



# MARIST LAITY INTERNATIONAL

*With Mary we advance...*

May 2018. Issue 5

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

Dear friends, I believe the General Chapter of the Society of Mary 2017 will prove to be a significant moment in our Marist history. It marked a very great step forward in the world-wide relationship between SM Priests and Brothers and Marist Laity. I am convinced we have begun a journey together which will bear much fruit and contribute strongly toward the evolution of the Society of Mary.

Bev McDonald and I, representing WMLC Laity, were integrated into the work of the Chapter over three days. The time flew by, but much was achieved, not least of which being the relationships formed. We are very grateful to the Chapter committee and capitulants and we wish Fr John Larsen a rich and abundant harvest in the mission entrusted to him as Superior General. We also thank Fr John Hannan, past Superior General for his willingness to invite Laity to the Chapter.

Bev and I presented the synthesis of reflections from each province.

The documents, drawn from all the answers you shared were set out in three themes:

- Identity of the Lay Marist
- Support of the Society of Mary for the vocation and mission of Lay Marists
- Mutual enrichment, between Religious and Marist Laity

We expressed our difficulties, our expectations, our desires and willingness to work in inter-dependant collaboration that can be expressed in many different areas. We are now working on the plan to implement the Chapter decisions. Our plans are ambitious but realistic and after consolidating our structure, will guide WMLC in three directions:

- Formation,
- Commitment,
- Mission: including collaboration in mission and ministries of Marist Religious

In each province, Marist Laity and the Brothers and Priests of the Society of Mary will strengthen links and exchange ideas for discerning the way Marist Laity might integrate into ongoing ministries, as well as collaborate in the planning and implementation of new initiatives, or even develop new ways of living Marist life and mission together as Religious and Laity.

It will take a lot of work to maintain the momentum begun at the Chapter and we want to keep moving forward with Mary without undue haste, but with energy, courage and commitment, according to the possibilities and opportunities available in each region.

I wish the members of the Marist family a blessed Pentecost.

*Michel Macquet May 2018*



Fr John Larsen, (centre) Superior General,  
with Bev McDonald & Michel Macquet, Rome 2017

**The Paper on Identity – the Vocation of Marist Laity presented to the Chapter 2017**

1] Lay Marists are disciples of Jesus and the Gospel. We receive our Marist identity as a gift and call from Mary; it is she who invites us to bear her name and to continue our journey as Christians under her protection. To follow Jesus as Mary did, in a hidden manner, yet fully aware of everything around her ... The Lay Marist will endeavour to live the attitudes of Mary: simplicity, openness, the willingness to listen, humility, availability, giving of oneself, a missionary spirit to reach the most marginalized.

2] Not being subject to the conditions of Religious life, Lay Marists live their spirituality immersed in the world. They seek to be a presence of Mary where they find themselves in daily life. While they live their faith in another way their experience can only enrich the life of the whole Marist family. Lay life fits within its own milieu and shows a Marian face of Church in that place. They demonstrate their identity as agents of hope and change who seek to make Marist spirituality known in the many varied fields of life (e.g. professional, family, social and religious ...) and in sharing the mission.

3] Lay Marists respond to their call by trying to live the spirit of Mary in a coherent way; letting the Lord transform their lives so they come to feel, think, judge, and act as Mary. All this we try to accomplish through mercy, not wanting to draw attention to ourselves, not seeking applause but rather, remaining "unknown and as it were hidden."

4] Lay Marists maintain their relationship with God through personal prayer, learning to taste God and enjoy intimacy with Him. The Magnificat is the prayer that unites all lay Marists.

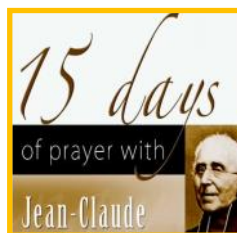
5] Through their strong commitment, Lay Marists genuinely live, share and transmit the Marist spirit and to do so effectively they establish groups. We are also sensitive to the international dimension of Marist belonging.



