria spirituality centre, where the theme was "Fourvière in the Year of Mercy". The participants were asked to bring a gift of school material for refugee children and such was the generosity that a huge collection were delivered to the archdiocese for distribution. In **Hawkes Bay**, around 80 gathered at St Mary's Taradale for mass, meal and a visual presentation. In **Christchurch** 300 gathered for a mass, in which the eldest Third Order member in New Zealand, held the taper lighting the mass candle. Hymns for the mass reflected the Marist origins and today. They were in Latin, French, Māori and English. Around 20 Marists from **Whangarei** and **Okaihau** gathered on Sunday evening for prayer, a meal and some social time to mark the event.



ASIA



In **Davao** more than 100 people from all the Marist branches set off at 5.00 am for a one hour pilgrimage along a main road and up to a Catholic shrine on a nearby hill top. They commemorated the first Marist climb to Fourvière with stations along the way to pause, pray and reflect. The theme for the day was "Living out the Promise" and during the Mass all signed a large tarpaulin depicting the original pledge and enjoyed a fellowship breakfast and entertainment.

In **Ranong** at a special Fourvière eve celebration confreres were delighted to find a drink called 'John Colin' in a local restaurant. Early on Fourvière morning after a time of reflection, a small group of confreres climbed 500 steps to a hilltop Buddhist Monastery where they recited and signed the Pledge. A special Mass and meal was celebrated in the evening with our RNDM sisters, volunteers and Marist friends.



>>>>>

MEXICO

Two celebrations marked the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge in Mexico. One was the initiative of the various branches present in the country (Maris Sisters, Marist Brothers, Lay Marists and Marist Fathers): A pilgrimage finished with a solemn celebration at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. More than a 800 persons came together for this significant Marist gathering. And on the 23 July itself Lay Marists accompanied by some Marist Fathers held a day of retreat at Colegio Franco Inglés reflecting on the meaning of the Fourvière Pledge as Lay Marists today. During the Mass some of them renewed their commitment to live in Mary's way.



PERU



The District of Peru is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière Pledge with various activities and publications. The Marist Laity organized events in El Callao and in Sullana to celebrate it. The magazine "Misión sin Fronteras" featured an article about the Marist Project launched at Fourvière. At the end of July the Lay Marists of Sullana, accompanied by our two candidates on their community experience at El Callao, went on pilgrimage to the Marian Sanctuary in Paita. Members of the religious branches (SMSM, FMS and SM) will have a Mass and festive meal this weekend in Lima.

CANADA

On July 22th –23rd 35 people came together at the *Sanctuaire du Cap de la Madeleine*, Trois-Rivières to participate in a retreat reflecting on the Pledge made in Fourvière 200 years ago, under the title: The preparations and the commitment. They had three conferences and two Eucharistic celebrations; one to mark the 200th anniversary of Fr. Colin's ordination and the other the Pledge of Fourvière. Frs Yvan Mathieu and Gaston Lessard were the presenters.



AFRICA



One of the events in Africa to mark this festive day took place in Burundi where the various Marist Fraternities came together on July 23rd at the Munanira Parish. The activities organized by the Lay Marist coordination in Africa began with a festive Mass followed by dances and other festive activities with a nice lunch included. 28 young people made their commitment for the first time and with them the member of the Lay Marist fraternities renewed their promises. All reports indicate that was indeed a memorable celebration.