



# MARIST LAITY INTERNATIONAL

*With Mary we advance...*

October 2018. Issue 6

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## A Word from Michel Macquet:

It is a joy to catch up with you again in this 6th issue of Marist Laity International. A year has gone by since the General Chapter. The decisions and directives of the Chapter addressed to the delegates were published in March. It is now time to give LIFE to those decisions as we: (cf. MLI issue no.5 May 2018)

- Prepare for the gathering of European Marist Laity which will take place in Dublin from July 28 to August 2 2019, to be followed by the meeting of Lay delegates from all the Provinces from 2nd to 4th August.
- Work on the orientations decided upon at the Chapter and put the findings



together for presentation at the meeting in Dublin next year.

**Dialogue and Sharing.** First it seems to me that it is of prime importance that there be dialogue in each Province between Lay Marist delegates and the Provincial Councils; that was very clearly understood by the capitulants last year. It is a question of reflecting on the best ways of bringing together Lay Marists, delegates in each province, and the Provincial Councils of the Society of Mary. The purpose is to get to know one another well, to discern together what can be shared in the mission, to decide on the mutual supports which could be offered. That could no doubt be through an invitation to Laity from the Fathers, to participate in their Provincial Chapter, to as it were, sit and share at the same table ...

**Formation.** Formation is a priority at all levels. In Europe continual Formation reflection is available. A first course of formation is offered for any Christian who wishes to discover Marist spirituality. After Italy, in France, a second stage is envisaged for those who have followed the first course. This will offer a deepening appreciation of living Marist spirituality for Laity. We thereby hope to raise vocations for Marist mission in partnership with the Fathers.

In the coming months, a Lay person will be named in each Province, in consultation with the Religious. This person will organise setting up a course of formation in Marist spirituality and reflection that works within their language and culture. There are a variety of formation models, resources and modules in other Provinces and creating channels for sharing these resources will be a valuable part of that work.

As you are reading these lines, Advent and Christmas is approaching.

*"Living Christmas is welcoming Christ into our hearts and our lives.  
It is with Him and in Him that we find true joy.  
In this season of Christmas let us give thanks for this wonderful  
grace."*

I wish everyone a Joyful Christmas and may Emmanuel renew us in Hope as we walk forward in courage with Mary.

*Michel Macquet, Coordinator WMLC*

## WMLC TEAM

**USA/Canada:** Christine Colombar

**Latino America:** Jorge Lopez

**Australia:** Maria Baden

**Africa/Europe:** David Sanz de Diego

**Asia:** Kenneth Bretana

**Oceania/New Cal.:** Suzanne Kono

**New Zealand:** Bev McDonald (Editor)

**Team Coordinator:** Michel Macquet

**N.B. Please send Submissions**

**for Issue 7 by 1 Apr.19 to:**

[maristlaity@gmail.com](mailto:maristlaity@gmail.com)

# BRAZIL

Lay Marists in Brazil continue the Marist journey. Each group

has its own characteristics. We live our Marist vocation principally in the places where we work and live. We are continuing to grow in understanding and deepening of the Marist spirit with the collaboration of Religious including Marist Religious. The monthly meetings are opportunities to share our lives and to strengthen our Marist identity and call. We are constantly encouraged and reminded about how good it is to be called in Mary's Marist family.



Walking with Mary Group -  
Belo Horizonte -MG



Light of Mary Group  
CURITIBA - PR

MADRE SÃO JOSÉ –  
RIBEIRÃO DAS NEVES  
- MG



Hidden & Unknown Group– Belo Horizonte -MG



Walking with Mary Mother of God  
Palmos de Monte Alto—BA



Lay Marists, Seminarians and Brothers  
Festa Madre SÃO JOSÉ

SM Vocation Day Rondolândia - MT - Participation of  
Marist Laity & Marist Brothers Ji-Parana- RO





# NEW CALEDONIA



LM Board meeting with Fr Kiade, VP of Oceania

**Marist Laity Conference:** The **Lay Marist Conference** is organised every second year and brings together representatives of the four branches of the Laity and many Religious Marists. This year it followed on from the meeting of the ML Board and was held at Mont Mou. All the Lay branches had prepared well for the theme they had chosen and expressed their findings in songs, dramas, testimonies, etc. Archbishop Calved was presider for the concluding Mass.