Michel, Bev & Fr John Hannan at Chapter

## News from Marist Laity Groups and Countries

### United States of America



In the USA, Marist Laity from several states have been meeting monthly via Skype for two years. We are currently sharing on the book "15 Days of prayer with Jean-Claude Colin" and our community is growing !

Regular attendees are Kateri from Colorado, Sheila from Florida, Billy, Martha from Louisiana, Brian from Ohio, Philip from Pennsylvania, Fr Edwin Keel from Georgia, Bob, Dottie, Christine from Texas, Malani former TOM from Hawai now living in Maryland.

We have had the pleasure of meeting and exchanging with Marists who either participate as guests or join us whenever their schedule or their travel in the world allow! Jorge, Omar from Mexico,

Evelyne and a couple from England, Donald from Oregon, Sr Linda from Michigan, Fr Fréchette from Washington DC. We also had the pleasure to meet an entire group gathered in Sheila's apartment in South Florida!



We have recently switched to the GoToMeeting.com platform in order to be able to welcome more participants and continue to build bridges. Meetings are held on the last Friday of each month at 5p PST / 8p ET.

Anyone who wishes to participate may email Christinat [MaristWayUSA@gmail.com](mailto:MaristWayUSA@gmail.com) or follow the Events of the [Regionallaymaristsusa](https://www.facebook.com/Regionallaymaristsusa) Facebook group open to all. *Christine*



# News from Marist Laity Groups and Countries

## Mexico

If you search "México" on google you see violence, economic problems, etc. However, the natural disasters in Mexico last September, also showed us the face of Mexican solidarity. In this complex society Marist Laity in Mexico aspires to be a living witness of the love of God, to be 'as' Mary in the reality in which we live day by day.

We have taken the first steps to build a Relationship Directory with the Marist Fathers. We have started a group by the grace of God and Mary, for young couples learning about Natural family planning in the Parish of San Bernardino Toluca. Please pray for us.



## IV Marist Laity Conference

In February in La Jordana, almost 80 Laity gathered for the IV Marist Laity Conference from the different ministries of the Mexican Province. They discussed a Marist response to the preparatory document for the next synod in Rome October 2018 on "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment".

The group proposed concrete actions to improve the Society's commitment with young people in Mexico.

We want to engage with our young people to understand them better and love them even more; we are exploring new opportunities to work with the Marist Fathers in the construction of the Kingdom of God.

The gathering also offered the opportunity to study the documents presented at the 2017 General Chapter, and the final Chapter Decisions as they relate to Laity.



**Toluca:** As a commitment taken at the Conference, the Lay Marists of Toluca decided to meet at the University Parish prior to Holy Week. It was a first step in getting to know each other. There were three different generations; young people from 16 to adults over 70, not counting the presence of children! We shared experiences then, in small groups, talked about our connection to Marist life. At the end we were all invited to pray for each other then shared the Eucharist.



## México cont.d: Toluquilla, Tlaquepaque, Jal.

We want to share about the Marist community of Toluquilla. It was open from 1957 to 1989 as a house for the formation of brother coadjutors with an average of 13 young people per year. We now just have Brother Pablo.

Fr. Antonio Gallegos SM was in charge until 1960, and later Fr. Cruz Bailón and Fr. Jesús Gallardo arrived. He had the happy idea of founding the Third Order group; in the 1960s up to 80 people participated. When the Marist priests left the group began declining and closed in 2001.



In 2010, Mrs. Anacleta Franco, a Marist tertiary, started the group again and asked for help from Fr. Cruz Bailón who encouraged her and provided her with material. We are so grateful that Sr. Cura Revilla, despite not being Marist, offered the group her unconditional support.

Since 2015, Anacleta, with her daughter Margarita, have been present at the four meetings we have held. In response to her witness and the desire on our hearts, the López Ortiz family wanted to travel to their home. So in Easter week, we were able to fulfil that dream and spent a few days in the city of Guadalajara with them.

