



## MINISTRY IN THE HEART OF TURIN

The Marist Fathers arrived in Turin (Italy) following the laws expelling religious from France in 1903. After the search to find a suitable location for ministry, a plot of land was purchased at No. 29 Corso Francia, which also included a small house.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1911, a newly built church, based on a design by the theologian Don Adolfo Barberis was inaugurated and dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, as a reminder of the first Marists who came from France. In the background behind the altar the Grotto of Lourdes is depicted, inside which a stone from the actual grotto of Massabielle was placed. The church is located in the centre of Turin and over the years it has continued without interruption, offering the sacraments, spiritual direction, assistance to the poor and, especially in the early days, pilgrimages to Lourdes. There were so many Marists who ministered at the Shrine in its history of more than one hundred years and many have made an extraordinary contribution.



Today there are four members in the community: **Fr Lorenzo Curti**, Rector of the Sanctuary, **Br Giovanni Sereni**, who despite his 85 years is still very active, **Fr Sante Inselvini**, and the latest arrival, **Fr Renato Frappi**, superior of the community. We are in close contact with the confreres of Villa Santa Maria in Moncalieri, our neighbouring Marist community. Besides the daily sacramental ministry, the community is also helping the poor in the neighbourhood. On Wednesdays and Thursdays with the support of lay people, we offer material help, food and clothes to those in need.



The shrine is small, welcoming and well suited for prayer and recollection. The most important



day of the year is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11<sup>th</sup> February, when our church (the only one in town dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes!) is too small to accommodate the great many pilgrims who take turns throughout the day to bring their prayers to Mary.

It is always difficult to predict the future but we believe that this is a community where even our elderly confreres can serve and care for the poor, which is a profoundly Marist ministry. We hope it will remain possible for us to continue our 'city centre church' ministry here!

*Renato Frappi, s.m.*

## PRAYER INTENTION: FOR EDUCATORS

"We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all." (Pope Francis)

## EASTER GREETINGS!

Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Dublin!  
And I wish you and your communities a very happy and joy-filled Eastertide. May the Spirit of the risen Lord touch our hearts this Easter and give us the strength to continue to serve the Church in the spirit of Mary despite our situation of ageing and diminishment in Europe.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Dutch confreres and I would like to express my gratitude for the warm Marist welcome and hospitality I experienced not only from the confreres in Hulst, Weurt and Enschede but also from their various lay collaborators – house managers, bursars, nursing staff, cooks, etc. It was the Marist family in action: caring for each other.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Council continues to lead and manage the Province in the absence of our Provincial, Kevin Duffy, who is recuperating from his recent operation in the Marist community in Hull. We continue to keep Kevin's recovery in our prayers and look forward to having him back with us in the summer.

*Declan Marmion, s.m.*

## OBITUARY

Michael Coleman (EN) 17.03.2023  
Manfred Stein (DE) 16.04.2023

# Colin Cause Network (CCNW)



The group aims to promote the cause of the Beatification of Fr Jean-Claude Colin. Representatives from each province and district meet regularly via zoom.

From Europe **Alois Greiler (Germany)** is part of the network. How can we promote Fr Colin's cause in our communities and ministries?

Here are some tips:

**1. CELEBRATE:** the upcoming **Marist anniversaries** with our communities and the wider world (28 April Martyrdom of Peter Chanel in 1841, 29 April Approbation of the Society of Mary by Pope Gregory XVI in 1836).

**2. LEARN:** Check out the **website** for more information and materials in different languages:

[www.jeanclaudecolin.org](http://www.jeanclaudecolin.org) and re-read some of the **literature** available on the resource pages and in 'Forum Novum': [www.jeanclaudecolin.org/cause/writings](http://www.jeanclaudecolin.org/cause/writings)

**3. PRAY & SHARE:** Consider printing and distributing the **Fr Colin prayer cards**, with the canonisation prayer for your church, lay groups or parishioners. Prepare a **PowerPoint Presentation** or a **Quiz** about the life of Colin and the Marist way to share with school groups or parish groups to whom you are invited to speak. Why not organise a **Marist pilgrimage** – to places of Marist origins, to a Marian shrine near you or a virtual pilgrimage (presentation) and share about the birth of the Society.

## SHARING THE VISION OF SAHAGÚN AND THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN NORTH AMERICA

As I return from Mexico and the United States, I feel thankful: for the people I met, the new places I discovered and the moments we shared, but, above all, for the opportunity to get to know and share the work of Mary with other Marist communities. It has been a joy to see how Marists: fathers, brothers and lay people, continue to be 'the little presence' of Mary through their work in the schools, parishes, youth centres and communities.



Atlanta



CPU Toluca

During this first ever trip to North America I visited ten different Marist locations: six in Mexico (CPU Toluca, S. Pedro Chanel school in Guadalajara, French-English School and the parishes of CPP, Claverías and San Pedro Cuatepec) and four in the United States (Washington DC, Notre Dame Preparatory in Pontiac, Marist School and Our Lady of Assumption parish in Atlanta). I met a lot of people who shared their Christian faith and the Marist spirit through their ministry. And, of course, I enjoyed Marist hospitality making my visit pleasant and welcoming me as if they had always known me. How beautiful to have such a Marist family! It wasn't difficult to share about our work in the pilgrims' hostel in Sahagún, since it is exactly what we try to offer there: **Marist hospitality, sharing the**

**faith** with those who are searching by walking the Camino de Santiago, and in this way carry out the **work of Mary** in our ministry.

My aim for the trip was two-fold: firstly to promote the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage as God's instrument to reach people, and secondly to share about our work with the pilgrims and to inspire others to join us. The response exceeded all my expectations and more significantly, we have planted the seed of collaboration for the future. Each visit was a unique experience in its own way and I would like to express my gratitude to the great many people who made it possible. Most importantly though I hope we will continue to **build this Marist bridge** between the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean!



Notre Dame  
Pontiac

Daniel Fernández, s.m.



## Marist Laity Gathering

The 5<sup>th</sup> international meeting in the summer at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire, UK, brings together Marists from the different branches.

The Registration form is available at: <https://bit.ly/3UtSsph> email: [maristway2023@gmail.com](mailto:maristway2023@gmail.com)

Paolo Serafini (lay Marist from Italy) composed an anthem for the gathering, the verses of this "Ave Maria" written in the languages of the countries represented in the coordination group is available at:

<https://youtu.be/u058A7zZpVc>.



## Annual Provincial Retreat

Confreres from the European Province are warmly invited to join the retreat in **La Neylière from 16-22 July 2023**.

The theme is **"Coping with Change: Living with Hope"** and it will be preached by the Italian Camillian Fr Arnaldo Pangrazzi.

More details and registration form:

<https://bit.ly/smeuret2023>