6th ML Conference at Mont Mou

## Holy Name of Mary:

Another main happening has been the **celebration of our titular Feast Day, the Holy Name of Mary**, on September 12, in one of the chapels of La Conception parish, blessed in 1989 at Robinson, which can accommodate around 200/250 people. Although it was on a week day, the building was filled to the brim. The local community made up mainly with Futunian and Wallisian people were very proud to have been chosen by Fr Bill, the Sector Delegate, to host the gathering for the first time in their history. They did their best to make it a memorable event, and it was. Some senior French-speaking SMSM Sisters on a 3-week renewal at Mont Mou hired a bus to be part of it.



TOM Annual Retreat at Auteuil

## Third Order of Mary:

Since late August, the **Third Order** have started their **annual retreats**. There will be **nine of them, 3-day long**, preached by various diocesan or Marist priests and one permanent deacon, until late October, **in nine different places**, from the South to the East Coast and Central Mainland. They keep the TOM leaders very busy each week end!

## Dublin 2019:

Looking at the future, know that at their last meeting the ML Board discussed the possibility of sending **two representatives to the European Marist Laity Conference** open to all the Provinces and Districts of the Society of Mary, **to take place near Dublin, Ireland**,

in the next European Summer. **Two young members of the Speranza Marista group** (a married couple, as a matter of fact) have expressed their willingness to go in spite of the financial cost of such a trip to the peripheries of the Marist world; they hope to visit the founding Marist places in France at the same time. May their dream become real!

*Fr François Grossin, NC Vicar Delegate September 18, 2018*

# MEXICO

## Marist Lays in Chiapas

I visited the Marist community in Chiapas, it has been very rewarding to my life as a Lay Marist. We had the opportunity to meet and share with all the members of this missionary community: Frs. Armando, Palumbo and José Luis, all Marists, and the Sisters Maricela and Lulú; Franciscan Eucharistic Missionaries. We could appreciate the beautiful places around them: impressive hills, the coloured lagoons of Montebello, and the colonial beauty of San Cristobal de las Casas. However, we met something better, the people who live there, they make that place more brilliant. I shared these views with "Las tías" (the aunts) of the CPP community in Mexico City.

We had the great opportunity to visit some villages belonging to the parish; "La Independencia", the parish headquarters, "Carranza", and the last more distant one called "Tierra Blanca". It was on this visit, we could see that the people need two hours or more, to go from one place to another. Their communities are countryside's and everything they eat are the fruit of their own labour, nevertheless there is lack. They live in unity and treat each other like family and even called us "Sisters". They invited us to enter their house of God. The way they live their faith is amazing, they always pray and express their gratitude for all God's gifts.



Ángeles in Carranza

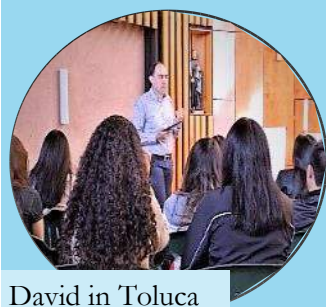


Victor receives his Soutane

We also had the joy to accompany Víctor, originally from the "Monte los Olivos" community, who received his soutane. The Mass was presided by "Don Rodrigo", Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas. To meet and share with Víctor and his family was one the greatest gifts of this journey, it allowed me to get closer to a family giving their son to the Lord, and to experience their happiness, especially that of his father.

I thank God for the opportunity to journey to these places and to share with all the wonderful people. We continue to pray for those who suffer poverty or illness, and for our seminarians, brothers and priests. We are grateful for everything God put in our lives; may we be the difference, and think as our mother Mary.

*By Ángeles Ordaz.* (Laica Marista CPP)



David in Toluca

### **Visit of David Sanz**

In July, David Sanz, who is the Coordinator of the the European Marist Laity from Spain, came to Mexico. He shared his Marist testimony with the members of the CPU, a parish for the university students in Toluca. David invited them to live the Marist charism and lifestyle wherever they are.

Rocío, his Mexican wife, was also present.

### **The Holy Name of Mary Retreat**

On September 8, Marist Laity from CPP, a parish dedicated mainly to the Instituto Politécnico Nacional students, developed a retreat to celebrate this important day. We were witnesses of our Mother Mary's love, we celebrated a Holy hour and shared on Marist themes.