We arrived at Anacleta and Margarita's home and they shared with us not only their food, but their life, past and present. They introduced us to Tere Zamora, who has been a member of the Third Order for a couple of year and we got to know the parish where they meet every Monday.

Let us pray for those communities where despite not having a Marist priest, the Laity keep alive the fire that Mary kindled in their hearts. López Ortiz Family



### Facebook page

We are opening a Facebook's page, search for it and follow us. We ask for your prayer for the Marist Laity in Mexico !

### COUNCIL VISITS TO THE COMMUNITIES

The members of the Council are visiting the different communities during May. We want to have a greater connection and better relationship with all the Laity so we can prepare a plan that promotes Marist Laity in the province. Jorje



Chapter 2017 at the audience with Pope Francis

**Pope Francis' May 2018 Intention**  
**That Laity may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.**





## SULLANA – PERÚ

*"A Marist heart must be open to all, especially the most needy."*

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, Lay around the world, I begin by thanking the Lord of life and our Holy Mother the Virgin Mary, for the presence of Lay Marists at the General Chapter In October. We give thanks that Lay Marists were represented by Michel Macquet and Bev McDonald. We give thanks to the Priests and Brothers of the Society of Mary who welcomed us to the Chapter and also to be part of Mary's mission of hope. Our Holy Mother Mary calls us to live under her mantle of protection so that we may love, as she loves and share and transmit her Marist spirituality with humility, simplicity and transparency while remaining as "unknown and hidden" as our mother.

We are grateful to Lay Marists from around the world, who jointly with the Priests and other members of the Society of Mary, made it possible to carry love and a message of hope in the middle of our sadness and desolation last year. Through a medical campaign, we were able to attend to many people with medical supplies and the support of doctor's and volunteers. We were also able to deliver food to the families of Venados y Anexos, in the Lancones District, Province of Sullana.

Thank you all for this beautiful mission of mercy experience, where thanks to your aid and generosity we were able to transform our desire to help into a reality. We now have other mission projects in mind, which we will share soon.

Another great activity was a young boys retreat in la Quinta, Vista Florida, Villa Primavera around Sullana and education Institutions. We appreciated the unconditional support of the Marist Fathers who supported us with their presence, guidance, participation and logistics. Throughout the retreats the Marist Spirit was lived with joy, simplicity and reflection. We sought to transmit to our young people the importance of knowing themselves, discovering God and their call to respond to His personal vocation for each one .

We maintain contact with our young people through ongoing formation workshops. These help them grow spiritually and continue discerning and cementing their vocation of service in the style of Mary. We all experience the joy of

sharing what the Lord allows us to do together with Mother Mary: *"Hidden but present in today's world, to fulfill the Mission of Hope".*





## New Zealand.

Earlier this year 4 of us from the Marist young adult Logos Project set out on a Marist immersion experience that became a very pivotal experience for us all. On the 12th of February Claudia McLellan, Sione Pole, Kulu Liava'a and I, (Maggie), somewhat nervously flew to the U.S.A with Fr Denis O'Hagan sm. Our mission was to journey with the community of young and old in Brownsville, Texas.



We stayed 3 nights en route with the Marist Brothers in San Francisco. Then our mission took us to Brownsville on the border with Mexico. We arrived to stifling heat and the welcoming face of Fr Tony O'Connor sm, the parish priest of a beautiful church community called San Felipe de Jesus. Some of these people suffer the hardships of living in the U.S as people born in Mexico. We met the beautiful women who run a food bank for the area. We helped lift box after box of tomatoes, cucumbers, oranges, beans...you name it. Enough to feed a village, and that is exactly



The young people of San Felipe de Jesus, with Fr Tony, Fr Denis (top back left) and us (centre behind Altar) after the Confirmation retreat.

what it did. The *manaakitanga* (hospitality) and *whakawhanaungatanga* (sense of family connection) made us feel right at home.