A great discovery for many of us, was reflecting on San Juan Diego, the one chosen by the Virgin María de Guadalupe, who was a Layman with a Marian face. We finished with a music concert and Mass.



## México cont.d:

### The Work of the Marist Laity Council.

The last week-end of July, members of the Council along with Fathers Alejandro Muñoz, Oscar Salinas and Mauricio Díaz SM, gathered on the Jordana, Méx., to work on the Directory affirming the relationship between Lay Marists and Religious.



We based our work on the documents shared by Michel and Bev, the international Lay Marist representatives who worked hard during the process of the General Chapter of the SM in 2017. So we worked on our identity as Lay Marists of Mexico; the Holy Spirit blew strongly and we developed statements on our Identity and our Mission, which we gladly share:

#### Marist Laity Council Facebook Page

We continue working in our Facebook page.  
Please visit it and let us know if you like [@CLMmxSM](https://www.facebook.com/CLMmxSM)

**Identity:** *The Lay Marist is that one who consciously adopts the lifestyle of Mary as a way of life and in doing so, seeks to be her presence in the world.*

**Mission:** *Open to the Word of God and Mary's lifestyle, we strive to announce God's Kingdom, collaborate in the construction of a Church with Marian face, be attentive to the care of the humble, the small and the oppressed, accompany youth and be a benefit in the educational process.*



Participants in the Bible Course with the Council,  
Claveria Parish, Mexico City

#### Council Visits

Since May we have been visiting groups with the intention of knowing first-hand the thoughts of community members.

In September we visited Clavería Parish and In November we will go to the Franco-Inglés College in Mexico City.

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



#### XX Olympics Marist Games

On October 21st we celebrate our Marist Olympic Games. It will be a great opportunity to play, share and meet other Marists.

There are activities for all ages including soccer, basketball, volleyball, dancing and board games.





## SULLANA – PERÚ

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

Dear friends in Christ, Marist Laity of the world, we are happy to share our experiences of recent months. They have helped us grow and continue to value the great love of God and her Holy Mother, our beloved Virgin Mary. She is the women who walked in silence alongside Jesus, she stayed hidden, but always present. Her simplicity, love and unconditional commitment to Christ, encourages us to continue to advance and achieve the mission she has called us to; her mission to make Jesus known and loved.



**Mission:** We have a school supplies campaign for the rural area of Riecito and other small villages beside the Chira river in the High Chira. We could see the happiness in the children's faces and God's smile in their eyes. We serve the most needy as Mary did not only to share material things, but we give them a

small catechism, and share about Jesus Our Lord and our Holy Mother. Being here we remember the Marist Fathers mission, especially Fr. Severino Martínez Porras(+), who is well remembered and beloved in this land.



**Retreat:** To grow spiritually and keep our lamps full for mission we went on Retreat. We are grateful to the Marist Fathers for their accompaniment. During the retreat Sister Margarita surprised us with her visit sharing her experiences and training. Thank you Sister, see you again soon! After Holy Mass in our Parish, we celebrated the Holy Name of Mary with the Marist Family



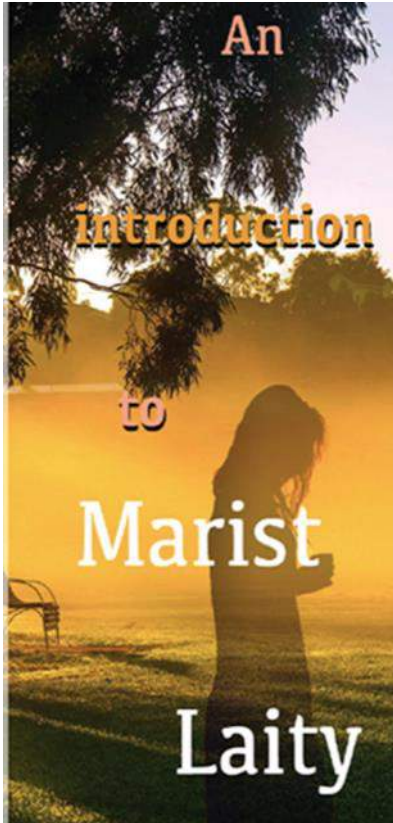
**Youth:** We offered youth activities in Vista Florida, La Quinta, la Urbanización Santa Rosa and Bellavista. As Lay Marists we are committed to work in the style of Mary. Using the slogan **“Called to Life”** we encouraged the youth to active participation in the Church and to feel part of life and faith as they discover the way to be happy within the vocation they choose. So, dear fellow Lay Marists, we keep moving, seeking to live the spirit of Mary: hidden yet present and open to all.





# AUSTRALIA

## Weekend Retreats in Sydney



### Marist Laity Flyer

Andrew Dumas has written and designed a beautiful new pamphlet for Marist Laity Australia. You can see it here. <http://www.maristlaityaustralia.com/2018/aboutus/introduction.php>

When the Marist Fathers of the Australian Province offered Marist Laity Australia three weekends of hospitality at their Villa Maria premises, we immediately accepted.

**Brazilian Welcome:** The first one was at the end of May, where we invited 15 young Brazilians who live in Sydney. This was Fr Paul Mahony's idea as he spent 18 years ministering in Brazil and now he celebrates Mass every week for the Brazilian community here. It was an opportunity for them to "come and see" what the Marists are all about. We shared stories, gave input on the Marist story, meditated, went to a Youth Festival, went on an historical tour of Villa Maria. Our final session focussed on Marist Laity, the presence of Mary in our lives and the need for a "new" church to emerge. The weekend revealed to us the deep love and trust that these young Brazilians have in Mary

**Balance and Harmony:** Our second retreat was held on Fourvière weekend and Fr Ray Chapman led us into BALANCE AND HARMONY in our lives. We looked at this theme from an ecological perspective, then balance and harmony with self and others. Finally we reflected on Fourvière: bringing balance and harmony to our world, the Marist Way. The weekend ended with all the branches of the Marist Family coming together to celebrate Mass and hospitality together.



### In Memoriam:

We remember with great love, Brother Mark Murphy FMS who passed away recently. He was the Marist Brother Liaison on our committee and he contributed so much to furthering MLA.

We also remember Margaret Woods' mum, Phyllis, who passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> September, aged 90. May they both rest in God's loving embrace.







## NEW ZEALAND

**The Marist Family in Auckland** has been meeting quarterly. The topics and format are chosen by a different volunteer group each time, made up of a representative from each branch. In September for the Holy Name of Mary Jen from Logos gave a moving presentation on the way young people hear Mary's call today, and Claudia (Logos) shared on her experience of Lay Marist mission in Brownsville Texas. We are looking forward to hearing Fr Justin Taylor on his new biography of Fr Colin in November. Coming together helps us grow in relationship and shared understanding of mission.



**Retreat Days.** The Gisborne, Taranaki and Hawkes Bay groups have held retreat days facilitated by Bev McDonald on the theme of finding refreshment in faith and 'Discover Joy in Everyday Life.' Fr Chris Skinner SM joined us for the Fitzroy/Taranaki weekend. The retreats are for the Lay Marists in the area but are intentionally open to everyone so we can offer an outreach



into the Parish and community. It is not a 'recruitment' drive but it does allow people to discover that being Marist as a Lay person is an invitation of grace. It is particularly special to include smaller communities like Tokumaru Bay outside the main cities who seldom get retreat opportunities.



There are plans for a retreat in Kaikoura, still recovering from 2016 earthquakes, early next year.

**Formation:** a number are exploring Marist spirituality using NZ Laity Formation modules. These are suitable for individuals or groups. Two new "Women to Women: Marian Mothers" groups are being established in Wellington/Wairarapa.

**Website:** Marist themed reflections are sent via posted CD's with a reflection guide and newsletter each month. These are available online (without audio) on our website. [www.maristlaitynz.org](http://www.maristlaitynz.org). We also maintain an active social media presence.

**Living the Word:** We offer weekly Sunday Mass reflections from [www.livingtheword.co.nz](http://www.livingtheword.co.nz). They are written with young adults in mind.

**Logos Marist Youth Project:** They are sending two young people to **WYD Guatemala** and the Marist experience '**Weaving Life**'. Please pray for them.

Logos also held a Quiz fundraiser in September to send volunteers to Ranong. They raised over \$5,000. for two people to volunteer in that Marist mission.

**Taradale Initiative:** On a similar theme the Taradale Third Order of Mary hosted Fr Frank Bird SM to share about Marist work in Ranong.

Claudia & Fr Frank



They not only raised awareness in the parish and school about this vital mission but also raised over \$2,000. for them.