We also got to hang out with the young people of the parish. We ran a day-long Confirmation retreat and two activity-based learning (ABL) sessions with them. They came a long way from being extremely quiet and shy to chasing each other around the room in a game and asking us 101 questions about New Zealand. We went to the beach, watched the annual parade that starts in Brownsville and goes all the way to Mexico, we visited new found friends and attended Masses. It was sad to leave as we had met so many amazing people and visited such beautiful places. However, everything we learnt about the life of these people will remain an inspiration to us. by Maggie Webb, Logos

<https://www.logos.org.nz/>

### Commitment via Skype connection.

We welcomed a new Lay Marist from Te Anau on Monday 21st May, the new Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. Fr Hamesh Wyatt, his parish priest, received Chris's first commitment at the 7 pm parish Mass at Winton.



By the marvels of technology Bev witnessed the commitment service by a Skype link up. It was a special occasion and gives us a model for anyone in isolated areas who feels called to make a Lay Marist commitment. We like to think Fr Colin would be smiling.

**Haeremai to Fr Paul Walsh:** Fr Paul, Gen. Councilor (Rome), responsible for Marist Laity and Marist Family, visited us on the day Marist Laity and Logos moved into new Auckland premises. It was great to meet him and begin sharing possibilities after the Chapter. [www.maristlaitynz.org](http://www.maristlaitynz.org)







**January 15-20 2019**

## **International Gathering of Marist Youth: Guatemala 2019**

The Marist Family is organizing an "International Gathering of Marist Youth", in Guatemala City prior to the Panama World Youth Day with Pope Francis in January 2019.

The meeting will unite young people from all over the world, who belong to Marist groups, youth centres, parishes and schools from the four branches of the Marist Family.

The theme, "Weaving Life", carries an important message in today's fragmented world – and at the same time it emphasizes the international character of the meeting, giving the opportunity for young people of different languages and cultures to weave dreams, hopes, realities, prayer, stories, journeys and LIFE!

The meeting in Guatemala, in the Centro Marista de Formación (CF) and some Salesian facilities, will bring together around 200 young people aged between 20-30, from 15-20 January 2019. For more information about this event please contact the youth director in your own unit.

### **World Marist Laity Coordination Team**

**USA & Canada:** *Christine Colombar*

**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 (Editor)*

**Team Coordinator:** *Michel Macquet*

### **NEXT EDITION submissions:**

Thank you for supporting this newsletter. Please continue to pray for Marist Laity in all its expressions.

Those countries missing from this issue will get first priority in the next edition.

***The next issue is Sept 2018 .***

***Please send submissions to  
maristlaity@gmail.com***

***by the 14th August 2018.***

**Italy Nov 2017:** What a joy for me and Italian Laity to announce that at Mass on Sunday, Nov. 5th at Pratola Peligna (L'Aquila), 17 Lay people joined the Marist Family. Every new beginning is full of hopes and frailty... Please pray for them. The celebration was full of participation and joy in our former cinema, as the church, which was already damaged after the earthquake in L'Aquila, was closed last year.

Thanks to Father Sante Inselvini, who three years ago raised interest among a group of Lay people; to Father Antonio Airò who accepted their request for formation. Thanks to Vanna, who organized the formation for almost three years.



The inscription on the celebration cake:  
*walking with Mary ...  
the journey is not over.*



The new group with the statue of Maria SS della Libera, patron saint of Pratola Peligna.

Thanks Father Renato Frappi and the religious community of Pratola who always greeted us with warmth. Thanks also to those Fathers, Sisters and Lay people from Ireland to New Caledonia, for sending their wishes and participation. They have made these new brothers and sisters feel they have become part of a family.