[www.maristasiafoundation.org](http://www.maristasiafoundation.org)



## MARIST LAITY EUROPE

The European Marist Laity Coordination (EMLC) had their annual meeting at **An Grianán** (County Louth, Ireland), 10-12 July.

Our time together was fruitful, since we reached some remarkable conclusions for the Lay Marists in Europe, as well as for those all over the world.

First, it was decided to start a close relationship with the Marist Fathers, regarding training projects and the elaboration of a common directory. This flows on from the Marist Father's General Chapter last year, where Lay Marists contributed.

Second, the Lay Marists Gathering for next year was presented by the Irish resource group. The gathering will be held at **An Grianán** (County Louth, Ireland) —where we held this meeting—therefore we got to know the house and surroundings well.

The dates, activities, objectives and theme were displayed very effectively in a thoughtful and practical way. We are certain it will be an enriching gathering in the summer of 2019. **David Sanz** EMLC Coordinator

**Spain.** During the summer the newly established community of Sahagún, on the way to Compostella, got help from many collaborators, among them several Lay Marists.

January  
15-20  
2019



*Please pray for Marist Youth*

### **Italy: Family, Fraternity and Formation**

On 29 and 30 September the Italian Lay Marists held their annual national meeting in Castiglion Fiorentino. The meeting, attended by representatives of the different groups, took place in a beautiful atmosphere, marked by 3 keywords Family, Fraternity and Formation, as well as by prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist. The rich exchanges resulted in various proposals and highlighted a number of areas to work on. These objectives present a real challenge, on the local as well as on the national level.



(from left to right) Nuala Fox, Elisabeth Neitzel, Maureen Meatcher, David Sanz, Georges Lajara, Anne Sophie Torp and Paolo Serafini.

## LAY MARIST European Gathering

It's Family Time for Marists

All invited

**An Grianán**  
**Termonfeckin**  
**County Louth**

July 28<sup>th</sup> to Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2019

Plans are well underway!

For further details contact:

[clannmhuieregathering4@gmail.com](mailto:clannmhuieregathering4@gmail.com)



## USA

Marists of South Florida have been renewing their consecration to the Blessed Trinity with Our Lady annually every third Saturday of September since 2006. Most years there have been new members making their commitments too. Father Edwin Keel, SM helped with the “how to” of starting a group in 2006. Don and Rosemary Kean of Melbourne, Florida came from North Florida to our first Marist Gathering to share their Marist story and how Marist spirituality suited them. They continued to be a great source of support. (Sadly Rosemary died February 14, 2016 of lung cancer).



Our Marist Way Gathering continues each third Saturday of the month in our parish office to reflect on and ponder the Scriptures and Marist writings. Three to eight are in attendance depending on busy lives. “Showing up” and “doing” take a back seat to “being” Mary’s *presence* wherever you are today. We strive to live out our baptismal commitment as the *presence* of Mary carried forward into this age.



The focus is not on devotion to Mary. Focus is on living forward in this age, Mary’s decision to follow her Son in our everyday ordinariness of life, in the niche we find ourselves at home and at our work place. We use the gospel words of “gathering” instead of meeting and “way” instead of group. South Florida is home to the world’s citizens as you see in this photo. We are so blessed. Presently we are slowly ruminating on chapters from: **“15 Days of Prayer with Jean-Claude Colin by Francois Drouilly, S.M.”**

*The Barque of Mary* canvas was blessed by our Monsignor at this year’s commitment ceremony. This painting by A. Chigot for the Marist Fathers hangs in the study of Venerable Claude Colin at La Neyliere, France. Permission was received to make canvas copies which have been sent to every continent. Those wishing their own canvas can contact me for details at: [sbarrettfla@yahoo.com](mailto:sbarrettfla@yahoo.com). With Mary, *Sheila*



Christine Colombar, WMLC USA delegate attended the SM Conference of USA Schools in Atlanta in June. She joined 42 participants: from Mexico, New Zealand Thailand, and USA.

Mike Coveny, Atlanta, spoke on Marist Laity.

An ONLINE Marist meeting is coordinated by Christine Colombar each month (Friday 7 p.m.CT) on various topics. At present they are reflecting on Fr Keel’s book “Disciple of Her Son”. If you wish to participate contact [MaristWayUSA@gmail.com](mailto:MaristWayUSA@gmail.com)