Like all families, it is not perfect, but we are all engaged on a common path to grow together, to be a place of welcome, to be a heart overflowing with love and to witness every day, like Mary, that the promises of God are kept.  
**Paolo**

## Brazil: News about the mission of Marist Laity in Brazil

We began 2018 animated by the proposal of study and formation exploring our origins as a base for moving forward today. It's an opportunity we receive as grace and we have a sense of mission to share it. Our groups, in their own way, are working and engaged in developing Marist Spirituality which becomes the foundation for strengthening our mission as Laity; called to be Mary's presence in the world.

The Church in Brazil elected 2018 as the Year of the Laity. The aim is to call Lay people to reflect on their mission as Christians called to act both in the Church and in the world: salt of the earth and light of the world (Mt 5, 13-14).

*"Lay Christians, men and women, are called above all to holiness. They are called to live holiness in the world. For this, they are equipped by the Holy Spirit to carefully cultivate the inner life and their personal relationship with Christ. Holiness of life makes the Church attractive and convincing, for saints move and shake the world." (Doc 105, 116)*

It struck us that this is the dream of our founder Father Colin when he dreamt of a "whole world Marist."

*We pray that we all live for the greater glory of God  
and the honor of Mary.*



**Group: Walking with Mary Mother of God**  
Palmas de Monte Alto - BA



**Magnificat Group of Curitiba - PR**



**Grupo Madre São José – Ribeirão das  
Neves - MG**



**Hidden and Unknown group- Belo  
Horizonte - MG**

# A.M.D.G & D.G.H.

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM ET DEI GENITRICIS HONOREM



## New Caledonia.

**Feast of the Faith in New Caledonia:** Every second year the Catechism Teachers of New Caledonia, (in French "catéchètes"), celebrate their faith at Bourail, the second town of the country at the crossroads of the Mainland. Significant groups also came from the outer islands by plane or boat. In October 2017 there were 237 who gathered, mainly middle age women but also some men and youth. The Saturday Eucharist was presided by the Regional Superior, Fr François Grossin SM. Fr Bill Herket from Vanuatu is the SM Sector leader from January 2018.

**Fatima:** It was also the opportunity for a last welcome to a Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima which had toured the Diocese since December 2016, during the Fatima Centenary year. Our Lady is much loved in New Caledonia and it was obvious that weekend. She keeps telling her children, Marists or non-Marists: *"Do whatever my Son tells you! Go to my vineyard"*. It is what our "catéchètes" and Marist Laity are doing with great faith and abandon to God's will. God bless them all and all the ones they evangelize.



**Faithful Lay Marist Dies** Sébastien Leleivai, originally from Wallis, was a member of the Third Order of Mary before joining the Marist Fraternities in order to bring together the other races living in New Caledonia into a wider Marist Lay branch. He actively took part in the launching of the Board of Marist Laity in 2006, and wrote its Rules. He became its first president and has been one of the delegates of New Caledonia to two international



Sébastien & Sr Elizabeth  
Sydney 2008

Conferences of Marist Laity in Auckland and in Sydney. Health problems forced him to retire. He died at the Noumea Hospital, Médipôle, on Nov 14th, 2017. May he rest in peace.

Thirty mainly young people were welcomed as new members in the Third Order of Mary in late 2017.

**Speranza Marista:** In October 2017, the Marist Laity group Speranza Marista, made up of young boys and girls of Paita parish, led the Sunday Eucharist presided by Archbishop Calvet SM of Noumea and Archbishop Cottanceau



of Tahiti. The Bishops were on their way to Wallis for the annual meeting of CEPAC (French-speaking Catholic Education Directors).

Speranza Marista also led the Holy Name of Mary Eucharist last year. The Regional Superior, Fr François Grossin presided and gave the homily. He was accompanied by 3 Marist priests of the South Community, a diocesan priest and two permanent deacons. We all had good reasons to thank God and Mary for our Marist vocation and ask for their blessings on our journey in the footsteps of our beloved first and perpetual Superior. The general Chapter

was on our hearts and the enthusiasm of the Young Marists was striking and a source of



encouragement and hope for all the participants. Speranza Marista held a special meeting in December to celebrate their achievements and progress.

**Marist Cell Groups:** The groups were impacted by Fr Denis leaving and some wondered if the movement could continue, but they quickly recovered and have restructured their groups because some Cells had reduced to only 2 or 3 members ... In November 11th-12th thirty members of the cells met and Deacon Christian Brock gave input. On December 10, the Cells organised a Christmas meal for single or elderly people and made a trip to Santo.

*Suzanne and Fr François Grossin SM*

## SM General Chapter

### 2017 regarding Laity

#### DIALOGUE AND COMMUNION WITH LAY MARISTS

91. The Chapter explored elements of common identity, mission, accompaniment and mutual enrichment between Lay Marists & Marist Religious in a changing context.

92. Catholic Lay movements have had a growing impact on the life of the Church in the world of today. Pope Francis has urged bishops and priests to resist the temptation of clericalism and at the same time reminded all the faithful of their baptismal dignity.

93. In 2015 the World Marist Laity Coordination was constituted. This has the potential to *"bring added life to Marist Laity and to the Marist family as a whole. It is a good framework for the Society of Mary to deepen our relationship with them, respecting each other's identity, whilst looking for elements of a common mission to show the Marian face of the Church."* (§61 Superior General's Report to the General Chapter).

94. The Chapter welcomed the presence of Lay Marists "at the table" with them, where they made a real and vital impact on the Chapter through structured dialogue and engagement.

95. The Chapter heard them state that "they seek to be a presence of Mary where they find themselves in daily life. While they live their faith in another way, their experience can only enrich the life of the whole Marist family".

96. The Chapter recognizes the important contribution to the common mission made by Lay Marists associated with other branches of the Marist Family.

### Save the Date

**4th MARIST LAITY (European)  
Conference  
IRELAND  
July 28th-August 2nd 2019**

*WMLC delegates will attend then meet  
for a further 3 days.*

#### Decisions 2017:

97. That the general administration and units promote a continuation of dialogue and engagement with Lay Marists.

98. That the general administration engage in a process to help Marists to recognise the Marist Laity as integral to the Marist family. To achieve this, at the general and unit level, a Marist religious shall be appointed as promoter of Lay Marists.

99. The Chapter recognises the range of Marist Lay groups and forms of association which exist throughout the world. It recognises a growing desire from these groups to undertake varying degrees of commitment to the Marist charism and the works which flow from it. The Chapter asks the superior general to identify, in collaboration with Marist Laity, a range of possible forms of commitment open to Lay people.

100. That there is greater collaboration with Marist Laity on formation and training programmes especially Lay leadership training. When appropriate, ongoing formation programmes may be open to Lay participation e.g. Marist studies. They may also collaborate in the development and planning of these programmes.

101. That units of the Society be open to dialogue with Marist Lay groups concerning engaging a lay Marist to coordinate and develop these groups, accompanying their formation, fostering unity and common terminology. These people would work in collaboration with the Marist religious promoter of Lay Marists and with World Marist Laity Coordination.

102. That units respond with resources and initiatives to those people who work alongside us and show a love for the Society and its charism.

103. That units respond positively to young adults for whom the Marist charism speaks powerfully and who are interested in working alongside us.

104. That the general administration, in collaboration with Marist Laity, compile a directory on the relationship between Marist religious and Lay Marists.

#### Bringing the Chapter decisions to life:

*We all appreciate the fact that moving from words and intentions to reality will take a great deal of commitment and energy amidst competing priorities. Please pray for that intention.* In each unit of the Society efforts are underway to:

- Begin a dialogue between Marist Laity and the Provincial Council.
- Catalogue existing Marist Laity groups or associations
- Identify possible forms of Lay Marist engagement with works which are already or could be open to Marist Laity.
- Review Marist Lay formation, in particular for future formators & Marist Lay leadership (participation, development & planning).
- Appoint a Lay Marist responsible for formation (a counterpart to a Marist Religious in that role).
- Initiate a Directory for relations between Lay and Religious Marists.